

## HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL CHANGES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered the changes in the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan as submitted by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

The GAP recommends that the Council adopt all of the proposals submitted with one exception:

The ODFW proposal to increase Columbia River subarea allocation from two and a half percent to five percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation. The GAP recommends status quo of the 2005 basis. The GAP feels any change is unwarranted due to inequities in season structure between the two Oregon subareas (Columbia River and central coast). The central coast has more restrictive season structure.

The GAP could support a quota shift consisting of a Columbia River subarea opening date of May 1 using status quo contributions from Washington and Oregon. Followed by an August 1 contribution of two and a half percent from Oregon central coast to be landed in Oregon ports only and a season identical to central coast subarea.

The GAP recommends that it be specified that when halibut limits are attained for a vessel that it must cease fishing in the rockfish conservation area for groundfish.

The GAP considered the difficulty experienced in Oregon halibut recreational fisheries and would like to propose for public comment the following option to allow for more flexibility in attaining catch of recreational halibut quota (Supplemental Report D.1.b concerning central coast subarea, item three):

- On or about Sept. 1, International Pacific Halibut Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service, and ODFW will meet to consider whether increasing the central Oregon coast bag limit is warranted to ensure that the quota for the subarea is taken by September 30. If quota remains, the season will remain open until October 31 or attainment of quota.