

## CHANGES TO HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN AND REGULATIONS FOR 2001

**Situation:** Under its standard process, the Council solicits proposed changes to the annual halibut regulations at its September meeting and adopts any changes in November after reviewing public and agency comments. Generally, changes are limited to adjustments in the annual regulations and minor modifications to the catch sharing plan.

For the 2001 season, the Council has proposed minor changes to the commercial, non-Indian, incidental halibut allocation for the salmon troll fishery and a minor adjustment in the management of the recreational fisheries in the Washington North and South Coast subareas. The proposed changes resulted from recommendations provided by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife after holding a state public meeting on September 8, 2000 (see Attachment 1 for details).

Based on the input received since the September Council meeting, the states will present their final proposals for regulatory changes in the halibut fishery at this meeting. One public comment letter has been received at the Council office in time to be mailed with the briefing book (Exhibit D.2, Public Comment). The letter expresses a desire to split the Washington North Coast recreational halibut allocation equally between the May 1 and July 1 openings to provide better fishing access to small boat fishermen. In past years, the May opener takes most of the quota and greatly shortens the fishing season after June when weather is better.

**Council Action:** Within the scope of the September proposals (Attachment 1) and public input, adopt Council recommendations for implementation of proposed changes to the Pacific halibut fishery regulations for 2001.

### Reference Materials:

1. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Recommended Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A for 2001 (Exhibit D.2, Attachment 1).
2. Preliminary Report on the 2000 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A (Attachment 2).
3. Letter from Mr. Ken Crane (Exhibit D.2, Public Comment).

PFMC  
10/16/00