

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT
ON THE 2014 PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard a presentation from Ms. Heather Reed, Ms. Lynn Mattes and Ms. Marci Yaremko on proposed 2014 halibut regulations.

In general, the GAP agrees with sending out for public review the options listed in the attachments from the respective states and workgroup under this agenda item with one modification and one additional option.

For modification: The GAP suggests the proposed Columbia River Subarea season changes in the Washington Report (Agenda Item D.2.b, WDFW report) be clarified to reflect that the regulations would include both the Washington and Oregon portions of the Subarea and is supported by the state of Oregon. The change to fishing shoreward of 30 fathoms (instead of the current 40 fathoms) would match up with Washington regulations and may also extend the season.

Additional proposal: In California, the GAP recommends the Council consider an option for analysis that would include "days of the week" besides the option for monthly block closures in mid-summer that keep the spring and fall months open. This option would potentially lessen the socio-economic impact to the smaller ports such as Shelter Cove and Trinidad that do not have an option for a fall halibut fishery.

The GAP is concerned the Council is once again in the difficult position of making management control decisions without the benefit of scientific data that will not be available from the IPHC until a month after the final decision is made in November.

PFMC
09/11/13