

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS

Situation: Each September meeting, the Council considers proposed changes to the halibut regulations. The purpose of this consideration is for relatively minor adjustments in the annual regulations (primarily in the recreational fishery) or catch sharing plan, not major changes in catch allocation among areas or gear groups.

Attachment 1 contains the current catch sharing plan. The plan includes the equitable adjustment agreement, first implemented in 2000, which transfers 25,000 pounds dressed weight of halibut from the standard non-treaty allocation to the treaty Indian allocation. This transfer is to occur each year for eight years (2000 through 2007).

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife normally hold public meetings prior to the September 2003 Council meeting to consider changes in the halibut regulations. Any recommendations resulting from these meetings will be presented for review at the September Council meeting. The Council will take final action on proposed changes for 2004 at the November 2003 meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt, for public review, any proposed changes to season structuring and minor changes to the catch sharing plan in 2004.**

Reference Materials:

1. 2003 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A (Exhibit G.3, Attachment 1).

Agenda Order:

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. State Proposals
- c. Tribal Comments
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. **Council Action:** Adopt Proposed Changes for Public Review

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