

PROPOSALS FOR MODIFYING THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN
FOR THE 2001 OREGON FISHERY

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife held a public meeting on August 28, 2000 to discuss proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Oregon fisheries. Several issues submitted by anglers were discussed without consensus support. The participants expressed frustration at the annual process where they reshape the Oregon recreational fishery. They concluded that it is time to request additional allocation to the Oregon recreational fishery, as the annual Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain all-depth fishery has been reduced to just a few days. Both economic and safety concerns were identified. Although the group would prefer an overall increase to the area 2A allowable catch, their second choice was a reallocation between areas 2A-1 and 2A-2 reflecting the relative abundance amongst the two subareas. The third choice was a reallocation from the area 2A-2 non-treaty commercial fishery to the recreational fishery. The final proposal from participating anglers was to retain the present allocation to the commercial troll salmon fishery, but transfer the directed non-treaty commercial fishery allocation to the Oregon recreational fishery.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, based on the results of the public meeting, proposes no change to the catch-sharing plan for 2001. A change in allocation first requires review and direction by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife (OFWC) Commission. There is insufficient time to review this issue with the OFWC prior to the September Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting.

The following proposals for the 2001 Oregon recreational halibut fishery were discussed without consensus support at the meeting:

1. Combine May all-depth fisheries Cape Falcon to Florence and Florence to Humbug Mountain into one quota fishery.
2. Create separate all-depth quotas for charter and private vessels split 50/50.
3. Create separate port quotas.
4. Split the Columbia River area quota into two quotas, one for Washington and one for Oregon.
5. Structure all-depth fisheries to occur on weekends.
6. Allow boats to catch halibut in closed areas as long as they are landed into open ports.
7. Allocate annual recreational halibut harvest in a similar manner to the "controlled hunt" process where tags are allocated based on a draw.