

**PROPOSED OPTIONS FOR MODIFYING THE PACIFIC HALIBUT  
CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR THE 2002 OREGON FISHERY**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife held a public meeting on August 16, 2001 to discuss proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Oregon fisheries. Over 30 participants attended the meeting. Based on the meeting comments, and other public input, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) consider adopting the following options for additional public comment.

1. Increase the possession limit on land to two daily bags, but only one daily bag may be possessed on the vessel. This would allow the angler to transport up to two fish on land.
2. Open the Cape Falcon to Leadbetter Point fishery annually on June 15. In 2001, Oregon anglers landed approximately ten percent of the sub-area quota, while the Oregon contribution was over forty percent of the sub-area quota. A later opener, closer to the timing of the salmon fishery, should increase the proportion of the sub-area catch taken by Oregon anglers and likely redirect the halibut fishery to mainly an incidental nature consistent with the original intent.
3. Reallocate the Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain all-depth quota as follows:
  - Allocate fifty to sixty-five percent of the all-depth quota to the May-June fishery for vessels that hold International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) licenses.
  - Allocate the remaining thirty-five to fifty percent of the all-depth quota to private vessel owners who do not have IPHC licenses. This fishery would occur in August-September when the weather is generally more favorable for smaller vessels. IPHC license holders will not be allowed to fish in the August-September all-depth fishery.

**Bycatch Mortality Concerns**

The participants at the meeting also wanted the PFMC to know they are concerned about the magnitude of Pacific halibut bycatch in the trawl and shrimp fisheries. For example, the estimated 1999 bycatch mortality was estimated to exceed the landed poundage. The participants offered several recommendations:

4. Revise the bycatch estimate in light of recent gear changes (roller, footrope). Some felt using encounter rates from the Enhanced Data Collection Program (EDCP) was not appropriate. It was recommended that PFMC and the states fund gear research to investigate encounter rates with the recent gear restrictions.
5. Base 2002 bycatch estimates on projected 2001 effort, not observed 2000 effort.
6. The PFMC and states independently estimate area 2A abundance and not rely on the IPHC and their technique of associating 2A and 2B abundance.

The following proposals were discussed without majority support at the meeting:

7. Create separate all-depth quotas for charter and private vessels.
8. Allocate annual recreational halibut harvest based on "tag drawings".
9. Reallocate from the commercial fishery to the recreational fishery.
10. Split the Columbia River area quota into two quotas, one for Washington and one for Oregon.
11. Allow boats to catch halibut in closed areas as long as they are landed into open ports or manage as area of catch rather than port of landing.