

**Subject:** Fwd: Quota for Pacific Halibut for Northern California  
**From:** "pfmc.comments" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, 19 Oct 2011 10:44:35 -0700  
**To:** Chuck Tracy <Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov>

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:**Quota for Pacific Halibut for Northern California  
**Date:**Fri, 14 Oct 2011 16:21:41 -0700 (PDT)  
**From:**Steve Haines <[redrider62@yahoo.com](mailto:redrider62@yahoo.com)>  
**Reply-To:**Steve Haines <[redrider62@yahoo.com](mailto:redrider62@yahoo.com)>  
**To:**[pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov) <[pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)>

Mr. McIsaac Executive Director:

D.i.c.

I respectfully request that a decision to further restrict Pacific Halibut harvest levels for recreational anglers in Northern California be delayed until we fully understand the scientific basis for this drastic decision to limit our catch to 5625 lbs. A decision of this caliber will financially impact our local economy and we are sure that there are far more halibut off shore than your statistics are showing.

Sincerely

Steve A. Haines

**Subject:** Fwd: Item D.1.c  
**From:** "pfmc.comments" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>  
**Date:** Wed, 19 Oct 2011 10:44:52 -0700  
**To:** Chuck Tracy <Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov>

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:**Item D.1.c  
**Date:**Tue, 18 Oct 2011 21:38:08 -0700  
**From:**Ron Fleshman <[oceangrove@suddenlink.net](mailto:oceangrove@suddenlink.net)>  
**To:**[pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)

Item D.1.c

Dear Sirs:

I am a member of the Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers (HASA), a non-profit association of sport fishermen based primarily in coastal Northern California. In part our Charter specifically states that we "advocate reasonable and rational sport fishing seasons and regulations...and promote sustainable stewardship of the resource." I hope that both scientists and politicians would agree with those sentiments. I believe that it is in the best interests of all parties concerned to have a solid scientific basis for the regulations we adopt, and a general sense of fairness regarding any limitations imposed. At present I am unaware of any recent population dynamics studies concerning pacific halibut in our region which suggest sport harvest levels here are endangering the species. Without adequate scientific information any dramatic changes in policy or procedure seem premature. On a purely political level, it seems strange to me that there is a sudden demand to "do something" about a perceived danger to the halibut population from sport fishermen in Northern California. The data I've seen indicates that many times the current harvest levels in this region would have a trivial impact on the halibut biomass. I would suggest that even the mildest percentage reduction in bycatch waste in other harvest sectors would have a substantially greater beneficial impact on the species than further restricting this tiny sport sector.

Separately, I would appreciate some historical context explaining how the current division of overall harvest was set. It seems likely that the dynamics which led to the current division of harvest quotas may have changed in the years since the existing formula was adopted. If so, then perhaps the overall formula should be reevaluated.



**Subject:** Fwd: Halibut regs for 2012  
**From:** "pfmc.comments" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>  
**Date:** Fri, 21 Oct 2011 08:35:15 -0700  
**To:** Chuck Tracy <Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov>

----- Original Message -----

**Subject:** Halibut regs for 2012  
**Date:** Thu, 20 Oct 2011 16:50:55 -0700  
**From:** Fred Johansen <[fredjohansen28@gmail.com](mailto:fredjohansen28@gmail.com)>  
**To:** [pfmc.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:pfmc.comments@noaa.gov)

Dear Committee,

Please change the reg next year to allow a much larger halibut sport catch. With one charter catching that much out of Humboldt Bay this year and a sportfishing industry that has taken off in the last few years we sports fishermen need an expanded catch quota. Being able to fish halibut and salmon keeps most of us sports fishermen interested in fishing offshore from Humboldt County.

I have been fishing halibut for the last three years mostly due to the fact it was the only fishery available to fish during what used to be our local salmon season. I have spent on average three hundred dollars for just gear during the last three years. This is just rods, line, reels and terminal tackle. Everyone in my family - the four of us fishermen have been out in my boat and caught at least one halibut. This doesn't count their money spent traveling from San Luis Obispo, Larkspur or locally. I probably would have sold my boat that I spent 15,000 + dollars on to make it capable of fishing in our new fishing conditions.

Growing up in Eureka and fishing out of Humboldt Bay we only fished out to 2 miles and never more than five miles from the entrance to the bay, but now we consistently fish out to five miles off shore. This season we fished over 10 miles north and south of the entrance. Now almost every new boat is capable of traveling down to the cape and back for a good day of fishing. With good days of as many as 100 boats offshore from Eureka that would be a big total of boats that average over 40,000 dollars per boat and 5,000 dollars in fishing gear. Many of these boats come from the central valley - you can see them traveling 299 every weekend - and from south of Eureka. I'm sure after fishing this season that there must be at least 200 boats fishing that are local to Humboldt County.

I'm not going to try to estimate the money that comes into our local economy from sports fishing but having a halibut season that runs concurrently with salmon and rockfish is bringing a good amount of money to Humboldt County. For fishermen to travel to Humboldt County they need to have several options. If the sea conditions are bad or the bite is off for one species it gives us a chance to still fish. We're losing some valuable fishing areas this next year due to the MPLA, please

don't allow our halibut season to be closed down. Give us a quota of halibut so that we'll be able to fish during the entire salmon season.

Thanks, Fred Johansen

2295 Ross Street

Arcata, CA., 95521

[fredjohansen28@gmail.com](mailto:fredjohansen28@gmail.com)

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OCT 24 2011

PFMC

October 12, 2011

Jeff Coontz  
2765 Dunbar Ct.  
Arcata, California 95521

Don McIsaac, Executive Director  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Mr. McIsaac,

It came to my attention that the PFMC is entertaining a recommendation to close the Pacific Halibut recreational fishing season when a 2625 pound quota is met. This recommendation should be reconsidered for several reasons.

First, the council could do a better job disseminating an intent such as this to the public in an economic region such as ours on the North Coast of California. Changes to a fishing season such as this may seem a small item in your large picture view, but they are a very big deal to businesses in an area such as ours. Lack of information made available to these businesses does a disservice to them. Please do a better job of letting them know in a timely fashion, and in a more obvious way so that they can respond.

Secondly, the far reaching negative economic impact of this new restriction deserves further study. Early season closure recommendations shoots our state and local tax revenue efforts in the foot. Such a restriction will lead to very early closure of the fishery in our area and will severely impact tax revenues generated from the sales of fuels, equipment, lodging, food, charter fishing trips and other items needed for the activity. This recommendation appears to the outside observer to have not been completely thought through to its final conclusion of negative economic impacts and its contribution to continuing government and private sector job losses.

Leaving the season at it now exists will benefit tax revenues such that the revenues collected by leaving the season as it is, could fund further, more scientific studies and assist in helping enable new law enforcement strategies to enforce new limits to this fishery if the studies say it is really needed. Closure now is premature at best.

Please reconsider this economically detrimental recommendation and leave the season as it has existed for some time so that tax revenues will not be negatively impacted.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,



Jeff Coontz  
Arcata, California  
Humboldt Bay