

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CATCH SHARING PLAN AND 2008 ANNUAL
REGULATIONS

Each September meeting, the Council considers proposed changes to the halibut regulations. The purpose of this consideration is for adjustments in the annual regulations (primarily in the recreational fishery) or catch sharing plan, and can include changes in catch allocation among areas or gear groups.

Attachment 1 contains the current catch sharing plan. The plan includes the equitable adjustment agreement, first implemented in 2000, which transfers 25,000 pounds dressed weight of halibut from the standard non-treaty allocation to the treaty Indian allocation. This transfer occurred each year for eight years (2000 through 2007). The agreement is set to expire at the end of 2007.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife normally hold public meetings prior to the September Council meeting to consider changes in the halibut regulations. Any recommendations resulting from these meetings will be presented for review at the September Council meeting. The Council will take final action on proposed changes for 2008 at the November 2007 meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt, for public review, any proposed changes to season structuring and the catch sharing plan for 2008.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1.a, Attachment 1: 2007 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item H.1.b: Washington Department of Fish And Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to Catch Sharing Plan and 2008 Annual Regulations.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Agency and Tribal Recommendations and Comments
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. **Council Action:** Adopt Proposed Changes for Public Review

Chuck Tracy

PFMC
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