

COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE
Management and Activity Cycles

Approved by Council: 07/10/85

Revised: 09/16/87, 04/06/95, 11/03/99, 03/11/05, **11/6/13**

PURPOSE

To establish management and activity cycles conducted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), its advisory entities, staff for the groundfish, salmon, coastal pelagic species, halibut, and highly migratory species fisheries, and administrative matters.

SCHEDULE 4. Annual management cycle and activities related to Pacific halibut management.

Year	Month	Entity and Management Activity
Year 1	September	<i>Council</i> receives a report on the status of the current Pacific halibut fishery. With regard to next year's season (Year 2), the <i>Council</i> hears management recommendations from the states and public; and, if necessary, adopts for public review proposed changes to recreational season structuring, Federal regulations, and minor changes to the Pacific halibut catch sharing plan for fisheries in Year 2 (e.g., opening dates, days per week, early season/late season ratios, and port/area sharing). <i>SSC</i> reviews halibut stock assessment, proposed halibut bycatch estimates or other halibut estimation methodologies as necessary prior to NMFS submission to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC).
	September or October	<i>States</i> conduct public workshops on the proposed changes to the catch sharing plan or sport fishery measures, as appropriate.
	October or November	<i>Council</i> receives a report on the status of the current Pacific halibut fishery. Within the scope of the proposed changes formulated at the September meeting and with further public input, the <i>Council</i> adopts recommendations for management changes to be implemented by IPHC regulations and NMFS in the catch sharing plan and Federal regulations governing Pacific halibut fisheries in the coming season (Year 2).
	November through January	<i>IPHC</i> staff distributes draft documents that impact Area 2A to the Council office and NMFS.
Year 2	January	<i>IPHC</i> meets to establish quotas for each management area.
	November February	<i>NMFS</i> publishes proposed rule to implement catch sharing plan

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		and prepares appropriate NEPA documents.
	March	<p><i>Council</i> adopts, for public review, a range of landing restrictions for incidental halibut harvest in the non-Indian troll salmon fishery <u>for the May 1-April 30 period. If necessary, the Council recommends inseason action to modify previously set April 1-30 landing restrictions.</u></p> <p>and, if necessary, the Council adopts final incidental landing restrictions for the commercial longline sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington.</p>
	March (cont)	<p><i>Council</i> holds public hearings to receive input on salmon fishing alternatives and incidental halibut landing limit options in the non-Indian salmon troll fishery <u>for the May 1 to April 30 period and, if appropriate, the directed fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis.</u></p>
	April	<p><i>NMFS</i> publishes final rule to implement catch sharing plan.</p> <p><i>Council</i> adopts final recommendations for incidental harvest in the non-Indian troll salmon fishery <u>for the May 1 to April 30 period and, if necessary, for the commercial longline sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington.</u></p> <p><u>As appropriate, incidental retention of Pacific halibut opens in the commercial non-Indian troll fishery and the longline sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis.</u></p>
	May	Non-Indian Pacific halibut fisheries open in Area 2A under IPHC regulations.
	May though September	<i>NMFS</i> regional director makes inseason adjustments to sport seasons, the non-Indian commercial troll salmon fishery, and the directed fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, as necessary. The <i>IPHC</i> closes the non-Indian directed commercial halibut fisheries when quotas are projected to be met.

PFMC
3/24/14