

COUNCIL NEWSLETTER ARTICLE ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE
AREA 2A PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN

Proposed Changes to Catch Sharing Plan and 2008 Annual Regulations

At its September 2007 meeting, the Council adopted several proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific halibut catch sharing plan for public review. The proposals affect Washington sport fisheries. Final adoption of the proposed changes will take place at the Council's November 2007 meeting in San Diego. Comments on the proposals should be received by October 17, 2007, and can be emailed to pfmc.comments@noaa.gov, faxed (503-820-2299), or mailed to the Council office (7700 NE Ambassador Place, Ste 101, Portland, Oregon, 97220-1384). Comments will also be taken at the Council meeting in San Diego. Additional detail on the substance and rationale for the following proposals is available on the following web site: WDFW: www.wdfw.wa.gov/fish/creel/halibut/.

Proposals include:

Washington North Coast Subarea

For the June fishery: a) revise the opening date to the first Tuesday following June 16; b) specify that the Saturday offshore opener is contingent upon available quota; and c) provide flexibility in the date that the late June fishery reopens.

South Coast Subarea

1. For the primary season: a) in 2008, retain the opening date of May 1. Beginning in 2009, open the fishery on May 1, if it is a Sunday; otherwise, open on the first Sunday following May 1; and b) specify that the fishery will be open two days per week—Sunday and Monday.
2. For the nearshore fishery: a) revise the set aside to 10 percent or 15 percent of the South Coast quota, which would be used to provide a northern nearshore fishery after the offshore fishery has closed; and b) specify that the nearshore-only fishery would be open on Fridays and Saturdays, even during the primary season.