

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE PROPOSED LANGUAGE
CHANGE TO THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR 2006 FISHERIES

(iv) Columbia River subarea.

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 2.0 percent of the first 130,845 lb (59.4 mt) allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 4.0 percent of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 lb (59.4 mt) and 224,110 lb (101.7 mt) (except as provided in section (e)(3) of this Plan). This subarea also is allocated ~~from the Oregon/California sport allocation the number of pounds equal to the Washington contribution. Oregon's contribution will be 2.0 percent of the total Oregon/California sport allocation. Any additional pounds needed to equal the number of pounds contributed to the Columbia River subarea from the Washington allocation will come from the Oregon Central Coast subarea allocation.~~ **5.0 percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation or an amount equal to the contribution from the Washington sport allocation, whichever is greater.** This subarea is defined as waters south of Leadbetter Point, WA (46°38.17' N. lat.) and north of Cape Falcon, OR (45°46.00' N. lat.). The fishery will open on May 1, and continue 7 days per week until ~~the subquota is estimated to have been taken, or September 30, whichever is earlier.~~ **70 percent of the subarea allocation is taken or until the third Sunday in July, whichever occurs first. The fishery will reopen on the first Friday in August and continue 3 days per week, Friday-Sunday until the remainder of the subarea quota has been taken.** Subsequent to this closure, if there is insufficient quota remaining in the Columbia River subarea for another fishing day, then any remaining quota may be transferred inseason to another Washington and/or Oregon subarea by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. Any remaining state's ~~quota would be transferred to that state~~ **quota would be transferred to each state in proportion to its contribution.** The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit. No groundfish may be ~~landed~~ **taken or possessed,** except sablefish **and Pacific cod** when allowed by groundfish regulations, if halibut are on board the vessel.

(v) Oregon central coast subarea.

This subarea extends from Cape Falcon (45°46.00' N. lat.) to Humbug Mountain, Oregon (42°40.50' N. lat.) and is allocated 95.0 **92.0** percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation ~~minus any amount of pounds needed to contribute to the Oregon portion of the Columbia River subarea quota.~~ The structuring objectives for this subarea are to provide two periods of fishing opportunity in Spring and in Summer in productive deeper water areas along the coast, principally for charterboat and larger private boat anglers, and provide a period of fishing opportunity in the summer for nearshore waters for small boat anglers. ~~Fixed season dates will be established preseason for the Spring opening and will not be modified inseason except that the Spring opening may be modified inseason if the~~

combined Oregon all-depth Spring and Summer season total quotas are estimated to be achieved. Recent year catch rates will be used as a guideline for estimating the catch rate for the Spring fishery each year. The number of fixed season days established will be based on the projected catch per day with the intent of not exceeding the subarea season quota. ODFW will monitor landings and provide a post-season estimate of catch within 1 week of the end of the fixed season. If sufficient catch remains for an additional day of fishing after the Spring season, openings will be provided if possible in May–July. Potential open dates for both the Spring (May–July) and Summer (August–October) seasons will be announced preseason. If a decision is made inseason to allow fishing on one or more additional days, notice of the opening will be announced on the NMFS hotline (206) 526-6667 or (800) 662-9825. No all-depth halibut fishing will be allowed on the additional dates unless the opening date has been announced on the NMFS hotline. Any poundage remaining unharvested in the Spring all-depth subquota will be added to the Summer all-depth sub-quota. Any poundage that is not needed to extend the inside 40-fathom (73 m) fishery through to October 31 will be added to the Summer all-depth season if it can be used, and any poundage remaining unharvested from the Summer all-depth fishery will be added to the inside 40-fathom (73 m) fishery subquota, if it can be used. **If inseason it is determined via joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS and ODFW, that the combined all-depth and inside 40-fathom (73 m) fisheries will not harvest the entire quota to the subarea, quota may be transferred inseason to another subarea south of Leadbetter Point, WA by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline.** The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, unless otherwise specified, with no size limit. During days open to all-depth halibut fishing, no groundfish may be retained, except sablefish when allowed by groundfish regulations, if halibut are on board the vessel. A yelloweye rockfish conservation area that is closed to recreational halibut fishing is defined by the following coordinates in the order listed:

44° 37.46 N. lat.; 124° 24.92 W. long.;
44° 37.46 N. lat.; 124° 23.63 W. long.;
44° 28.71 N. lat.; 124° 21.80 W. long.;
44° 28.71 N. lat.; 124° 24.10 W. long.;
44° 31.42 N. lat.; 124° 25.47 W. long.;
and connecting back to 44° 37.46 N. lat.; 124° 24.92 W. long.

ODFW will sponsor a public workshop shortly after the IPHC annual meeting to develop recommendations to NMFS on the open dates for each season each year. The three seasons for this subarea are as follows.

A. The first season opens on May 1, only in waters inside the 40-fathom (73 m) curve, and continues daily until the subquota (8 percent of the subarea quota) is taken, or until October 31, whichever is earlier. Poundage that is estimated to be above the amount needed to keep this season open through October 31 will be transferred to the Summer all-depth fishery if it can be used. Any overage in the all-depth fisheries would not affect achievement of allocation set aside for the inside 40-fathom (73 m) curve fishery.

B. The second season is an all-depth fishery with two potential openings. The first opening begins on the second Thursday in May (if the season is 5 or more fishing days) or the second Friday in May (if the season is 4 or fewer fishing days) and is allocated 69 percent of the subarea quota.

Fixed season dates will be established preseason for the first Spring opening and will not be modified inseason except if the combined Oregon all-depth Spring and Summer season total quotas are estimated to be achieved. Recent year catch rates will be used as a guideline for estimating the catch rate for the Spring fishery each year. The number of fixed season days established will be based on the projected catch per day with the intent of not exceeding the subarea subquota for this season. Fixed season dates for the first opening will be established preseason based on projected catch per day and number of days to achievement of the subquota for this season. The first opening will be structured for 2 days per week (Friday and Saturday) if the season is for 4 or fewer fishing days. The fishery will be structured for 3 days per week (Thursday through Saturday) if the season is for 5 or more fishing days. The fixed season dates will be established preseason and will occur in consecutive weeks starting the second Thursday in May (if the season is 5 or more fishing days) or second Friday in May (if the season is 4 or fewer fishing days), with **possible** exceptions to avoid adverse tidal conditions. If, following the “fixed” dates, quota for this season remains unharvested, a second opening will be held. **If it is determined appropriate through joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS and ODFW, fishing could be allowed on one or more additional days. Notice of the opening(s) will be announced by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline.** The fishery will be open every other week on Thursday through Saturday except that week(s) could be skipped to avoid adverse tidal conditions. The potential open Thursdays through Saturdays will be identified preseason. The fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota for an additional day of fishing or July 31, whichever occurs first. ~~Any remaining quota will be added to the Summer quota. No inseason adjustments will be made to the established fixed season unless the combined Oregon all-depth Spring and Summer season total subquotas are estimated to be achieved.~~

C. The last season is an all-depth fishery that begins on the first Friday in August and is allocated 23 percent of the subarea quota. The fishery will be structured to be open every other week on Friday through Sunday, except that week(s) could be skipped to avoid adverse tidal conditions.

The fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota for an additional day of fishery or October 31, whichever occurs first. The potential open Fridays through Sundays will be identified preseason. If after the first scheduled open period, the remaining Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain entire season quota (combined all-depth and inside 40-fathom (73 m) quotas) is 60,000 lb (27.2 mt) or more, the fishery will re-

open on every Friday through Sunday (versus every other weekend), if determined to be appropriate through joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW. ~~Any excess quota projected to remain after the needs of the inside 40 fathom (73 m) fishery are met would be transferred into the remaining all-depth quota.~~ The inseason action will be announced by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. If after the ~~third scheduled open period~~ **Labor Day weekend** the remaining Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain entire season quota (combined all-depth and inside 40-fathom (73 m) quotas) is 30,000 lb (13.6 mt) or more, the fishery will re-open on every Friday through Sunday **if not already operating on a weekly basis** (versus every other weekend), if determined to be appropriate through joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW. The inseason action will be announced by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. **After the Labor Day weekend the IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW will consult to determine whether increasing the central Oregon coast bag limit to two fish is warranted with the intent that the quota for the subarea is taken by September 30. If the quota is not attained by September 30, the season will remain open, maintaining the bag limit in effect at that time, through October 31 or quota attainment, whichever occurs first. The inseason action will be announced by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline.** Under this provision, ~~after the third scheduled open period, the bag limit would be 2 fish per person, with no size limit. Any excess quota projected to remain after the needs of the inside 40 fathom (73 m) fishery are met would be transferred into the remaining all-depth quota.~~ . The fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota for an additional day of fishing or October 31, whichever occurs first. Any remaining quota will be transferred to the fishery inside the 40 fathom (73 m) curve, if needed. If inseason it is determined that the combined all-depth and inside 40-fathom (73 m) fisheries will not harvest the entire quota to the subarea, quota may be transferred inseason to another subarea south of Leadbetter Point, WA by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline.

(vi) South of Humbug Mountain subarea.

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 3.0 percent of the Oregon/California subquota, which is approximately 0.62 percent of the Area 2A TAC. This area is defined as the area south of Humbug Mountain, OR (42°40.50' N. lat.), including California waters. The structuring objective for this subarea is to provide anglers the opportunity to fish in a continuous, fixed season that is open from May 1 through October 31. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit. Due to inability to monitor the catch in this area inseason, a fixed season will be established pre-season by NMFS based on projected catch per day and number of days to achievement of the subquota; no inseason adjustments will be made, and estimates of actual catch will be made post season.

- (3) Possession limits. The sport possession limit on land **in Washington and California** is two daily bag limits, regardless of condition, but only one daily bag limit may be possessed on the vessel. **The sport possession limit on land in Oregon is three daily bag limits, regardless of condition, but only one daily bag limit may be possessed on the vessel.**