

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO
THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR AREA 2A FOR 2001

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife recommends that the following changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A to be distributed for public review:

(e) NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

(1) Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery

Add sentence to end: "The primary management objective for this fishery is to harvest the troll quota as an incidental catch during the May/June salmon troll fishery. The secondary management objective is to harvest the remaining troll quota as an incidental catch during the July, August, and September salmon troll fishery."

(ii) (A)

Change last sentence: "In determining whether to make such inseason adjustments, NMFS will consult with the applicable state representative(s) ~~on the Halibut Managers Group~~, a representative of the Council's Salmon Advisory Sub-Panel, and Council staff.

(iii)

Delete this sentence: "~~If the quota for this fishery is not harvested during the May/June salmon troll fishery, the IPHC will move any remaining quota from this fishery to the directed halibut fishery on July 1.~~"

(iv)

Change this section to: "If the overall quota for the non-Indian commercial fishery has not been harvested ~~by July 31 and the quota for the salmon troll fishery was not harvested~~ during the May/June fishery, landings of halibut caught incidentally during salmon troll fisheries will be allowed effective August July 1 and will continue ~~(while additional directed fishery openings are set to harvest all of the remaining commercial allocation)~~ until the amount of halibut that was initially available as quota for the troll fishery is taken or the overall non-Indian commercial quota is estimated to have been achieved by the IPHC. Landing restrictions implemented for the May/June salmon troll fishery will apply to this reopening of the fishery. Notice of the August July opening of this fishery will be announced on the NMFS hotline (206) 526-6667 or (800) 662-9825. No halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery will be allowed in August July unless the August July opening has been announced on the NMFS hotline."

(f) SPORT FISHERIES

(ii) Washington north coast subarea

Change 4th sentence and delete 5th sentence: "The fishery ~~opens on May 1~~ will open in May and continues 5 days per week (Tuesday through Saturday). ~~If May 1 falls on a Sunday or Monday, the fishery will open on the following Tuesday.~~"

(iii) Washington south coast subarea

Change 4th sentence and delete 5th sentence: “The fishery will open ~~on May 1~~ in May. ~~If May 1 falls on a Friday or Saturday, the fishery will open on the following Sunday.~~”

Change 7th sentence: “The fishery will continue until September 30, or until ~~1,000 lb (454 kg) are projected to remain in the subarea quota~~ the quota is achieved, whichever occurs first.”

Change the 8th sentence and delete the last two sentences: “~~Immediately following this closure,~~ Subsequent to this closure, if any remaining quota is insufficient for an offshore fishery, but is sufficient for a nearshore fishery (e.g., > 500 lbs.), the area from the Queets River south to 47°00'00"N. lat. and east of 124°40'00"W. long. will reopen for 7 days per week until either the remaining subarea quota is estimated to have been taken and the season is closed by the IPHC, or until September 30, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit. ~~Sport fishing for halibut is prohibited in the area within a rectangle defined by these four corners: 47°16'00"N. lat., 124°53'00"W. long.; 47°19'00"N. lat., 124°48'00"W. long.; 47°16'00"N. lat., 124°53'00"W. long.; 47°16'00"N. lat., 124°48'00"W. long. If a decision is made inseason to open this closed area to sport fishing for halibut, that decision will become effective upon announcement on the NMFS halibut hotline, at (206) 526-6667 or (800) 662-9825.~~”