

GROUND FISH RETENTION IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER SUBAREA
RECREATIONAL HALIBUT FISHERY

At its November 2004 meeting, the Council adopted proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A (CSP), which included prohibiting retention of groundfish except sablefish (when allowed by groundfish regulations) while sport fishing for halibut in the Columbia River subarea. Subsequent discussion of the Council intent revealed some confusion on how this regulation was to be implemented within the subarea. NMFS has filed a proposed rule (Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 1) with two options for implementation:

1. The restriction on groundfish retention would apply to the entire subarea (Leadbetter Point, Washington, to Cape Falcon, Oregon). This would restrict both Oregon and Washington anglers from retaining groundfish (except sablefish when permitted under groundfish regulations) while fishing for halibut. The regulation could be enforced either on water or shore, by both states.
2. The restriction would apply only to vessels landing in Oregon. Landing of groundfish in conjunction with halibut would be prohibited in Oregon ports between the state border and Cape Falcon. This would prohibit Oregon licensed anglers from retaining groundfish anywhere in the subarea and allow Washington licensed anglers to retain groundfish anywhere in the subarea, as long as they land north of the border. The regulation could be enforced either on water or shore, by both states.

The Council should clarify its intent by recommending one of the two options above for implementing the restriction on groundfish retention in the Columbia River subarea recreational halibut fishery.

Council Action:

1. **Clarify recommended regulation for groundfish retention in the Columbia River recreational subarea halibut fishery.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item D.1.a, Attachment 1: excerpt from proposed rule to implement 2005 changes to the Catch Sharing Plan and partial domestic regulations for Pacific halibut in Area 2A -- February 7, 2005.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Agency and Tribal Reports and Comments
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Clarify Recommendations for Groundfish Retention Regulations

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PFMC
02/16/05