

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
PROPOSED RECREATIONAL GROUND FISH SEASON OPTIONS FOR 2003

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is proposing the following recreational groundfish season options to be considered for public review:

Bottomfish

Option 1

A recreational groundfish bag limit of 10 groundfish, including rockfish (and excluding lingcod), sublimit of 1 canary rockfish and no retention of yelloweye rockfish, open year-round. An additional bag limit of 2 lingcod, 24-inch minimum size limit, open Mar 16-Oct 15.

Option 2

A recreational groundfish bag limit of 10 groundfish, including rockfish (and excluding lingcod), and no retention of canary or yelloweye rockfish, open year-round. An additional bag limit of 2 lingcod, 24-inch minimum size limit, open Mar 16-Oct 15.

Option 3

Option 1 or 2 with closure outside of a line approximating 25 fathoms–latitude/longitude waypoints to be defined.

Halibut

Option 1

Allow recreational halibut fishing inside one-square-mile halibut “hotspot” areas–latitude/longitude points to be defined; subarea seasons described in Catch Sharing Plan.

Option 2

Close recreational halibut fishery outside of a line approximating 25 fathoms–latitude/longitude waypoints to be defined; subarea seasons described in Catch Sharing Plan.

Salmon

Option 1

Close recreational salmon fishery outside of a line approximating 25 fathoms in Marine Catch Areas 3 and 4--latitude/longitude waypoints to be defined.

Option 2

No retention of canary rockfish with a salmon onboard.

Option 3

Option 2 with additional restriction of no halibut retention with a salmon onboard.