

NMFS UPDATE ON 2002 PACIFIC HALIBUT MANAGEMENT

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) held its annual meeting January 22-25, 2002, in Seattle. At that meeting, the IPHC set an Area 2A (waters off Washington, Oregon, and California) of 1,310,000 lb, a 13% increase over the 2001 TAC. On February 11, 2002 (67 FR 6220,) NMFS published a proposed rule to implement the 2002 TAC and the Council's recommended changes to the Catch Sharing Plan. In November 2001, the Council had recommended separating the Washington Inside Waters sub-area into two regions with two separate season start dates and recommended allowing Oregon anglers to retain up to two halibut on land. NMFS expects that rule to be finalized by March 18, 2002, the start of the Area 2A treaty tribes commercial fisheries and the commercial fisheries off Canada and Alaska.

Area 2A TAC Comparison, 2001 & 2002 (in pounds)		
	2001	2002
Treaty Tribes	424,000	483,500
Commercial	406,500	16,000
Ceremonial & Subsistence	17,500	467,500
Non-Treaty	716,000	826,500
Commercial	274,918	262,000
Salmon Troll Incidental	34,046	39,300
Directed	192,926	222,700
Sablefish Incidental	47,946	88,389
Recreational	441,802	476,110
WA Sport	214,110	214,110
OR/CA Sport	226,972	262,000
WA Inside Waters	57,393	57,393
WA North Coast	108,030	108,030
WA South Coast	42,739	42,739
Columbia River	10,487	11,188
OR Central, Inside 30 fms	17,150	19,797
OR North Central (May)	135,866	156,835
OR South Central (May)	12,656	14,609
OR Central, August	49,951	57,660
South of Humboldt Mt.	6,809	7,860
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,140,000</b>	<b>1,310,000</b>