

**CAPT. THOMAS YOUNG  
NEAH BAY CHARTER ASSOC. REP.**

P.O. Box 170  
Neah Bay, Wa. 98357-0170  
(360) 963-2111

October 16, 2002

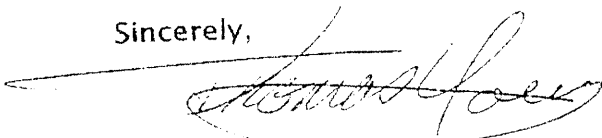
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: WDFW 2003 halibut catch sharing plan proposal

Dear Council Members,

The Neah Bay Charter Assoc. along with the undersigned support the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's latest revised draft of the 2003 halibut catch sharing plan for the Washington north coast sub area. I am including a copy of the proposal for your convenience.

Sincerely,



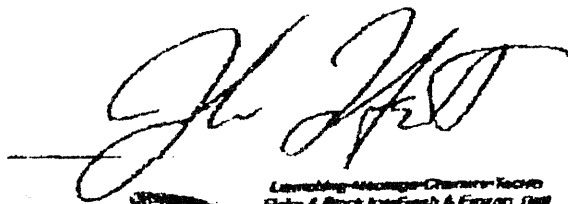
Capt. Thomas Young



500 East Division Street  
Forks, WA 98331

DAN LEINAN  
Clerk - Treasurer

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WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2003 HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN

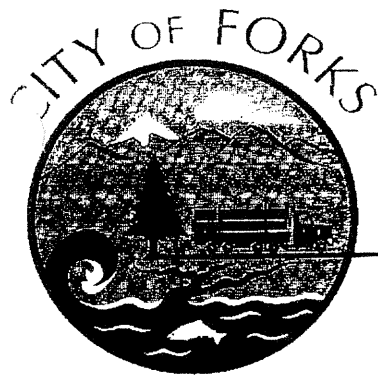
(f) SPORT FISHERIES

(1)(ii) Washington north coast subarea.

...The structuring management objective for this subarea is to provide a quality recreational maximize the season length for viable fishing opportunity during May and the latter part of June, and, if possible, stagger the seasons to spread out this opportunity to anglers who utilize these remote grounds. To meet this objective, the north coast subarea quota will be allocated as follows: 72% for the month of May and 28% for the latter part of June. The fishery will open on May 1, and continue 5 days per week (Tuesday through Saturday) until the May allocation is projected to be taken. The fishery will then reopen on the third Wednesday in June and continue until the remaining quota is projected to be taken, 5 days per week (Tuesday through Saturday).... The highest priority is for the season to last through the month of May. If sufficient quota remains, the second priority is to establish a fishery that will be open July 1, through at least July 4. If the preseason prediction indicates that these two goals can be met without using the quota for this subarea, then the next priority is to extend the fishery into June and continue for 5 days per week (Tuesday through Saturday) for as long a period as possible. A closure to sport fishing for halibut will be established in an area that is approximately 19.5 nm (36.1 km) southwest of Cape Flattery. The size of this closed area may be modified preseason by NMFS to maximize the season length. The closed area is defined as the area within a rectangle defined by these four corners: A "C-shaped" yelloweye rockfish conservation area which is closed to recreational groundfish and halibut fishing is described by the following coordinates:

<u>48°00'00"</u>	<u>124°59'00"</u>
<u>48°00'00"</u>	<u>125°18'00"</u>
<u>48°04'00"</u>	<u>124°59'00"</u>
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\* NOTE: This list of coordinates currently describes the "L-shaped" yelloweye rockfish conservation area that was adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council at its September 2002 meeting. WDFW will propose a modified conservation area that includes the northern portion of the halibut "hotspot" (to make a "C-shape") at the Council's October meeting.



500 East Division Street • Forks, Washington 98331-8618

(360) 374-5412 • Fax: (360) 374-9430 • Web: [www.forkswashington.org](http://www.forkswashington.org)

October 21, 2002

Dr. Hans Radke, Chairman  
Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 200  
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Dr. Radke,

We represent the citizens of Forks, Washington and the west end of Clallam County. Our comments pertain to the 2003 halibut catch sharing plan and more specifically to the Washington North Coast sub area.

Our community supports the WDF&W position as outlined in the enclosed letter to Recreational Halibut Fishers from Michele K. Robinson, dated October 7, 2002. Although the positions outlined in the letter are not as beneficial to our community as the actions taken by the council in your September 2002 meeting, it does represent a fairly negotiated compromise position. We do support the process and appreciate the opportunity to participate.

I am enclosing a copy of the above-referenced letter for your review. Thanks for your kind consideration of our comments

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nedra Reed".

Nedra Reed  
Mayor  
City of Forks

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Daniel Leinan".

R. Daniel Leinan  
Clerk-Treasurer  
City of Forks

cc: Dr. Donald McIsaac – PFMC  
Dr. John Coon – PFMC  
Phil Anderson – WDF&W  
Michele Robinson – WDF&W  
Brian Culver



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

48 Devonshire Road • Montesano, Washington 98563-9618 • (360) 249-4628 FAX (360) 664-3689

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CITY OF FORKS

October 7, 2002

Dear Recreational Halibut Fisher:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife held a public meeting on October 4, to solicit input on our proposed changes to the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan. All of the changes the Department is proposing affect the North Coast (Neah Bay/La Push) subarea.

There were three proposed changes that were discussed at the meeting:

1. Whether to include the flexibility to open on a date between May 1 and 15, or to keep the traditional opening date of May 1 in the plan
2. How best to accommodate a halibut fishery in the month of May as well as a later summer fishery in the June/July time period
3. The appropriate size and shape of the yelloweye rockfish conservation closure

With regard to the opening date, there was consensus among the group to keep the traditional opening date of May 1 in the Catch Sharing Plan. This would provide predictability to fishers who have traditionally fished this area in early May and allows for consistency among coastal subareas.

There was a considerable amount of discussion relative to providing fishing opportunities in May and later in the season—end of June or beginning of July. In recent years, there has been concern expressed by a group of private boat anglers who like to fish in the month of July when the weather is calmer and kids are out of school. However, the harvest rates in May and July have escalated to the point that providing a fishery that lasts the entire month of May as well as four days in July is not feasible. Further, if the harvest rate continues to increase, while the opening date remains the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, then the amount of time available at the end of May becomes less reliable. Some fishers and coastal community representatives thought that having a fishery in June would be more economically beneficial than a fishery during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, as families have holiday celebrations and/or the recreational salmon season may be open.

Therefore, in order to address all of these concerns, it was decided that a portion of the subarea quota would be set aside for the latter part of June. Based on the current quota of 108,030 pounds (which is the highest quota available for this subarea), and using the amount of halibut

## Recreational Halibut Fishery

October 7, 2002

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caught in late May this year (1,500 halibut) multiplied by an average weight of 20 pounds, it is estimated that about 28% of the quota is needed to accommodate a four-day fishery toward the end of June. The remaining 72% would be allocated to the month of May. Fishers thought that the opening date of the third Wednesday in June would also accommodate fishing after school was out for the summer, as well as provide for a weekend fishery (Wednesday through Saturday).

The last change that was discussed was the "L-shaped" yelloweye rockfish conservation closure adopted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council at its September meeting. Some fishers believed that this area needed to be expanded to include the halibut "hotspot" which has been closed to recreational halibut fishing for two primary reasons: 1) there has historically been catches of larger halibut in the "hotspot" area which may decrease the season length; and 2) there were also catches of yelloweye rockfish in the northern portion of the halibut "hotspot." Other fishers believed that closing such a large area off the port of LaPush would force local boats to fish in areas that were further away, and may be less productive for halibut.

After much discussion, it was decided that the yelloweye rockfish conservation closure would be modified to a "C-shape" which includes the northern portion of the "hotspot." This would provide protection for yelloweye rockfish which may be encountered there as well as provide LaPush fishers with the southern portion of the "hotspot" to fish. Department staff will develop coordinates that define the proposed "C-shaped" closure and will present those to the Pacific Council in late October.

Enclosed is a draft modified Department proposal for changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (360) 249-1211.

Sincerely,



Michele K. Robinson  
Marine Resources Policy Coordinator  
Intergovernmental Resource Management

Enclosure

cc: Phil Anderson  
Brian Culver  
Rich Lincoln

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WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
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