

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CATCH SHARING PLAN
AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS

Situation: Under its standard process, the Council solicits proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan at its September meeting, and adopts any changes in November after reviewing public and agency comments. Generally, changes are limited to adjustments in the annual regulations and minor modifications to the Catch Sharing Plan. Attachment 1 is a copy of the 2003 Catch Sharing Plan.

For the 2004 season, the Council is considering minor changes to the management of the recreational fisheries in Washington and Oregon. The proposed changes resulted from recommendations provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, after holding public meetings, and from Council discussion and public testimony received at the September 2003 Council meeting. The Council solicited public input on the changes in the Council Newsletter article released October 2003 (Attachment 2).

Based on the input received since the September Council meeting, the states will present their final proposals for regulatory changes in the halibut fishery at this meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Within the scope of the September proposals (Attachment 2) and public input; adopt Council recommendations for implementation of proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2004.**

Reference Materials:

1. Exhibit F.2, Attachment 1: *2003 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.*
2. Exhibit F.2, Attachment 2: *Council Newsletter Article on Proposed Changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.*
3. Exhibit F.2.e, Public comment.

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 Regulation Changes for 2004

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