

jSept. 25, 2004

Subject: Halibut retention limits

From: David Sargeant

Gentalman;

This is about the worst idea I have heard so far coming from the fisheries a limit on the number of Halibut of 2 halibut a week and 5 for the year. It makes as much sence as only letting the charter boats using one pole at a time. Do you know how many more regulations can be put on to the voteing public. We should close down the fisheries and give the money spent, to the Education system, at least we would get something useful for our money. I would be glad to start and tell all my friend to do just that.

It is about time for the fishery management to start charging the Commercial fishing boats a fee for each type of fish they intend to fish for. All commercial boats, Charter boats, and Guide boats should start paying for the right to harvest fish by either selling or charging for hire a charter and guideing boat to the public. Also all commercial boats should be charged for each species they harvest.

I think a fee of \$5,000 per boat for each species of fish would help fun the hatcheries needed for these types of operation. The public has had to fund their operations by paying taxes and the cost of fishing liciences for many years, and it is time for them to give back to the fish stocks they are taking.

The other option I see is to stop charging a licience fee for sports fishing and let the general public harvest the few fish that they are allowed by the quota and limits you want with this change. This has been one of the worst years for fishing I have had for all the regulations brought to the general public. We were allowed to harvest only 5 Sturgeon this year but the fisheries has allowed the gillnetters their own quota. Then the Coho quota was only the hatchery fish. When fishing we threw back, twenty three native wild fish for every hatchery fish. Well if there are so few natives and on the nations dieing breed of salmon, why do we have so many fish out their.

This leads me to beleave that you people have not done your job. We need some answer, why you are listening to the people who are killing the runs of fish. And not to the general public that have put you in that job. I am infavor of stop all fishing liciences for the general public

As for Enforcement with all the time I spend on the ocean and in the Columbia River you can never find one of those officer that work for you when you need them. And calling the Hot line is just as bad. Yes getting rid of the Fishery is looking better to me all the time.

Sincerely a concerned public
David Sargeant
Email - pamda@pacifier.com

Subject: Proposed Halibut revision fo Washington Sport Anglers
From: Randy Pfriem <randykevin@yahoo.com>
Date: Thu, 7 Oct 2004 09:11:08 -0700 (PDT)
To: culvemkc@dfw.wa.gov
CC: RGarner755@aol.com, Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov

Michele Culver
WDFW

I always feel that we get no say when these issues are presented by the PFMC or the WDFW. We need to get something in return besides an empty hope of longer seasons. We currently have a one fish bag limit per day, now they want to make it a one fish per day, 2 fish per week and 5 fish per season. Why don't they just change the regulation to "Enjoy the hospitality of BC fishing where you can keep 2 Halibut per day, enjoy the favorable exchange rate and help Washington lose your hard earned dollars to another foreign country! "

If this proposal is adopted, and it most surely will be, we get nothing other than more limits more reasons to vacation elsewhere. At the least we should have the bag limit raised to 2 while limiting the annual catch to 10 and limit the days fishing and not have a weekly limit. This would not send Washington sport fishing dollars to Canada.

What we never see in these proposals are the data that supports these proposed new limits. How many anglers are taking more than 2 fish per week? How many anglers are taking more than 5 fish per season, (10 fish per season).

Why would my friends and relatives from outside of Washington come to fish here instead of BC? This is just more of the same pressure being put on the Sport Fishing groups to solve miss-management of the resource. Go back to the drawing board on this one ASAP!

Randy Pfriem
Edmonds WA

1

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE AREA 2A PACIFIC HALIBUT
CATCH SHARING PLAN

At the September meeting, the Council adopted several proposed
changes to the Area 2A Pacific halibut

catch-sharing plan for public review. Final adoption of the plan will
take place at the Council's meeting in

Portland, OR, November 1-5, 2004. Comments on the proposals can be sent or emailed to the Council

office, and comments will also be taken at the November Council meeting.

The following proposals affect Oregon and Washington sport fisheries:

1. Change the opening date of the Washington north coast subarea from the first Tuesday between May 9-15

to May 1 of each year. If May 1 falls on a Sunday or Monday, then the fishery would open on the first

Tuesday after May 1. This proposal would reinstate the traditional May 1 opening date.

2. Close the Washington south coast subarea fishery when 2,000 lbs are projected to remain in the subarea

quota. Subsequent to this closure, the nearshore area (northern [east of 124°40'00"] and southern [east of

124°27'00"] subareas) would reopen on Friday and Saturday only, until the remaining quota is projected to

be taken. This proposal would reinstate some nearshore opportunity that could be used by small vessels.

3. Set an annual bag limit of five halibut per person, per calendar year for the combined Washington north

coast and south coast subareas. The Department would require its catch record card (currently required in

Puget Sound) to apply to the coastal marine areas for halibut as well. Recreational fishers would be required

to record their catches on the catch record card, which can be inspected by enforcement staff during the

season and is turned in to the Department at the end of the season.

4. In addition to the annual limit of five halibut per person, per calendar year for the combined Washington

north coast and south coast subareas, include a weekly limit of two halibut per person, per calendar week.

Proposals 3 and 4 are intended to provide opportunity to more individuals and lengthen the season.

For additional information on the proposals, contact:

Michele culver (WDFW) for Washington proposals
(culvemkc@dfw.wa.gov or 360-249-4628);

Don Bodenmiller (ODFW) for Oregon proposals
(Don.Bodenmiller@state.or.us or 541-867-0300) x223;

or Chuck Tracy at the Council office (Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov or 503-820-2280).

Do you Yahoo!?

Yahoo! Mail Address AutoComplete - You start. We finish.

Proposed 2A catch changes

Subject: Proposed 2A catch changes

From: "john herrling" <jherrling@msn.com>

Date: Thu, 7 Oct 2004 12:12:11 -0700

To: <culvemkc@dfw.wa.gov>, <chuck.tracy@noaa.gov>

My name is John Herrling, I started fishing for Halibut out of Neah Bay in 1985 and have fished there extensively every year since. I read the proposed changes for 2A that would only allow recreational anglers two halibut per week and five per year, I have since talked to other friends that fish for halibut out of Neah Bay and La Push and none of us think this is a good idea. The consensus is that this is nothing but a greedy attempt by a few individuals out of Neah Bay to help their pocket books and does nothing for the recreational angler. I have not spoken to one recreational angler that is in favor of this, all have been adamantly against it. My experience at Neah Bay over the last few years has led me to believe that the recreational angler is seen as nothing more than a cash cow to be exploited when ever possible and that their needs and desires are really not important, the situation got to the point last year that I did something I never thought I would do and that was to leave Neah Bay and start fishing out of La Push. My friends and I firmly believe that this proposal is not in the best interests of the recreational angler and that any attempt to say it is is nothing but deceitful.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

John Herrling

Subject: Halibut limits Neah bay and LaPush

From: FISHNG1@aol.com

Date: Fri, 8 Oct 2004 12:45:35 EDT

To: culvemkc@dfw.wa.gov, chuck.tracy@noaa.gov

Hello my name is Steve Ng and I am an active member of Gig Harbor Puget Sound Anglers. I do not claim to make judgement for this group, but do have a consensus (sp) of our members. I believe that this limit would be a bad thing for us in that most of us do not have an unlimited time to fish and have to spend a few days at it a month. The bag limit would make most of us leave in two days. And why the five per year. I believe this is being pushed by a few people in Neah bay that would like to have all the business to themselves, like the charters who run out of Neah bay.

I am against this measure.

Thanks for your time
Steve Ng
7816 61st Ave NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Subject: Halibut Changes

From: "cdpeevey" <cdpeevey@olypen.com>

Date: Tue, 12 Oct 2004 08:53:38 -0700

To: <culvemke@dfw.wa.gov>

CC: <chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov>

I strongly REJECT changes to our existing system the P F M C &WDFW are considering. You are making it way to hard for the average Joe" to get his or her fair share of Halibut with such restrictions. We can never get our sports allotment which will then go to the commercials.

C. D. Peevey

Subject: halibut regulation proposals

From: "Steve Blenk" <blenk1@olympus.net>

Date: Tue, 12 Oct 2004 08:57:15 -0700

To: <culvemkc@dfw.wa.gov>, <Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov>

Hello, Fisheries Bureaucrats

I would like to go on the record as VEHEMENTLY opposing the proposed 2 per week, 5 per season (!) halibut restrictions. I will further state that should the WDFW adopt such restrictive measure I will personally work to organize the largest, loudest possible protest violations of such restrictions. I live on the Peninsula and have fished salmon and halibut here all my life. If you want to restrict someone and make a real impact, stop punishing the sports fishermen and go after the commercial and tribal fisheries.

This is patently an attempt to extend the charter season in the Neah Bay area at the expense of the sports fishing public. WHEN are you people going to stop hammering on US????? I think it is HIGH TIME we block up the entire Olympia area for a week or so with boats on trailers, perhaps until you 'people' get the message that we want to have a decent and equitable share of the fishery.....SO START LISTENING!!!!!!

STEVE BLENK
360-683-2328

proposed 2A catch changes

Subject: proposed 2A catch changes
From: "Jim Herrling" <jandbherrling@verizon.net>
Date: Fri, 8 Oct 2004 16:41:38 -0700
To: <chuck.tracy@noaa.gov>

I was just made aware of the proposed changes of the halibut catch limits. Two fish per week? Five total fish per year? Please don't let this become the law. We sport fisherman have taken it on the chin on salmon, bottom fish and now you are thinking of curtailing Halibut even more. I am all for conservation of the saltwater species. I would be all in favor if all of fisherman, sport, commercial, and Indian were treated on an even basis. But they aren't. The sport fisherman is really coming out with the short end of the stick. Unless you even things out I don't think that it will pay me to buy a license for the coming year. Please wake up. You aren't saving any fish unless you cut everyone back on an equal basis. And you are driving the sport fisherman away forever.

James A. Herrling
Kirkland 98034

Subject: Halibut Proposal for 2005

From: "Dave Croonquist" <dcroonquist@worldnet.att.net>

Date: Mon, 11 Oct 2004 21:33:57 -0700

To: "Anderson, Phil" <anderpma@dfw.wa.gov>, "Tracy, Chuck" <Chuck.Tracy@mercury.akctr.noaa.gov>

CC: "Cenci, Mike" <cencimac@dfw.wa.gov>, "Jarmon, Bill" <jarmowaj@dfw.wa.gov>, "Bjork, Bruce" <bjorkbb@dfw.wa.gov>

Good morning

I'd like to voice my concerns about the proposed PFMC to the sport halibut season for 2005 as were outlined in an August 30, 2004 resulting from a WDFW workshop held on August 26. It is my understanding that there might be subsequent meetings with a final decision to be made by the PFMC/NOAA in early November, 2004.

It appears that the sport fishing community will face additional restrictions on their ability to fish for halibut. One area of concern is the potential loss of a Memorial Day fishery if the catch rates continue at about the same levels as previous years. A May 1 opener would probably preclude any kind of a Memorial Day fishery for the private boat angler. I would like the opener to continue to be based on the first Tuesday of the month (May). I have heard that some of the charter operators want the earlier opener so that they can take some clients out before they head to Alaska for the summer season. I don't feel that that reason justifies an earlier opener. I would think that the charters that stick around through the summer would like a better opportunity to be able to offer a halibut/salmon combined trip IF the quotas aren't reached and the seasons could overlap.

I'm not sure about an annual limit on halibut. How that number is controlled is problematical given the current CRC set-up. At the same time, limiting a person to two fish per week can impact family vacation plans especially if the weather turns bad. While this might not be as much a factor for those who choose charter trips, it is a problem for the private/small boat angler. People plan vacations up to a year or more in advance. They invest a lot of money/time to go on an extended fishing trip. They need to have the flexibility to adjust their trips off-shore to meet water conditions.

Enforcement concerns should not drive the biological issues. Enforcement is a tool in wildlife management, but there has to be a trust level within the WDFW that recognizes that most sportspersons are going to follow the rules and regulations. People will understand biological reasons that drive season structure if properly documented and presented. They don't want to be told that they can't fish because enforcement can't be there to supervise them. You'll never get 100% compliance, but I think you should expect that the violation rates are, in general, going to be fairly low. I think if you review the Marine Area salmon reports for the past couple of years, you'll see that the majority of folks are doing things right. IF there is a LE problem, then LE can step in and address it in a variety of ways, but don't insult the fishing community by implying that they won't follow the regulations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Dave Croonquist
43 E Emerald Forest Lane
Sequim, WA 98382
360-582-1370

.....

Subject: Area 2A halibut sharing plan change proposal
From: "eileen herrling" <eherrling@msn.com>
Date: Fri, 8 Oct 2004 16:48:46 -0700
To: <culvemkc@dfw.wa.gov>, <chuck.tracy@noaa.gov>

My name is Eileen Herrling. I have enjoyed fishing for halibut off the Washington coast for quite a few years with my husband, family and friends. I have been made aware of the proposed rule changes where sports anglers in areas 3 and 4 would only be allowed two halibut per week and a total of five per year. After giving this much thought it seems obvious to me that this is nothing more than a very thinly veiled attempt to get the Charter Boat fleet more days on the water and really do nothing for the private boat owner angler. I am incredulous that the Commission would actually consider something like this. I, and my other angler friends, are very much against this and strongly believe that it is not in the best interests of the recreational anglers.

Sincerely,
Eileen Herrling
Port Angeles, WA.

Subject: Halibut

From: SlimeyLimey2@aol.com

Date: Fri, 8 Oct 2004 20:49:08 EDT

To: Don.Bodenmiller@state.or.us, anderpma@dfw.wa.gov, Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov

Hi Don,

I believe I spoke to you earlier in September about getting rid of Halibut carcasses, I also praised the way the Oregon Halibut season was set and well managed.

If I am reading what has been sent to me about changes to Pacific Halibut regs, then I am totally amazed if you guys get support with some of these proposals, and who has come up with them, and for what reasons!!!!

I assume the top part of the proposals refer to the Washington coast line and the middle and lower part to the Oregon coast.

Why would you want to reduce the Oregon season Halibut bag limit down to " 5"?????and then give us a 2 day limit???? I can't equate to that.

I would propose staying at 6 and allow the offshore fisherman to purchase 1 additional Halibut tag, at an inflated cost, which would be extra revenue for your department and also ensure that our quotas are met, and still have an all season fishery without increasing additional days in the week.

If we go to a 5 fish limit and the daily limit is 2, do you expect the offshore fisherman, if he is successful, to fish for 2 1/2 days

Increasing days per week is a short term fix and one which will only generate minimal interest from anglers that do not already fish 24 miles offshore.

I agree with increasing the bag limit to 2 fish, so that the quotas are met.

With the projected days we have left this year, and the increased bag limit, it still looks like we will never get them, due to the weather, and so late in the year.

The minimum size limit of 32inches guarantees a very harvestable fish, and eliminating the size limit holds no justification.

Regards, Preston Gibson.

Subject: Proposed Changes To Halibut Plan

From: Rich Baker <ohwell@pacifier.com>

Date: Wed, 13 Oct 2004 10:20:41 -0700

To: anderpma@dfw.pacifier.net, wa@smtp2.pacifier.net, gov@smtp2.pacifier.net

CC: Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov

10/12/04

Phil Anderson WDFW

anderpma@dfw.wa.gov

Chuck Tracy

Chuck.Tracy@noaa.gov

Re:Proposed changes to Area 2A Halibut Plan

As a sport fisherman with my own boat along with the the costs of fuel, maintenance, moorage, etc, etc, and I have the following objections to this plan.

1. While changing the opening date is not a major issue, this can have an impact on the smaller sport boat due to less reliable weather conditions which would not affect the larger commercial "sport" boats.
2. Setting a bag limit of five halibut/person/year is a major issue. What kind of logic could possibly suggest this proposal when just over 53% of the Columbia River (Area 1) '04 quota was harvested when the season was closed on 7/25 for the year? Need I remind you that there was 6693 pounds left in the quota!
3. Setting a bag limit of two halibut/person/week is another major issue. Again you are penalizing the boat owning sportsman who, in many cases, don't live in the immediate area and who's only chance at halibut was to be the week or

so of a fishing vacation.

4. I would recommend that the daily limit be raised to two halibut for the following reasons. Given that the halibut grounds are aprox. 28 miles out from Ilwaco or Chinook, it a pretty expensive trip for one fish and, as mentioned above, the area was nowhere near its quota.

In conclusion, while I do not intend this as an attack on the commercial "sport" interests, many of us are concerned that more and more actions are being put in place which cause severe restrictions on the boat owning sportsman to protect the fisheries yet these same rules have no effect on the harvest by the commercial "sport" interests. You have already done the same thing with the five/person/year sturgeon limit. I doubt that that limit had any effect on the number of sturgeon harvested by the commercial "sport" boats. And isn't it an interesting coincidence that the sport sturgeon fishery doesn't get closed until salmon opens. I seriously doubt that this is done for the benefit of the individual sport fisherman. I would suggest that a study be done of the economic benefits to the local port communities by the boat owning sportsmen before regulating us out of existence!

Sincerely,

R. P Baker