

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE RECREATIONAL CATCH SHARING PLAN
AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS FOR 2002

Situation: Under its standard process, the Council solicits proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan 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 2002 season, the Council is considering minor changes to the management of the recreational fisheries in the Puget Sound, Columbia River, and Oregon North Central Coast subareas. Attachment 1 is a copy of the 2001 Catch Sharing Plan. The proposed changes resulted from recommendations provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife after holding public meetings and from public testimony received at the September 2001 Council Meeting. The Council solicited public input on the changes in the Council News Brief released September 28, 2001 (Attachment 2). The National Marine Fisheries Service has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed changes to the Catch Sharing Plan to provide the Council with additional information on the likely effects or the proposals (Attachment 3).

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. Exhibit B.1.f contains written public comment, including comments of the International Pacific Halibut Commission staff, that was received at the Council office in time to be mailed with the briefing book.

Exhibit B.1.b provides a preliminary report summarizing the harvest in the 2001 Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2A to date.

Council Action:

- 1. Within the scope of the September proposals (Attachment 2), the EA (Attachment 3), and public input, adopt Council recommendations for implementation of proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2002.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit B.1, Attachment 1, *2001 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A*.
2. Exhibit B.1, Attachment 2, *Council News Brief Excerpt*.
3. Exhibit B.1, Attachment 3, *Environmental Assessment and Regulatory Impact Review of Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut in Area 2A*.
4. Exhibit B.1.b, Halibut Report, *Preliminary Report on the 2001 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A*.
5. Exhibit B.1.f, Public Comment.

PFMC
10/11/01