

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE REPORT ON  
2011 PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

NMFS is proposing changes to the 2011 Pacific halibut Catching Sharing Plan (CSP) and the codified regulations at §300.63. Currently closed areas and depth contours approximating boundary lines are defined within both the halibut regulations and the groundfish regulations. These proposed changes would remove coordinates from the halibut regulations and instead provide reference to the same information in groundfish regulations, therefore providing a single location for coordinate and closed areas information.

The proposed changes to the catch sharing plan are as follows:

- 1) In section (e)(2), specify that closed areas that will apply to the non-Indian directed commercial fishery will be defined within groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70.

The proposed changes to the codified regulations at 50 CFR 300.63 are as follows:

- 1) In paragraph (e) replace the description of the groundfish RCA with specific reference to the closed areas and depth contours in 50 CFR 660.70 through 50 CFR 660.74.
- 2) Remove paragraphs (f) and (g), these paragraphs simply list the coordinates for the 30-fm and 100-fm lines, this information will now all be found in the groundfish regulations.
- 3) Update all references to current groundfish regulations with updated references as a result of the groundfish regulation restructure occurring through the TIQ program.

Finally, NMFS received suggested changes to the Treaty Indian sections of the IPHC and Federal regulations from the Lummi tribe. NMFS will coordinate with the halibut tribes, the states, and IPHC regarding the proposed changes. NMFS believes these changes do not implicate the CSP, but if they do, NMFS will notify the Council prior to the November meeting.

PFMC  
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