

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) has reviewed the proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and annual regulations and offers the following comments.

The majority of the SAS favors *status quo* for the Columbia River subarea, and retaining the subarea as one management zone for halibut and all fisheries. Washington and Oregon have placed a high priority on maintaining concurrent fishery regulations on the Columbia River and in Area 1 ocean fisheries. Exempting one fishery could set a dangerous precedent. Problems with enforcement would be only one of the problems with non concurrent regulations.

A minority of the SAS recommends adopting the split season proposal for the Columbia River subarea.

Although SAS favors attempts to lengthen the halibut season, annual bag limits in other Washington fisheries have proven ineffective, difficult to enforce, and highly unpopular. Evidence also suggests that it fosters conflict between user groups. Without new information indicating that the stated goal would be achieved, the SAS opposes this proposal.

The SAS has spent significant meeting time on halibut issues in recent years, and because the issues are generally unrelated to the salmon fishery and the process is currently driven primarily by the state sponsored hearings, the SAS feels their time could be better spent on other issues.

PFMC
10/31/05