

CALIFORNIA, OREGON, AND WASHINGTON REPORT ON CHANGES TO THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR 2015

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) propose the following alternatives for changes to allocations in the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP). The three states have continued to discuss allocation issues, especially concerning quota for the California Subarea. These discussions build off of previous work undertaken by the South of Humbug Workgroup and Policy group, and the Council's annual CSP process.

Beginning in 2014 the former South of Humbug Mountain Subarea was split into the Southern Oregon (Humbug Mountain to the OR/CA border) and California Subareas. The South of Humbug Mountain Subarea quota (in 2013, 2 percent of the Oregon/California quota) was allocated to the California Subarea which equated to 1 percent of the non-tribal quota. This was intended to be a first step in providing quota for this new area, with discussions to continue during 2014 in preparation for 2015 modifications to the CSP.

Below are alternatives proposed for public review developed by the three state agencies:

Status Quo: Allocation as described in 2014 Catch Sharing Plan, which specifies that 65 percent of the Area 2A Total Allowable Catch (2A TAC) allocated to non-tribal fisheries; the non-tribal fisheries then share that amount as follows:

WA Sport:	36.6%
OR Sport:	30.7%
CA Sport:	1.0%
Commercial:	31.7%

Alternative 1: Maintain allocations as described in the CSP, except increase the California sport allocation by an additional two percent, which would be transferred from the non-tribal commercial fishery share. New non-tribal fishery shares would be:

WA Sport:	36.6%
OR Sport:	30.7%
CA Sport:	3.0%
Commercial:	29.7%

Alternative 2, Option A: Same allocations as described in Alternative 1 when the 2A TAC is one million pounds or less. When the 2A TAC is above one million pounds, the California sport allocation would increase by an additional one percent, which would be transferred from the non-tribal commercial fishery share. New non-tribal fishery shares would be:

	<u>2A TAC ≤ 1 million lbs.</u>	<u>2A TAC > 1 million lbs.</u>
WA Sport:	36.6%	36.6%
OR Sport:	30.7%	30.7%
CA Sport:	3.0%	4.0%
Commercial:	29.7%	28.7%

Alternative 2, Option B: Same allocations as described in Alternative 1 when the 2A TAC is one million pounds or less. When the 2A TAC is greater than one million pounds, the first one million pounds of the 2A TAC shall be distributed according to the Alternative 1 allocations. For the portion of the 2A TAC that exceeds one million pounds, the California sport allocation would increase to 30-50 percent of the non-tribal share, and allocation percentages for the other sectors would be reduced to remain proportional to the status quo non-tribal shares. New non-tribal fishery shares would be:

	<u>2A TAC ≤ 1 million lbs.</u>	<u>Portion of 2A TAC > 1 million lbs.</u>
WA Sport:	36.6%	18.5-25.9%
OR Sport:	30.7%	15.5-21.7%
CA Sport:	3.0%	30-50%
Commercial:	29.7%	16-22.4%

As an example, if the 2A TAC were 1.1 million pounds, the non-tribal share of the first one million pounds would be allocated under Alternative 1 percentages. The non-tribal share of the additional 0.1 million pounds would total 65,000 pounds. This amount would then be allocated 19,500-32,500 pounds to the CA sport fishery, with the remaining 32,500-45,500 pounds allocated proportionally to the other non-tribal sectors.

Alternative 3: Include a maximum limit on the California sport allocation of 75,000 pounds, in an effort to not strand pounds. This Alternative may be combined with Alternatives 1, 2A, or 2B. For example, under Alternative 2A, when the 2A TAC is above one million pounds, the California sport allocation would increase by an additional one percent, which would be transferred from the non-tribal commercial fishery share, up to a maximum of 75,000 pounds. Any amount above 75,000 pounds would remain in the non-tribal commercial fishery share.

Catch Sharing Plan Language

Given the range of alternatives, proposed CSP language has not been developed yet. Depending on which alternative(s) are forwarded by the Council, staff from the three state agencies will work with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region (WCR) staff to develop draft CSP language for the November meeting.