

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON 2015 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH
SHARING PLAN AND REGULATIONS

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS), after considerable deliberation, recommends the adoption of a modification of Alternative 4 of Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 3, which allocates a straight 4 percent of the non-tribal 2A Pacific halibut total allowable catch (TAC) to the California recreational fishery regardless of the size of the overall TAC. This recommendation is based on the understanding the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will work in conjunction with the National Marine Fisheries Service to monitor catch inseason and take appropriate regulatory action to keep catch within the quota (Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental CDFW Report 2).

We recommend that 2.3 percent of the Oregon sport Pacific halibut allocation go to the Columbia River subarea, as recommended in Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental WDFW Report 3.

We recommend that the Council revise bottom fish restrictions such that other flatfish in addition to Pacific cod and sablefish would be allowed to be retained when Pacific halibut are onboard a recreational vessel during the all-depth Pacific halibut days (Alternative 2 for Columbia River and Central Oregon Coast Subareas in Agenda Item G.1.b, ODFW Report).

We recommend the following three provisions for the Columbia River Subarea as presented in Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental WDFW Report:

- Reduce the Columbia River nearshore subarea set-aside from 1,500 pounds to 500 pounds.
- Do not change the opening date and manage the fishery as one season.
- Increase to the number of days open per week to Monday thru Friday only in the month of June (Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 3). This would include two days of overlap between the nearshore and all-depth fisheries.

The SAS also recommends the changes recommended in Agenda Item G.1.b, NMFS Report 3 including the modification which would allow earlier transfer of unused quota from the directed commercial fishery to the incidental salmon troll fishery.