

2014 PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

Each September meeting, the Council considers proposed changes to the Pacific halibut regulations. The purpose of this consideration is for adjustments in the annual regulations (primarily in the recreational fishery) or the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 2A (Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 1), and can include changes in catch allocation among areas or gear groups.

Public meetings were held to solicit proposed changes to the CSP and to present staff proposals for public comment. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) held a public meeting on July 24 in Montesano. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) held public meetings on August 6 in Tillamook, August 7 in Newport, August 12 in Brookings, and August 13 in North Bend. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) held a public meeting on July 18 in Eureka. Recommendations resulting from the meetings are included in the reference materials (Agenda Items D.2.b, WDFW Report, D.2.b, ODFW Report, and D.2.b, CDFW Report).

Additionally, the Council's South of Humbug Policy Committee (Committee) met to review the South of Humbug Workgroup (Workgroup) Report on recreational management measure alternatives necessary to reduce harvest of halibut south of Humbug Mountain (Agenda Item D.2.b, Workgroup Report). The outcomes of the Committee meeting are detailed in Agenda Item D.2.b, Committee Report. In summary, the Committee recommends implementing an adaptive management approach with a target of reducing recreational harvest of Pacific halibut in California by approximately 8,900 to 13,300 pounds for the 2014 fishery. The Committee recommends establishing a new management line at the Oregon/California border in the CSP (Alternative 6) and restricting fishing opportunity in the newly-created California Subarea by days of the week (Alternatives 2 and 7) or month (Alternatives 3 and 5). Depending on the season structure, additional management measures, like restricting Pacific halibut retention based on salmon and/or groundfish retention (Alternative 1), may be needed. The Oregon portion, between Humbug Mountain and the Oregon/California border, could be subsumed into the Central Oregon Coast Subarea (Alternative 6a) or become a separate Southern Oregon Subarea (Alternative 6b). Under all alternatives, the Committee recommends no inseason management of the California Subarea.

The Council will take final action on proposed changes for 2014 Area 2A halibut fisheries at the November 2014 Council meeting.

Council Action:

1. Adopt for public review proposed changes for the 2014 Pacific halibut CSP, as necessary.
2. Adopt for public review proposed changes for the 2014 annual fishery regulations, as necessary.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.2.a, Attachment 1: 2013 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item D.2.b, NMFS Report: Report on the 2013 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.
3. Agenda Item D.2.b, ODFW Report: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2014 Fishery.
4. Agenda Item D.2.b, WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan and 2014 Annual Regulations.
5. Agenda Item D.2.b, CDFW Report: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the 2014 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.
6. Agenda Item D.2.b, Workgroup Report: South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Workgroup Preliminary Management Measures Analyses.
7. Agenda Item D.2.b, Policy Committee Report: Summary of the South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Policy Committee Meeting.
8. Agenda Item D.2.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kelly Ames
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt for Public Review Proposed Changes for the 2014 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishing Regulations

PFMC
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