

REVISED  
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
CHANGES TO THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN

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(e) NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The non-Indian commercial fishery is allocated 31.7 percent of the non-Indian share of the Area 2A TAC for a directed halibut fishery and an incidental catch fishery during the salmon troll fishery. The non-Indian commercial allocation is approximately 20.6 percent of the Area 2A TAC. Incidental catch of halibut in the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA will be authorized if the Washington sport allocation exceeds 224,110 lb (101.7 mt) as described in section (e)(3) of this Plan. The structuring and management of these three fisheries is as follows.

(1) Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery.

Fifteen percent of the non-Indian commercial fishery allocation is allocated to the salmon troll fishery in Area 2A as an incidental catch during salmon fisheries. The quota for this incidental catch fishery is approximately 3.1 percent of the Area 2A TAC. 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 any remaining troll quota as incidental catch during the July, August, and September salmon troll fishery.

(i) The Council will recommend landing restrictions at its spring public meeting each year to control the amount of halibut caught incidentally in the troll fishery. The landing restrictions will be based on the number of incidental harvest license applications submitted to the IPHC, halibut catch rates, the amount of allocation, and other pertinent factors, and may include catch or landing ratios, landing limits, or other means to control the rate of halibut harvest. NMFS will publish the landing restrictions annually in the *Federal Register*, along with the salmon management measures.

(ii) Inseason adjustments to the incidental halibut catch fishery.

(A) NMFS may make inseason adjustments to the landing restrictions, if requested by the Council Chairman, as necessary to assure that the incidental harvest rate is appropriate for salmon and halibut availability, does not encourage target fishing on halibut, and does not increase the likelihood of exceeding the quota for this fishery. 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~~ applicable commercial troll representative(s) on the Council's Salmon Advisory Sub-Panel, and Council staff.

(B) Notice and effectiveness of inseason adjustments will be made by NMFS in accordance with paragraph (f)(5) of this Plan.

(iii) ~~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)~~ If the overall quota for the non-Indian, incidental commercial troll fishery has not been harvested by July 31 and the quota for the salmon troll fishery was not harvested salmon trollers during the May/June fishery, additional 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 after June ~~in August~~ unless the ~~August~~ opening has been announced on the NMFS hotline.

- (v) A salmon troller may participate in this fishery or in the directed commercial fishery targeting halibut, but not in both.

(2) Directed fishery targeting halibut.

Eighty-five percent of the non-Indian commercial fishery allocation is allocated to the directed fishery targeting halibut (e.g., longline fishery) in southern Washington, Oregon, and California. The allocation for this directed catch fishery is approximately 17.5 percent of the Area 2A TAC. This fishery is confined to the area south of Subarea 2A-1 (south of Point Chehalis, WA; 46°53'18" N. lat.). ~~After June 30, the overall quota for the non-Indian commercial fishery will be available to the directed commercial fishery in accordance with the specifications provided in §(e)(1)(iii) and (iv) above.~~ The commercial fishery opening date(s), duration, and vessel trip limits, as necessary to ensure that the quota for the non-Indian commercial fisheries is not exceeded, will be determined by the IPHC and implemented in IPHC regulations. If the IPHC determines that poundage remaining in the quota for the non-Indian commercial fisheries is insufficient to allow an additional day of directed halibut fishing, the remaining halibut will be made available for incidental catch of halibut in the fall salmon troll fisheries (independent of the incidental harvest allocation).

(3) Incidental catch in the sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis.

If the Area 2A TAC is greater than 900,000 lb (408.2 mt), the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis will be allocated the Washington sport allocation that is in excess of 214,110 lb (97.1 mt), provided a minimum of 10,000 lb (4.5 mt) is available (i.e., the Washington sport allocation is 224,110 lb (101.7 mt) or greater). If the amount above 214,110 lb (97.1 mt) is less than 10,000 lb (4.5 mt), then the excess will be allocated to the Washington sport subareas according to section (f) of this Plan.

The Council will recommend landing restrictions at its spring public meeting each year to control the amount of halibut caught incidentally in this fishery. The landing restrictions will be based on the amount of the allocation and other pertinent factors, and may include catch or landing ratios, landing limits, or other means to control the rate of halibut landings. NMFS will publish the landing restrictions annually in the Federal Register.

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**(f) SPORT FISHERIES**

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(1) Subarea Management

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(ii) Washington north coast subarea

**No changes recommended.** [i.e., "The fishery opens on May 1 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."]

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(iii) Washington south coast subarea

**No change in the opening dates.** [i.e., "The fishery will open on May 1. If May 1 falls on a Friday or Saturday, the fishery will open on the following Sunday."]

**Change 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.~~"

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(5) Flexible inseason management provisions.

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(iv) Effective dates.

**Modify (A) as follows:**

(A) Inseason actions will be effective on the day specified in the Federal Register notice or at the time that the action is filed for public inspection with the Office of the Federal Register, whichever is later., ~~except that any partial or complete inseason opening of the Washington South Coast sport fishery closed area (designated above at (f)(1)(iii)) may be made effective upon announcement on the NMFS halibut hotline.~~

PFMC  
11/1/00