

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON
PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL
REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received reports on halibut catch sharing proposals being forwarded by Oregon and Washington.

In general, the GAP supports the proposals that are being presented to the Council, but believes two issues need to be clarified to avoid future management problems.

First, Washington's proposal to move unharvested fish among management areas should not affect the sharing of fish between Washington and Oregon in the Columbia River. The GAP believes that any such effects are not intended, but clarification would be helpful.

Second, the GAP wants to make clear its understanding the Oregon all-depth halibut fishery in the summer is not subject to restrictions under Rockfish Conservation Area boundaries, as this fishery is not targeted on groundfish.

PFMC
11/04/03