

2014 PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

Under its standard process, the Council solicits proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) (Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1) at its September meeting and adopts any changes in November after reviewing public and agency comments.

For the 2014 season, the Council is considering changes to the management of recreational fisheries in Washington, Oregon, and California. The proposed changes resulted from recommendations provided by the Washington, Oregon, and California Departments of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW and ODFW, respectively) after holding public meetings and from Council discussion and public testimony received at the September 2013 Council meeting.

The Council solicited public input on the changes in the Council Newsletter article from September 2013 and on a website blog (Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 2). The current and proposed changes to the 2014 CSP allocations are also provided in a diagram to facilitate the discussions (Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 3). ODFW and WDFW solicited input at public hearings and subsequently prepared agency recommendations for regulatory changes in 2013 (Agenda Item G.1.b, ODFW Report and Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental WDFW Report). Public comments received by the advance briefing book deadline are also included in the reference materials.

Based on the input received since the September 2013 Council meeting, the Council is scheduled to take final action on regulatory changes in the Pacific halibut fishery at this meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Within the scope of the September 2013 proposals (Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 2 and Agenda Item G.1.b, Attachment 3) and public input, adopt Council recommendations for implementing proposed changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and annual regulations for 2014.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1: 2013 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan For Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 2: Council Blog Excerpt.
3. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 3: Current and Proposed Changes to the 2014 Catch Sharing Plan Allocations.
4. Agenda Item G.1.b, ODFW Report: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2014 Fishery.
5. Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2014 Fishery.
6. Agenda Item G.1.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kelly Ames
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Changes to the 2014 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishery Regulations

PFMC
10/10/13

2013 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR AREA 2A

(a) FRAMEWORK

This Plan constitutes a framework that shall be applied to the annual Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) approved by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) each January. The framework shall be implemented in both IPHC regulations and domestic regulations (implemented by NMFS) as published in the *Federal Register*.

(b) ALLOCATIONS

This Plan allocates 35 percent of the Area 2A TAC to U.S. treaty Indian tribes in the State of Washington in subarea 2A-1, and 65 percent to non-Indian fisheries in Area 2A. The allocation to non-Indian fisheries is divided into three shares, with the Washington sport fishery (north of the Columbia River) receiving 36.6 percent, the Oregon/California sport fishery receiving 31.7 percent, and the commercial fishery receiving 31.7 percent. Allocations within the non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries are described in sections (e) and (f) of this Plan. These allocations may be changed if new information becomes available that indicates a change is necessary and/or the Pacific Fishery Management Council takes action to reconsider its allocation recommendations. Such changes will be made after appropriate rulemaking is completed and published in the *Federal Register*.

(c) SUBQUOTAS

The allocations in this Plan are distributed as subquotas to ensure that any overage or underage by any one group will not affect achievement of an allocation set aside for another group. The specific allocative measures in the treaty Indian, non-Indian commercial, and non-Indian sport fisheries in Area 2A are described in paragraphs (d) through (f) of this Plan.

(d) TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

Thirty-five percent of the Area 2A TAC is allocated to 13 treaty Indian tribes in subarea 2A-1, which includes that portion of Area 2A north of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N. lat.) and east of 125°44.00' W. long. The treaty Indian allocation is to provide for a tribal commercial fishery and a ceremonial and subsistence fishery. These two fisheries are managed separately; any overages in the commercial fishery do not affect the ceremonial and subsistence fishery. The commercial fishery is managed to achieve an established subquota, while the ceremonial and subsistence fishery is managed for a year-round season. The tribes will estimate the ceremonial and subsistence harvest expectations in January of each year, and the remainder of the allocation will be for the tribal commercial fishery.

- (1) The tribal ceremonial and subsistence fishery begins on January 1 and continues through December 31. No size or bag limits will apply to the ceremonial and

subsistence fishery, except that when the tribal commercial fishery is closed, treaty Indians may take and retain not more than two halibut per day per person for subsistence purposes. Ceremonial fisheries shall be managed by tribal regulations promulgated inseason to meet the needs of specific ceremonial events. Halibut taken for ceremonial and subsistence purposes may not be offered for sale or sold.

- (2) The tribal commercial fishery season dates will be set within the season dates determined by the IPHC and implemented in IPHC regulations. The tribal commercial fishery will close when the subquota is taken. Any halibut sold by treaty Indians during the commercial fishing season must comply with IPHC regulations on size limits for the non-Indian fishery.

(e) NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The non-Indian commercial fishery is allocated 31.7 percent of the non-Indian share of the Area 2A TAC for a directed halibut fishery and an incidental catch fishery during the salmon troll fishery. The non-Indian commercial allocation is approximately 20.6 percent of the Area 2A TAC. Incidental catch of halibut in the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA will be authorized if the Washington sport allocation exceeds 224,110 lb (101.7 mt) as described in section (e)(3) of this Plan. The structuring and management of these three fisheries is as follows.

(1) Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery.

Fifteen percent of the non-Indian commercial fishery allocation is allocated to the salmon troll fishery in Area 2A as an incidental catch during salmon fisheries. The quota for this incidental catch fishery is approximately 3.1 percent of the Area 2A TAC. The primary management objective for this fishery is to harvest the troll quota as an incidental catch during the April-June salmon troll fishery. The secondary management objective is to harvest the remaining troll quota as an incidental catch during the remainder of the salmon troll fishery.

- (i) The Council will recommend landing restrictions at its spring public meeting each year to control the amount of halibut caught incidentally in the troll fishery. The landing restrictions will be based on the number of incidental harvest license applications submitted to the IPHC, halibut catch rates, the amount of allocation, and other pertinent factors, and may include catch or landing ratios, landing limits, or other means to control the rate of halibut harvest. NMFS will publish the landing restrictions annually in the *Federal Register*, along with the salmon management measures.
- (ii) Inseason adjustments to the incidental halibut catch fishery.

(A) NMFS may make inseason adjustments to the landing restrictions, if requested by the Council Chairman, as necessary to assure that the incidental harvest rate is appropriate for salmon and halibut availability, does not encourage target fishing on halibut, and does not increase the likelihood of exceeding the quota for this fishery. In determining whether to make such inseason adjustments, NMFS will consult with the applicable state representative(s), a representative of the Council's Salmon Advisory Sub-Panel, and Council staff.

(B) Notice and effectiveness of inseason adjustments will be made by NMFS in accordance with paragraph (f)(5) of this Plan.

- (iii) If the overall quota for the non-Indian, incidental commercial troll fishery has not been harvested by salmon trollers during the April-June fishery, additional landings of halibut caught incidentally during salmon troll fisheries will be allowed in July and will continue until the amount of halibut that was initially available as quota for the troll fishery is taken or until the end of the season date for commercial halibut fishing determined by the IPHC and implemented in IPHC regulation. Landing restrictions implemented for the April-June salmon troll fishery will apply for as long as this fishery is open. Notice of the July opening of this fishery will be announced on the NMFS hotline (206) 526-6667 or (800) 662-9825. Halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery will be allowed after June only if the opening has been announced on the NMFS hotline.
 - (iv) A salmon troller may participate in this fishery or in the directed commercial fishery targeting halibut, but not in both.
 - (v) Under the Pacific Coast groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.330, fishing with salmon troll gear is prohibited within the Salmon Troll Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA). The Salmon Troll YRCA is an area off the northern Washington coast and is defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates. Coordinates for the Salmon Troll YRCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70(c) and in salmon regulations at 50 CFR 660.405(c).
- (2) Directed fishery targeting halibut.

Eighty-five percent of the non-Indian commercial fishery allocation is allocated to the directed fishery targeting halibut (e.g., longline fishery) in southern Washington, Oregon, and California. The allocation for this directed catch fishery is approximately 17.5 percent of the Area 2A TAC. This fishery is confined to the area south of Subarea 2A-1 (south of Point Chehalis, WA; 46°53.30' N. lat.). This fishery may also be managed with closed areas designed to protect overfished groundfish species. Any such closed areas will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register* and the

coordinates will be specifically defined at 50 CFR 660.71 through 660.74. The commercial fishery opening date(s), duration, and vessel trip limits, as necessary to ensure that the quota for the non-Indian commercial fisheries is not exceeded, will be determined by the IPHC and implemented in IPHC regulations. If the IPHC determines that poundage remaining in the quota for the non-Indian commercial fisheries is insufficient to allow an additional day of directed halibut fishing, the remaining halibut will be made available for incidental catch of halibut in the fall salmon troll fisheries (independent of the incidental harvest allocation).

(3) Incidental catch in the sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis.

If the Area 2A TAC is greater than 900,000 lb (408.2 mt), the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis will be allocated the Washington sport allocation that is in excess of 214,110 lb (97.1 mt), provided a minimum of 10,000 lb (4.5 mt) is available (i.e., the Washington sport allocation is 224,110 lb (101.7 mt) or greater). If the amount above 214,110 lb (97.1 mt) is less than 10,000 lb (4.5 mt), then the excess will be allocated to the Washington sport subareas according to section (f) of this Plan. The amount of halibut allocated to the sablefish fishery will be shared as follows: up to 70,000 lb of halibut to the primary sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis. Any remaining allocation will be distributed to the Washington sport fishery among the four subareas according to the sharing described in the Plan, Section (f)(1).

The Council will recommend landing restrictions at its spring public meeting each year to control the amount of halibut caught incidentally in this fishery. The landing restrictions will be based on the amount of the allocation and other pertinent factors, and may include catch or landing ratios, landing limits, or other means to control the rate of halibut landings. NMFS will publish the landing restrictions annually in the Federal Register.

Under Pacific Coast groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.230, fishing with limited entry fixed gear is prohibited within the North Coast Commercial Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) and the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA). The North Coast Commercial Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area YRCA is an area off the northern Washington coast, overlapping the northern part of North Coast Recreational YRCA. The Non-Trawl RCA is an area off the Washington coast. These closed areas are defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates. Coordinates for the North Coast Commercial YRCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70(b). Coordinates for the Non-Trawl RCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.73.

(4) Commercial license restrictions/declarations.

Commercial fishers must choose either (1) to operate in the directed commercial fishery in Area 2A and/or retain halibut caught incidentally in the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA or (2) to retain halibut caught incidentally during the salmon troll fishery. Commercial fishers operating in the directed halibut fishery and/or retaining halibut incidentally caught in the primary directed sablefish fishery must send their license application to the IPHC postmarked no later than April 30, or the first weekday in May, if April 30 falls on a weekend, in order to obtain a license to fish for halibut in Area 2A. Commercial fishers operating in the salmon troll fishery who seek to retain incidentally caught halibut must send their application for a license to the IPHC for the incidental catch of halibut in Area 2A postmarked no later than March 31, or the first weekday in April, if March 31 falls on a weekend. Fishing vessels licensed by IPHC to fish commercially in Area 2A are prohibited from operating in the sport fisheries in Area 2A.

(f) SPORT FISHERIES

The non-Indian sport fisheries are allocated 68.3 percent of the non-Indian share, which is approximately 44.4 percent of the Area 2A TAC. The allocation is further divided as subquotas among six geographic subareas.

- (1) Subarea management. The sport fishery is divided into six sport fishery subareas, each having separate allocations and management measures as follows.

- (i) Washington inside waters (Puget Sound) subarea.

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 23.5 percent of the first 130,845 lb (59.4 mt) allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32 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 is defined as all U.S. waters east of the mouth of the Sekiu River, as defined by a line extending from 48°17.30' N. lat., 124°23.70' W. long. north to 48°24.10' N. lat., 124°23.70' W. long., including Puget Sound. The structuring objective for this subarea is to provide a stable sport fishing opportunity and maximize the season length. To that end, the Puget Sound subarea may be divided into two regions with separate seasons to achieve a fair harvest opportunity within the subarea. Due to inability to monitor the catch in this area inseason, fixed seasons, which may vary and apply to different regions within the subarea, will be established preseason based on projected catch per day and number of days to achievement of the quota. Inseason adjustments may be made, and estimates of actual catch will be made postseason. The fishery will open in April or May and continue until a date established preseason (and published in the sport fishery regulations) when the quota is predicted to be taken, or until September 30, whichever is earlier. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will develop recommendations to NMFS on the opening date and weekly structure of the fishery each year. The daily bag limit is one fish per person, with no size limit.

(ii) Washington north coast subarea.

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 62.2 percent of the first 130,845 lb (59.4 mt) allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32 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 is defined as all U.S. waters west of the mouth of the Sekiu River, as defined above in paragraph (f)(1)(i), and north of the Queets River (47°31.70' N. lat.). The management objective for this subarea is to provide a quality recreational fishing opportunity during May and June. The fishery will open on the first Thursday between May 9 and 15, and continue 2 days per week (Thursday and Saturday) in May as scheduled pre-season, unless there is a quota management closure. If there is no quota management closure in May, the fishery will reopen on the first Thursday in June as an all depth fishery on Thursdays and Saturdays as long as sufficient quota remains. This schedule allows adequate public notice of any inseason action before each Thursday opening. If there is not sufficient quota for an all-depth day, the fishery would reopen in the nearshore areas described below:

- A. WDFW Marine Catch Area 4B, which is all waters west of the Sekiu River mouth, as defined by a line extending from 48°17.30' N. lat., 124°23.70' W. long. north to 48°24.10' N. lat., 124°23.70' W. long., to the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, as defined by a line connecting the light on Tatoosh Island, WA, with the light on Bonilla Point on Vancouver Island, British Columbia (at 48°35.73' N. lat., 124°43.00' W. long.) south of the International Boundary between the U.S. and Canada (at 48°29.62' N. lat., 124°43.55' W. long.), and north of the point where that line intersects with the boundary of the U.S. territorial sea.
- B. Shoreward of the recreational halibut 30-fm boundary line, a modified line approximating the 30 fm depth contour from the Bonilla-Tatoosh line south to the Queets River. Coordinates for the closed area will be specifically defined annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register*.

No sport fishing for halibut is allowed after September 30. If the fishery is closed prior to September 30, and there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen the nearshore areas for another fishing day, then any remaining quota may be transferred inseason to another Washington coastal subarea by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. The daily bag limit in all fisheries is one halibut per person with no size limit.

Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within the North Coast Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA). The North Coast Recreational YRCA is a C-shaped area off the northern Washington coast

and is defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates. Coordinates for the North Coast Recreational YRCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70(a) and will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register*.

(iii) Washington south coast subarea.

This sport fishery is allocated 12.3 percent of the first 130,845 lb (59.4 mt) allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32 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 is defined as waters south of the Queets River (47°31.70' N. lat.) and north of Leadbetter Point (46°38.17' N. lat.). The structuring objective for this subarea is to maximize the season length, while maintaining a quality fishing experience. The south coast subarea quota will be allocated as follows: 10% or 2,000 pounds, whichever is less, will be set aside for the nearshore fishery with the remaining amount allocated to the primary fishery. During days open to the primary fishery and seaward of the 30-fm line lingcod may be taken, retained and possessed, when allowed by groundfish regulations. The fishery will open on the first Sunday in May. The primary fishery will be open two days per week, Sunday and Tuesday, in all areas, except where prohibited, and will remain open for three consecutive Sundays and Tuesdays before a management closure the following week to tally the catch. If the primary quota is projected to be obtained sooner than expected the management closure may occur earlier. If there is sufficient quota remaining following the management closure the fishery would continue two days per week, Sunday and/or Tuesday, until the quota for the primary fishery season is reached or September 30, whichever is earlier. If there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen the primary fishery for another fishing day, the remaining primary fishery quota will be added to the nearshore quota. The nearshore fishery takes place, in the area from 47°31.70' N. lat. south to 46°58.00' N. lat. and east of a boundary line approximating the 30 fathom depth contour as defined by the following coordinates:

47°31.70' N.lat, 124°37.03' W. long;
47°25.67' N. lat, 124°34.79' W. long;
47°12.82' N. lat, 124°29.12' W. long;
46°58.00' N. lat, 124°24.24' W. long.

During the primary season the nearshore fishery will be open seven days per week. Subsequent to the closure of the primary fishery, the nearshore fishery will continue seven days per week until the remaining quota is projected to be taken. If the fishery is closed prior to September 30, and there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen the nearshore areas for another fishing day, then any remaining quota may be transferred inseason to another Washington coastal subarea by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit.

Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within two YRCA's off Washington's southern coast. The South Coast Recreational YRCA and the Westport Offshore YRCA are defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates. Coordinates for these Recreational YRCAs are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70 (d) and (e) and will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register*.

(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 is also allocated an amount equal to the contribution from the Washington sport allocation from the Oregon/California sport allocation. 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 the first Friday in May or May 1 if it is a Saturday or Sunday, 3 days per week, Friday through Sunday until 80 percent of the subarea allocation is taken. 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, or until September 30, whichever is earlier. 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 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 taken and retained, possessed or landed, 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 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. If the overall 2A TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater, 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, and provide a period of fishing opportunity in the summer for nearshore waters. If the overall 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt), the structuring objectives for this subarea are to provide a period of fishing opportunity beginning in Spring in productive deeper water areas along the coast, and provide a period of fishing opportunity in nearshore waters. Any poundage remaining unharvested in the Spring all-depth subquota

will be added to either the Summer all-depth sub-quota or the nearshore subquota based on need, determined via joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS and ODFW. If the 2A TAC exceeds 700,000 pounds, any poundage that is not needed to extend the inside 40-fathom (73 m) fishery through 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 taken and retained, possessed or landed, except sablefish and Pacific cod when allowed by groundfish regulations, if halibut are on board the vessel.

Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within the Stonewall Bank YRCA. The Stonewall Bank YRCA is an area off central Oregon, near Stonewall Bank, and is defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates. Coordinates for the Stonewall Bank YRCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70 (f) and will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register*.

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 (nearshore fishery) opens the first Thursday in May or on May 1 if it is a Friday or Saturday, 3 days per week, Thursday through Saturday, only in waters inside the 40-fathom (73 m) curve. The fishery continues until the subquota is taken, or until October 31, whichever is earlier and is allocated 12 percent of the subarea quota if the 2A TAC is above 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater or 25 percent of the subarea quota if the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt). Any overage in the all-depth fisheries would not affect achievement of allocation set aside for the inside 40-fathom (73 m) curve fishery. On or after August 15, the IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW will consult to determine whether increasing the inside of 40-fathom fishery open days per week is warranted, with the intent that the subquota for the inside 40-fathom fishery is taken by October 31.

B. The second season (Spring fishery) is an all-depth fishery with two potential openings and is allocated 63 percent of the subarea quota if the TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater, or 75 percent of the subarea quota if the subarea if the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt). 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. 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 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 may 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) may 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 is earlier if the 2A TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater. If the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) the fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota for an additional day of fishing or October 31, whichever is earlier.

C. The last season (summer fishery) is an all-depth fishery that begins on the first Friday in August and is allocated 25 percent of the subarea quota if the 2A TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater. If the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) then 0 percent of the subarea quota will be allocated to this season. The fishery will be structured to be open every other week on Friday and Saturday except that week(s) may be skipped to avoid adverse tidal conditions. The fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen for another fishing day or October 31, whichever is earlier. The potential open Fridays and Saturdays 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 and Saturday (versus every other Friday and Saturday), 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. If after the 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 and the fishery is not already open every Friday and Saturday, the fishery will re-open on every Friday and Saturday (versus every other Friday and Saturday), if determined to be appropriate through joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW. After the Labor Day weekend, the IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW will consult to determine whether increasing the Oregon Central 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 taken by September 30, the season will remain open, maintaining the bag limit in effect at that time, through October 31 or quota attainment, whichever is earlier. The inseason action will be announced 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 preseason 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.

- (2) Port of landing management. All sport fishing in Area 2A will be managed on a "port of landing" basis, whereby any halibut landed into a port will count toward the quota for the subarea in which that port is located, and the regulations governing the subarea of landing apply, regardless of the specific area of catch.
- (3) Possession limits. The sport possession limit on land in Washington 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. The sport possession limit on land in California and on the vessel is one daily bag limit, regardless of condition.
- (4) Ban on sport vessels in the commercial fishery. Vessels operating in the sport fishery for halibut in Area 2A are prohibited from operating in the commercial halibut fishery in Area 2A. Sport fishers and charterboat operators must determine, prior to May 1 of each year, whether they will operate in the commercial halibut fisheries in Area 2A which requires a commercial fishing license from the IPHC. Sport fishing for halibut in Area 2A is prohibited from a vessel licensed to fish commercially for halibut in Area 2A.

(5) Flexible inseason management provisions.

- (i) The Regional Administrator, NMFS Northwest Region, after consultation with the Chairman of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, the IPHC Executive Director, and the Fisheries Director(s) of the affected state(s), or their designees, is authorized to modify regulations during the season after making the following determinations.
 - (A) The action is necessary to allow allocation objectives to be met.
 - (B) The action will not result in exceeding the catch limit for the area.
 - (C) If any of the sport fishery subareas north of Cape Falcon, OR are not projected to utilize their respective quotas by September 30, NMFS may take inseason action to transfer any projected unused quota to another Washington sport subarea.
 - (D) If any of the sport fishery subareas south of Leadbetter Point, WA are not projected to utilize their respective quotas by their season ending dates, NMFS may take inseason action to transfer any projected unused quota to another Oregon sport subarea.
- (ii) Flexible inseason management provisions include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (A) Modification of sport fishing periods;
 - (B) Modification of sport fishing bag limits;
 - (C) Modification of sport fishing size limits;
 - (D) Modification of sport fishing days per calendar week; and
 - (E) Modification of subarea quotas.
- (iii) Notice procedures.
 - (A) Inseason actions taken by NMFS will be published in the *Federal Register*.
 - (B) Actual notice of inseason management actions will be provided by a telephone hotline administered by the Northwest Region, NMFS, at 206-526-6667 or 800-662-9825 (May through October) and by U.S. Coast Guard broadcasts. These broadcasts are announced on Channel 16 VHF-FM and 2182 kHz at frequent intervals. The announcements designate the channel or frequency over which the

notice to mariners will be immediately broadcast. Since provisions of these regulations may be altered by inseason actions, sport fishermen should monitor either the telephone hotline or U.S. Coast Guard broadcasts for current information for the area in which they are fishing.

(iv) Effective dates.

- (A) Inseason actions will be effective on the date specified in the Federal Register notice or at the time that the action is filed for public inspection with the Office of the Federal Register, whichever is later.
- (B) If time allows, NMFS will invite public comment prior to the effective date of any inseason action filed with the *Federal Register*. If the Regional Administrator determines, for good cause, that an inseason action must be filed without affording a prior opportunity for public comment, public comments will be received for a period of 15 days after of the action in the *Federal Register*.
- (C) Inseason actions will remain in effect until the stated expiration date or until rescinded, modified, or superseded. However, no inseason action has any effect beyond the end of the calendar year in which it is issued.

(v) Availability of data. The Regional Administrator will compile, in aggregate form, all data and other information relevant to the action being taken and will make them available for public review during normal office hours at the Northwest Regional Office, NMFS, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA.

(6) Sport fishery closure provisions.

The IPHC shall determine and announce closing dates to the public for any subarea in which a subquota is estimated to have been taken. When the IPHC has determined that a subquota has been taken, and has announced a date on which the season will close, no person shall sport fish for halibut in that area after that date for the rest of the year, unless a reopening of that area for sport halibut fishing is scheduled by NMFS as an inseason action, or announced by the IPHC.

(g) PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Each year, NMFS will publish a proposed rule with any regulatory modifications necessary to implement the Plan for the following year, with a request for public comments. The comment period will extend until after the IPHC annual meeting, so that the public will have the opportunity to consider the final Area 2A TAC before submitting

comments. After the Area 2A TAC is known, and after NMFS reviews public comments, NMFS will implement final rules governing the sport fisheries. The final ratio of halibut to Chinook to be allowed as incidental catch in the salmon troll fishery will be published with the annual salmon management measures.

Sources:

<i>77 FR 16740 (March 22, 2012)</i>	<i>73 FR 12280 (March 7, 2008)</i>	<i>60 FR 14651 (March 20, 1995)</i>
<i>76 FR 14300 (March 16, 2011)</i>	<i>72 FR 11792 (March 14, 2007)</i>	<i>59 FR 22522 (May 2, 1994)</i>
<i>75 FR 13024 (March 18, 2010)</i>	<i>71 FR 10850 (March 3, 2006)</i>	<i>58 FR 17791 (April 6, 1993)</i>
<i>74 FR 11681 (March 19, 2009)</i>	<i>70 FR 20304 (April 19, 2005)</i>	
	<i>69 FR 24524 (May 4, 2004)</i>	
	<i>68 FR 10989 (March 7, 2003)</i>	
	<i>67 FR 12885 (March 20, 2002)</i>	
	<i>66 FR 15801 (March 21, 2001)</i>	
	<i>65 FR 14909 (March 20, 2000)</i>	
	<i>64 FR 13519 (March 19, 1999)</i>	
	<i>63 FR 13000 (March 17, 1998)</i>	
	<i>62 FR 12759 (March 18, 1997)</i>	
	<i>61 FR 11337 (March 20, 1996)</i>	

COUNCIL BLOG EXCERPT

Adopt for public review: Changes to the halibut catch sharing plan

The Council adopted the following proposed changes for public review to the 2014 Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and annual regulations. The Council is expected to take final action on these proposals at their November meeting in Costa Mesa, California. Public comment on the proposals can be emailed to pfmc.comments@noaa.gov by **October 9, 2013** for inclusion in the advance Briefing Book for November. The proposed changes include:

Washington North Coast Subarea

1. Revise the CSP language to more clearly describe the management closure and remove the provision for a nearshore fishery when there is not enough quota for another off-shore fishing day.
2. Revise the days of the week that the fishery is open so that the fishery is open on Saturdays only after the first week of fishing, which maintains the status quo open days per week of Thursday and Saturday.

Columbia River Subarea (Washington and Oregon)

1. Revise the days of the week that the season is open from Friday through Sunday to Thursday through Sunday. Changing the days of the week that the fishery is open would also require changing the early season opening date from the first Friday in May to the first Thursday in May. The late season opening date would change from the first Friday in August to the first Thursday in August.
2. Revise the subarea allocation such that 1,500 pounds or 10 percent of the subarea allocation, whichever is less, is set aside for a nearshore fishery in the area shoreward of either 30 or 40 fathoms with the remaining allocation divided such that 80 percent is reserved for the early season and 20 percent is reserved for the late season.
3. Revise the bottomfish restrictions in this subarea such that lingcod retention would be allowed when halibut are onboard according to one of the following three options:
 - a. Allow lingcod retention when halibut are on board on Thursdays through Sundays from the first Thursday in May until the first Thursday in August or, until 80 percent of the subarea allocation is taken whichever occurs first, in the area seaward of 30 fathoms.
 - b. Allow lingcod retention when halibut are on board seven days per week in the area shoreward of 30 fathoms.
 - c. Allow lingcod retention throughout the entire halibut season.

Oregon Central Coast Subarea

General

Current language in the CSP, requires the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to sponsor an annual public workshop shortly after the International Pacific Halibut Commission annual meeting to develop recommendations on the open dates for each season. Due to the advances in technology (e.g., online surveys) and lack of participation in the public workshops, the Council proposes to modify the CSP language to provide flexibility in method by which input is solicited.

Nearshore Fishery

1. Revise the open days of the week and the opening date
 - a. Status Quo (no action): open May 1, three days per week, Thursday-Saturday until the earlier of quota attainment or October 31
 - b. Open June 1, seven days per week until the earlier of quota attainment or October 31
 - c. Open after the spring all-depth season concludes, seven days per week until the earlier of quota attainment or October 31

Spring and Summer All-Depth Seasons

1. Status quo (no action): if the Area 2A TAC is < 700,000 pounds the spring (only) all-depth season begins on the second Thursday in May
2. If the Area 2A TAC is < 700,000 pounds the spring (only) all-depth season begins on the first Thursday in June

South of Humbug Mountain (Oregon and California)

The Council recommends adding for public review a new subarea management line in the CSP at the Oregon/California border (42° N. latitude). Under this option, a separate California subarea would be created with its own CSP allocation equal to 1 percent of the non-tribal allocation. Details on the alternative management measures for the Oregon and California components are described below.

Oregon

The Council recommends two options for public review for managing the Oregon portion between Humbug Mountain and the Oregon/California border that would remain in the event a new subarea management line is implemented at the Oregon/California border:

1. Subsume the Oregon area into the Central Oregon Coast Subarea. Under this option, the area between Humbug Mountain and the Oregon/California border would be subject to the regulations in the Central Oregon Coast Subarea.

2. Establish a new Southern Oregon Subarea with its own CSP allocation equal to 2 percent of the Oregon recreational allocation. The new Southern Oregon Subarea allocation could be created from either:
 - a. Eliminating the Central Coast Summer All-Depth Fishery. The remaining 23 percent would be allocated to the Central Coast Nearshore Fishery.
 - b. Reducing the Central Coast Spring All-Depth Fishery allocation. The Central Coast Spring All-Depth Fishery would then receive 61 percent of the area allocation, with the Nearshore and Summer All-Depth Fishery allocations remaining at 12 percent and 25 percent, respectively.

California

Due to the inability to monitor the catch in this area inseason, a fixed season would be established preseason by NMFS based on projected 2014 seasonal catch. No inseason adjustments would be made, and estimates of actual catch will be made post season.

The alternative season dates adopted for public review for the California subarea are

1. May 1 through July 15, and from September 1 through October 31
2. May 1 through July 31, and from September 1 through October 31

Additional restrictions may include prohibiting retention of salmon on a trip where Pacific halibut are retained, or restricting the days of the week when the fishery is open. Under the days of the week option, the open days would be

1. Tuesday through Saturday or
2. Wednesday through Saturday

The daily bag limit would continue to be one halibut per person, with no size limit.

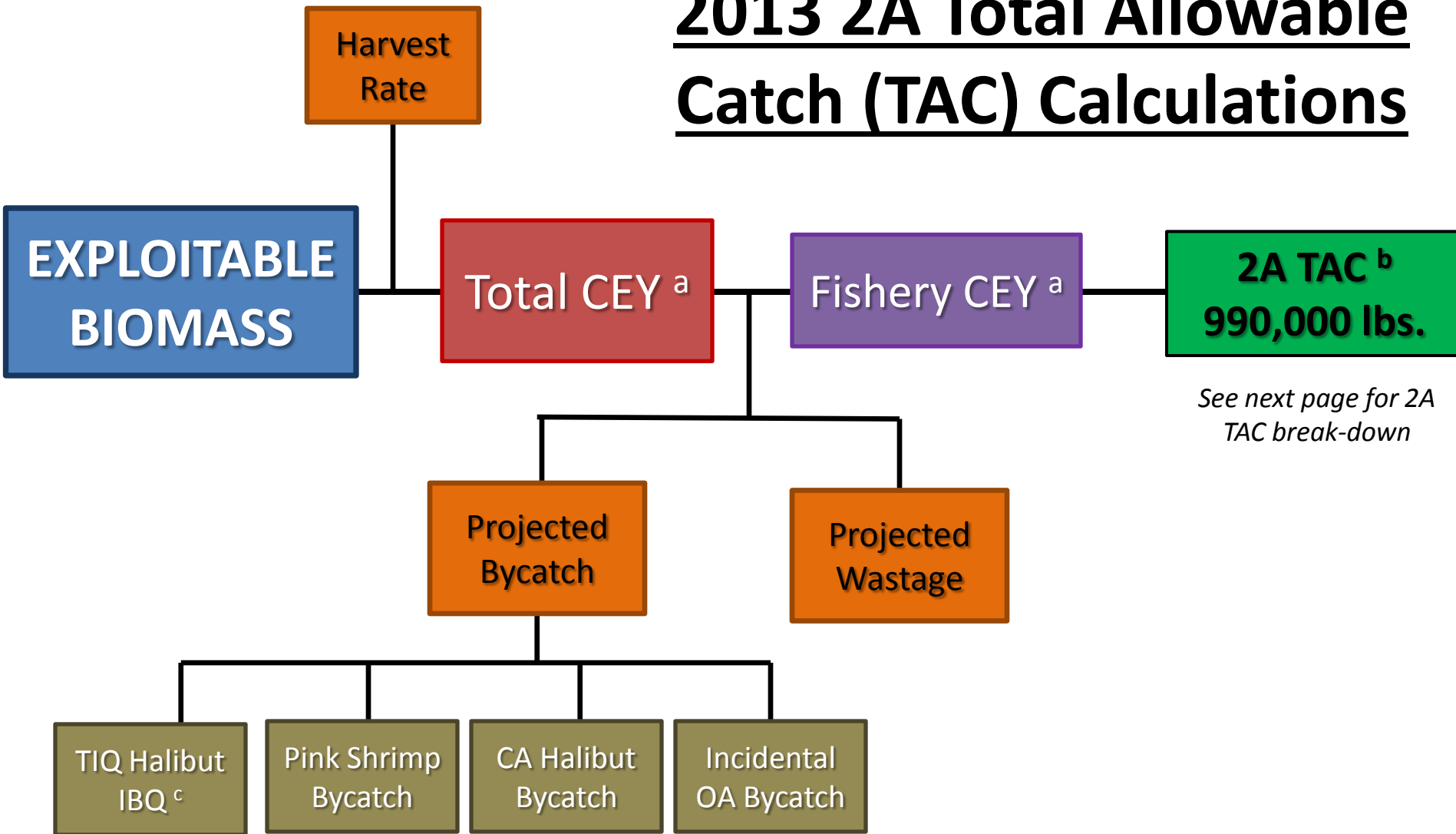
This entry was posted on Wednesday, September 18th, 2013 at 1:50 am and is filed under [Pacific halibut](#), [Pacific halibut](#).

Last modified: 09/18/2013

CURRENT AND PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2014 CATCH SHARING PLAN ALLOCATIONS

Produced by Lynn Mattes with input from the South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Workgroup

2013 2A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) Calculations



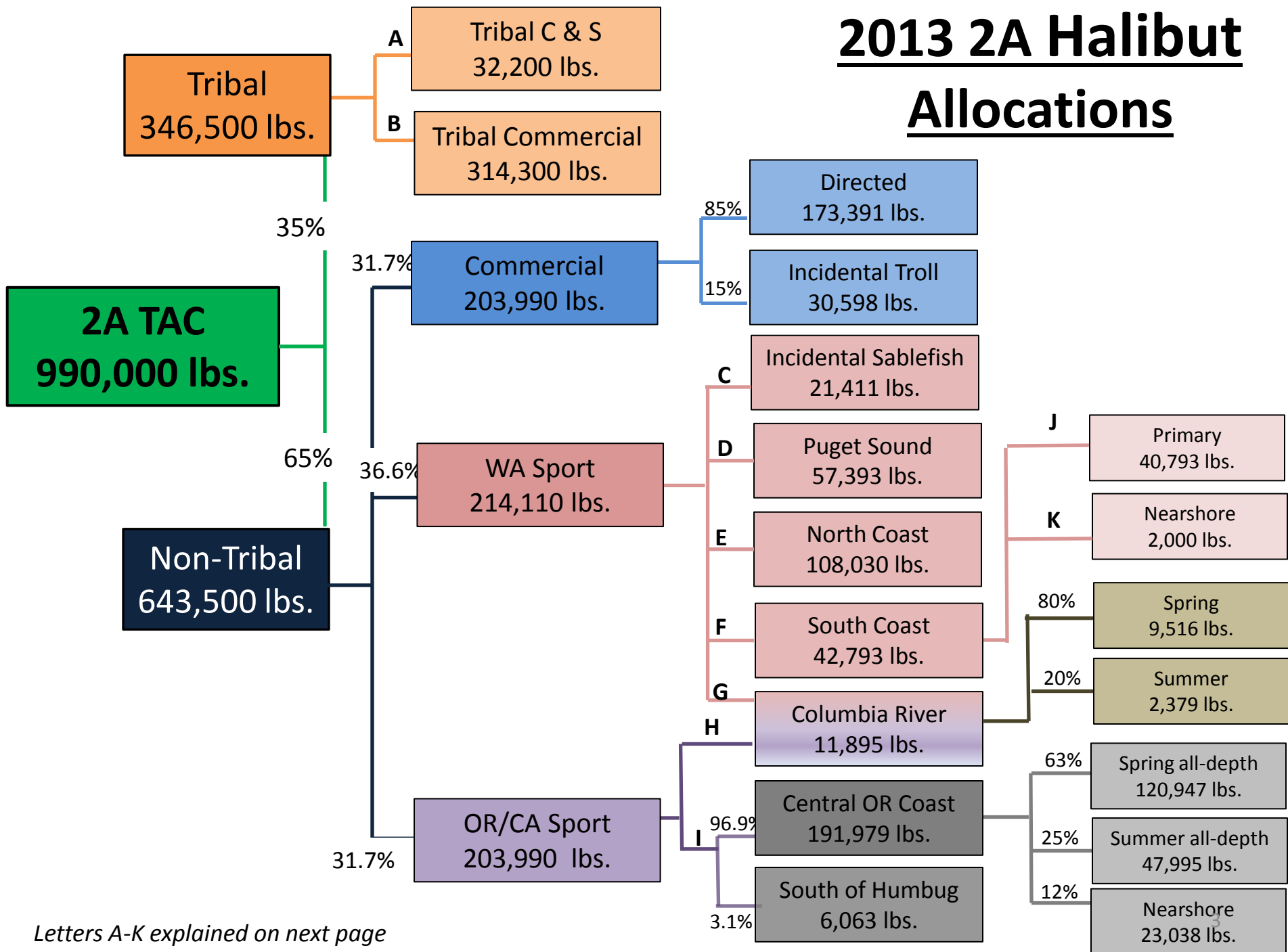
*See next page for 2A
TAC break-down*

^a CEY = Constant Exploitable Yield

^b TAC = Total Allowable Catch

^c The IBQ amount is 130,000 lbs. legal-size (net weight) halibut through 2014, reduced to 100,000 lbs. in 2015 (50 CFR 660, Subpart C §660.55 dated August 13, 2013, page 86)

2013 2A Halibut Allocations

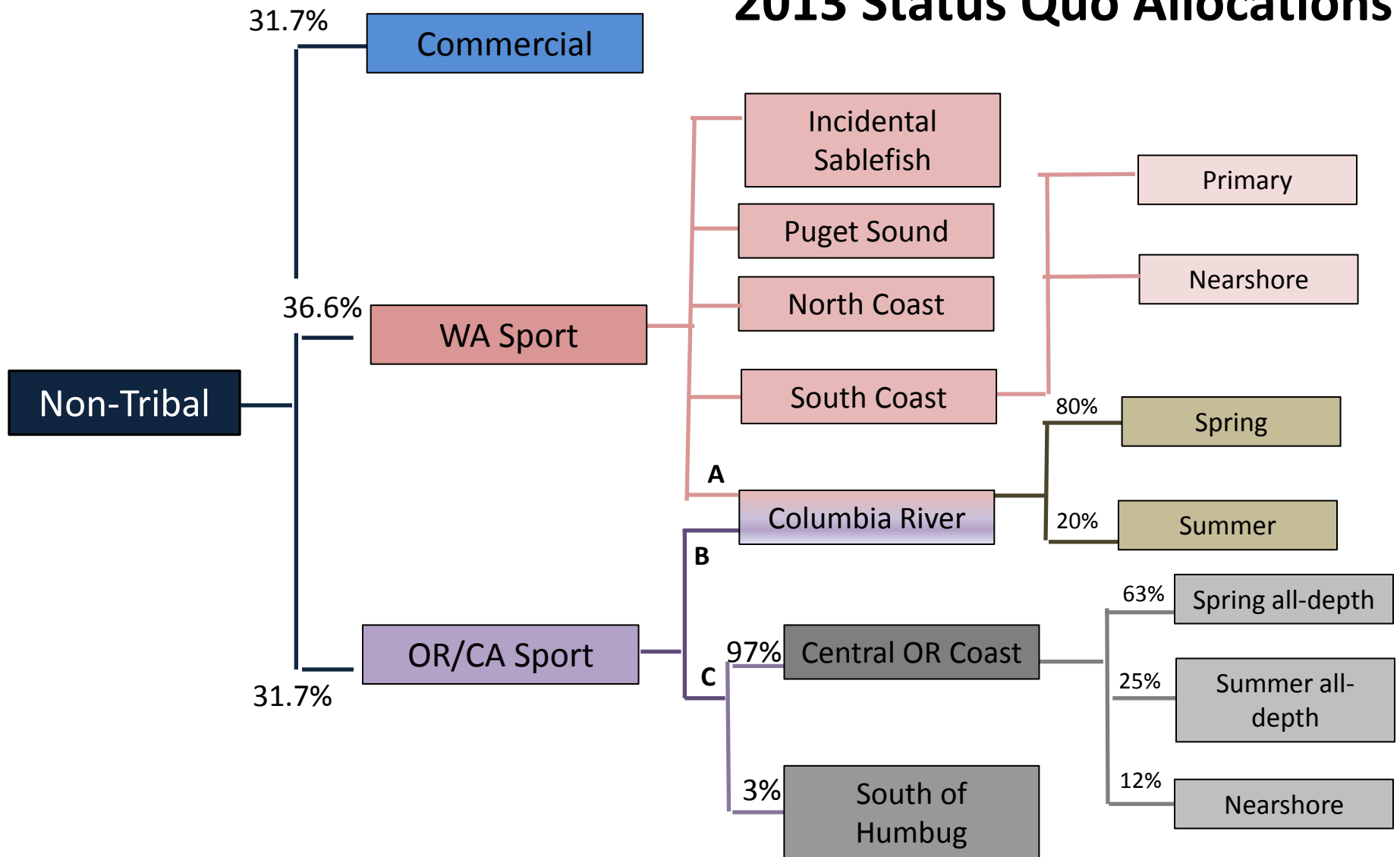


Letters A-K explained on next page

Legend

- A. previous year's catch estimate
- B. tribal allocation minus the Ceremonial and Subsistence estimate
- C. Incidental halibut in the sablefish fishery
If 2A TAC is > 900,000 lbs. then the primary sablefish fishery N. of Pt. Chehalis will be allocated the WA sport allocation that is in excess of 214,110 lb. If the amount above 214,110 is < 10,000 or greater than 70,000, the excess will be allocated back to the WA sport areas.
- D. WA-Puget Sound
23.5% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to WA sport plus, 32% of the WA sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs.
- E. WA-North Coast
62.2% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to WA sport plus, 32% of the WA sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs.
- F. WA-South Coast
12.3% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to WA sport plus, 32% of the WA sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs.
- G. WA-Columbia River
2% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to WA sport plus, 4% of the WA sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs.
- H. OR-Columbia River
equivalent to what WA contributes
- I. OR-Central Coast and South of Humbug Mt.
OR/CA Sport Allocation minus contribution to Columbia River
- J. WA-South coast allocation minus what is reserved for the nearshore
- K. 10% or 2,000 pounds, whichever is less is reserved for a nearshore fishery.

2013 Status Quo Allocations



A.WA-Columbia River

2% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to WA sport plus, 4% of the WA sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs.

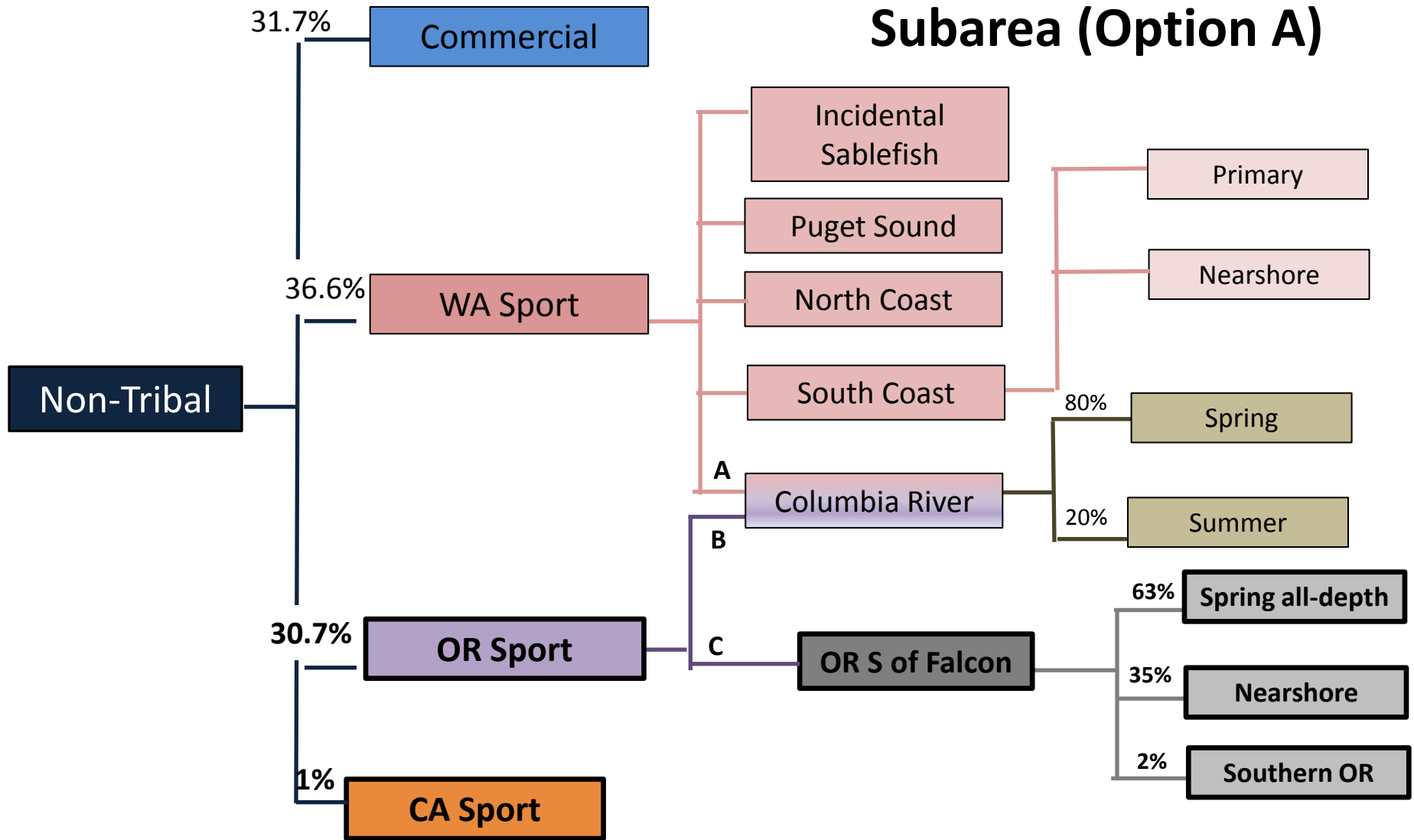
B.OR-Columbia River

equivalent to what WA contributes

C.OR-Central Coast and South of Humboldt Mt.

OR/CA Sport Allocation minus contribution to Columbia River

New CA Subarea and S. OR Subarea (Option A)



A.WA-Columbia River

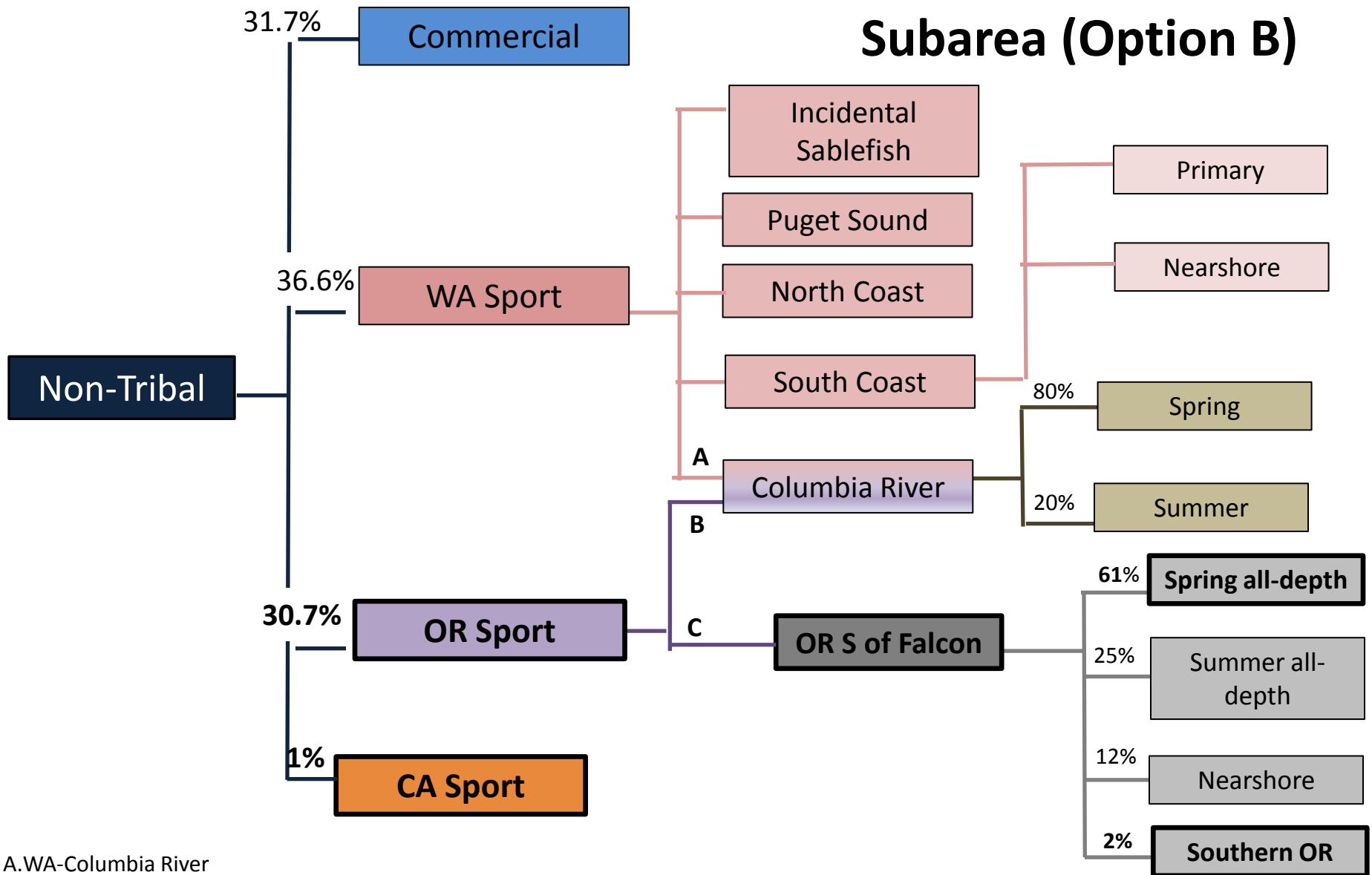
2% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to WA sport plus, 4% of the WA sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs.

B.OR-Columbia River

equivalent to what WA contributes

C.OR Sport Allocation minus contribution to Columbia River

New CA Subarea and S. OR Subarea (Option B)



A.WA-Columbia River

2% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to WA sport plus, 4% of the WA sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs.

B.OR-Columbia River

equivalent to what WA contributes

C.OR Sport Allocation minus contribution to Columbia River

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR THE 2014 FISHERY

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) solicited public comment on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) approved proposals for changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for fisheries in 2014. To gather public input on proposals, ODFW hosted public meetings in Newport (Sept. 24) and Brookings (Sept. 25) and used an online survey for those who could not attend the public meetings; 303 people took the online survey. Anglers were limited to providing input on fisheries they currently participate in or plan to in 2014 (survey questions were conditional upon responses). For example, anglers were asked if they fish or plan to fish the Columbia River Sub-area, and if they answered no, then they did not receive proposals affecting that sub-area. Input was focused on the specific items put forward by PFMC in September, with some additional input on things to look at for the future.

Proposed Changes to the CSP:

Columbia River Subarea

Spring and summer all-depth open days per week

Status quo: Friday through Sunday

Proposed: Thursday through Sunday

ODFW recommends changing the open days per week to include Thursday, as this may provide anglers additional opportunity to fully utilize the quota (harvest was only 50 percent of the 2013 quota and 65 percent of the 2012 quota). Opening an additional mid-week day is not expected to affect the season duration. The majority (59 percent; 17 of 29) of halibut anglers from Oregon who fish the Columbia River Subarea also support the proposal

Revise the subarea allocation to create a nearshore fishery

Status quo: no nearshore fishery

Proposed: Revise the subarea allocation such that 1,500 pounds or 10 percent of the subarea allocation, whichever is less, is set aside for a nearshore fishery in the area shoreward of either 30 or 40 fathoms.

ODFW recommends revising the subarea allocation such that 1,500 pounds or 10 percent of the subarea allocation is set aside for a nearshore fishery. ODFW is in favor of exploring options that allow for more opportunities for anglers in this area to harvest their allocation; however there is concern that this may proposal may strand fish. We are unsure how of this fishery will proceed and if there will be allocation left unused, and then unavailable for the all-depth seasons. For instance, only 2 percent (9 of 481) of halibut catch from Oregon anglers has occurred shoreward of 40 fathoms, and no incidental halibut catches (landings nor releases) have been reported on an Oregon bottomfish trip since 2004. It is not expected that this change will impact the duration of the all-depth fishery, as more than 1,500 pounds of halibut have gone unharvested each year since 2011. ODFW does not currently have a recommendation on the depth

restriction for this fishery. Our intent is to work with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Enforcement Consultant at the Council meeting on the depth restriction.

Allow lingcod retention

Status quo: not allowed when halibut are onboard

Proposed: Revise the bottomfish restrictions in this subarea such that lingcod retention would be allowed when halibut are onboard.

ODFW does not recommend allowing lingcod retention when halibut are onboard during the all-depth seasons. The restriction on retention of bottomfish in the all-depth halibut fisheries were put into place in 2005 to reduce impacts to canary and yelloweye rockfish. At this time, it is uncertain how retention of lingcod would impact primarily yelloweye rockfish. Additionally, any changes in angler behavior (i.e. retaining truly incidentally caught lingcod to targeting deep-water lingcod) has the potential to increase the encounter rate and impacts to yelloweye rockfish. Given that yelloweye rockfish harvest guidelines are currently the most restrictive element to groundfish and halibut recreational fisheries, and increased interactions will have the potential to require further restrictions, causing any additional impacts to yelloweye rockfish seems too risky at this time. ODFW does encourage analysis of groundfish retention in the halibut fisheries be included in the Tier 1 groundfish environmental impact statement that is being prepared. This should help provide information for the states and council to make a more informed risk call on allowing retention of lingcod (or other groundfish) in halibut fisheries.

Central Coast Subarea

Nearshore fishery days of the week and opening date

Status quo: Three days per week (Thursday through Sunday), beginning on 1st Thursday in May

Proposal 1: Open June 1, seven days per week

Proposal 2: Open after the spring all-depth season concludes, seven days per week

ODFW recommends Proposal 2 to open the nearshore fishery seven days per week after the spring all-depth fishery closes. Most anglers (66%; 169 of 257) would rather have a shorter (one month or less) fishery open seven days per week than a longer (two month) fishery open three days per week. The primary rationale for seven days per week was to accommodate anglers with different work schedules, specifically for those who had to work during the open days (i.e., Thursday-Saturday).

Regarding the start date of the fishery, there was no clear favorite among those who preferred seven days per week (i.e., 52 percent for Proposal 1 and 48 percent for Proposal 2). ODFW is therefore recommending the nearshore fishery start after the spring all-depth closes (typically late June). This is projected to allow halibut fishing each month from May through August, (Table 1). Having the nearshore fishery occur during July would also provide anglers the opportunity for coho salmon and nearshore halibut combination trips. Since both of these fisheries occur within the same general areas (within 40 fathoms) and both are variable in terms of fishing success, anglers could easily switch from halibut to salmon or vice versa if the fishing for one or the other is poor.

Table 1. Projected seasons for each of the nearshore days per week alternatives (grey shading). Chinook salmon and tuna seasons are based on when the fish generally arrive and the other seasons are based on regulations. AD=all-depth halibut; SQ=status quo; P=proposal.

Expected seasons	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottomfish												
Tuna												
Chinook S.												
Coho S.												
AD halibut												
SQ (3; May 1)												
P1 (7; June 1)												
P2 (7; Spr. AD)												

Restrict the nearshore fishery to inside of 30 fathoms

Status Quo: restricted to inside of the 40 fathom regulatory line

Proposal: restricted to inside of the 30 fathom regulatory line

ODFW is not recommending changing the depth restrictions for the Central Coast nearshore fishery primarily because restricting the fishery to 30 fathoms is not expected to extend the length of the fishery: (a) nearly all nearshore halibut trips already occur shoreward of 30 fathoms at most ports (e.g., Pacific City; Figure 2) and (b) in ports where effort occurs seaward of 30 fathoms, there would likely only be a shift of effort from deeper depths (> 30 fathoms) to shallower depths (< 30 fathoms) where fishing is just as productive (i.e., similar halibut catch rates). The nearshore fishery would likely have to be restricted to 20 fathoms in order to reduce catch rates enough to have a measure effect on season duration. Additionally, the majority of anglers were strongly opposed to a 30 fathom depth restriction (Figure 1).

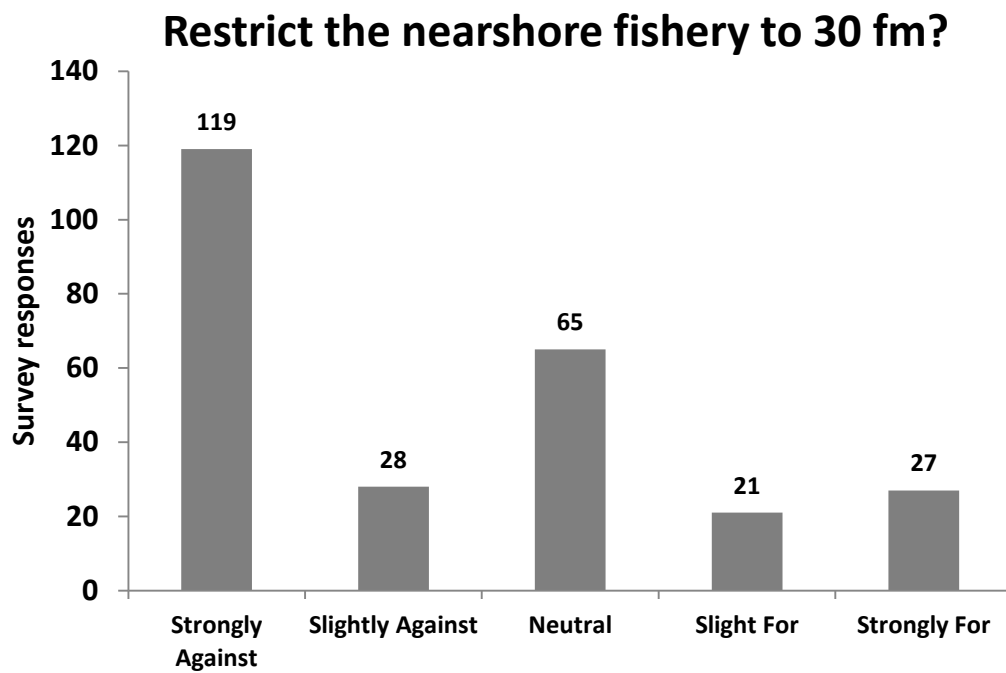


Figure 1. Online survey responses regarding the proposal to restrict the nearshore from 40 fm to 30 fm.

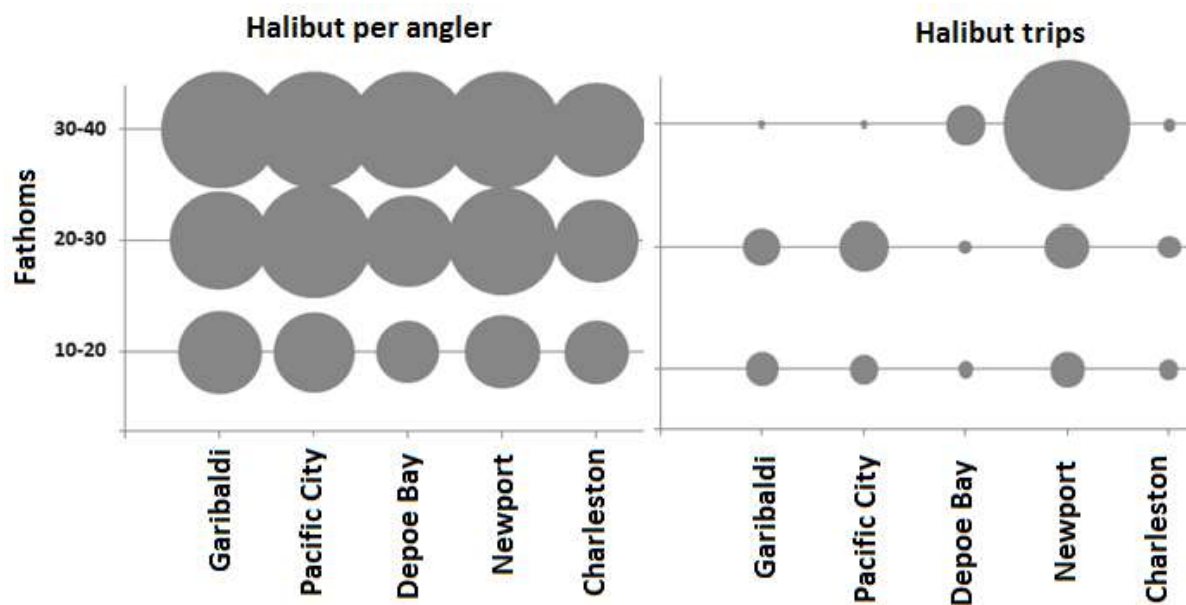


Figure 2. Relative nearshore halibut catch rates and effort by port and depth.

Spring and summer all-depth seasons

Status Quo: if the Area 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds, the combined all-depth season begins on the second Thursday in May

Proposal: If the Area 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds, the combined all-depth season begins on the first Thursday in June

ODFW recommends maintaining the status quo start date for the combined all-depth if the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds. Anglers stated that is better to have all-depth fishing occur during May (Status Quo; Table 2) than July (Proposal) because there are fewer other fishing opportunities in May (“nothing but groundfish” Table 2). Further, charter operators have stated that they are financially dependent on selling May all-depth halibut trips (July tuna and salmon easy to book). Additionally, port representatives stated that other fishing associated businesses have come to depend on halibut starting in May.

Table 2. Projected seasons for each of the all-depth (AD) combined season start alternatives (grey shading). Chinook salmon and tuna seasons are based on when the fish generally arrive and the other seasons are based on regulations. SQ=status quo; P=proposal.

Expected seasons	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bottomfish												
Tuna												
Chinook S.												
Coho S.												
SQ (AD mid-May)												
P (AD early-June)												

South of Humbug Mountain Subarea

Managing the area between Humbug Mountain and the Oregon/California Border

Status quo: managed as part of the South of Humbug Mountain Subarea, includes all of California

Proposal 1: move the current South of Humbug Mountain Subarea quota to the area south of the Oregon/California border; subsume the Oregon portion of that former area into the Oregon Central Coast Subarea

Proposal 2a: move the current South of Humbug Mountain Subarea quota to the area south of the Oregon/California border: create a new Southern Oregon Subarea with its own allocation of 2 percent of the Oregon recreational allocation. This would eliminate the Central Coast summer all-depth fishery; the remaining 23 percent would be allocated to the nearshore fishery.

Proposal 2b: move the current South of Humbug Mountain Subarea quota to the area south of the Oregon/California border: create a new Southern Oregon Subarea with its own allocation equivalent to 2 percent of the Central Coast Subarea allocation, being deducted from the spring all-depth fishery. This

would reduce the Central Coast spring all-depth fishery to 61 percent of the subarea allocation.

ODFW recommends Proposal 2b. Splitting the South of Humbug Subarea at the Oregon/California border would eliminate logistical issues associated with aligning incompatible state regulatory processes (e.g., to change regulations inseason) and harvest estimation timeframes among the state marine creels (e.g., data available faster in Oregon). Further, splitting at the border would allow each state greater flexibility to manage their fishery to best fulfill the needs of their constituents.

The general consensus among anglers from both the Central Coast (100 percent at public meeting) and South of Humbug (100 percent at public meeting; 82 percent from online survey) Subareas was to keep that area separate (i.e., new Southern Oregon Subarea). To summarize the input from South of Humbug halibut anglers, they would “prefer to have their own small quota (2 percent of Central Coast) and be able to control the fishery to best suit their needs (by adjusting future seasons and regulations) than to have to compete with the Central Coast ports that have a competitive advantage due to generally calmer weather and high volume charter fleets”.

South of Humbug anglers were cautioned that the halibut season length would be highly uncertain if they remained separate, due to huge variation in weekly catches in past years (Figure 3). Additionally, that is possible that the fishery could close in one week; entire proposed quota (~4,000 pounds) was caught in one week in August 2013. To summarize their response, they are willing to live with that risk for next year, and if early closure does occur, then they will help craft regulations to prevent early closures in future years or seek additional quota from other Oregon subareas.

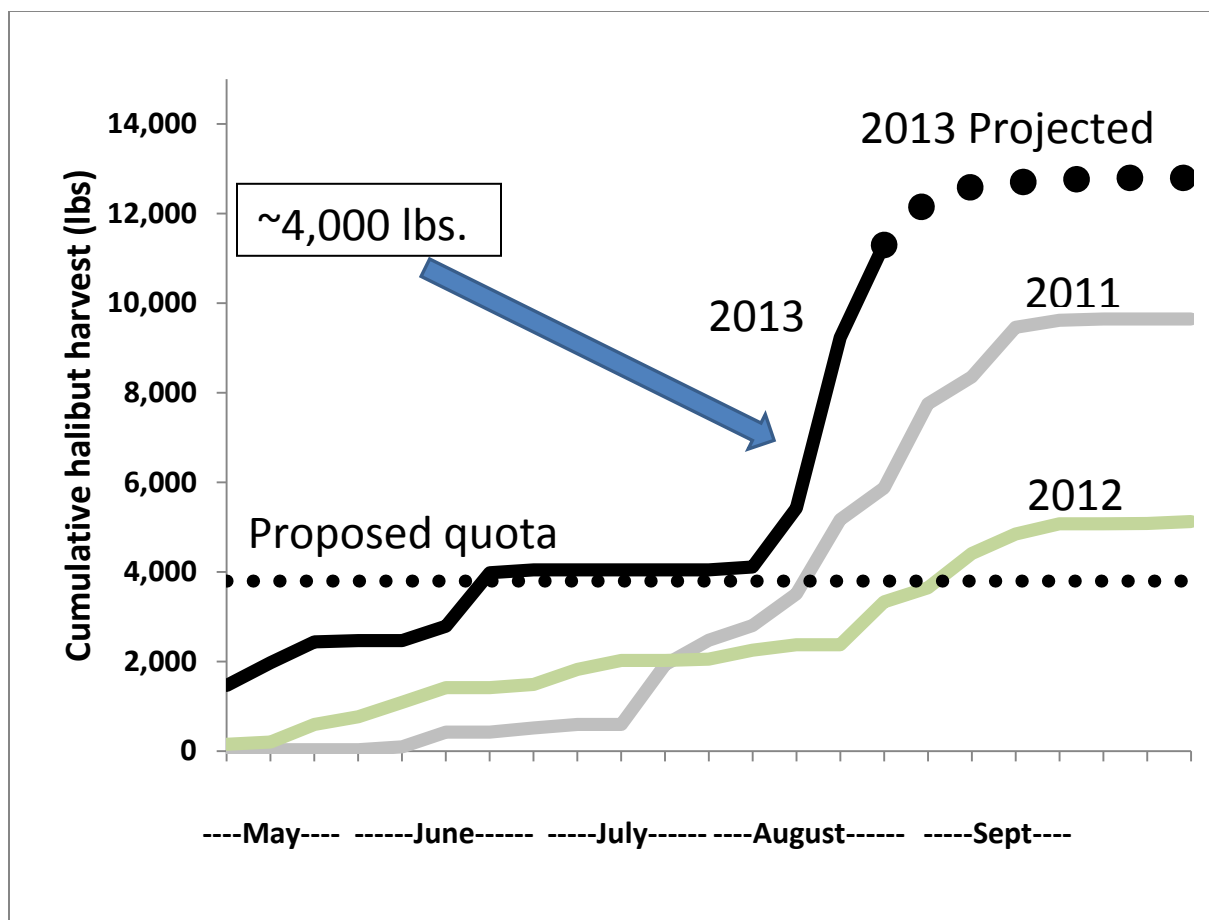


Figure 3. Cumulative halibut catches for the Oregon portion of the South of Humbug Subarea, 2011-2013. Prior to June 2011, annual catches were less than 500 lbs. and often times zero lbs.

Minor Language Change

ODFW recommends changing the language that “ODFW will sponsor a public workshop” to “ODFW will sponsor a public input process” after the IPHC annual meeting to set the Central Coast Subarea all-depth dates. Given recent low attendance at public meetings, and with the advancement of technology, ODFW would like the opportunity to use methods other than a public meeting or workshop to gather input.

Proposed Language Modifications for the CSP are as follows:

(b) ALLOCATIONS

This Plan allocates 35 percent of the Area 2A TAC to U.S. treaty Indian tribes in the State of Washington in subarea 2A-1, and 65 percent to non-Indian fisheries in Area 2A. The allocation to non-Indian fisheries is divided into ~~four~~ **three**-shares, with the Washington sport fishery (north of the Columbia River) receiving 36.6 percent, the Oregon/~~California~~ sport fishery receiving ~~31.7~~ **30.7** percent, the California sport fishery receiving 1.0 percent, and the commercial fishery receiving 31.7 percent. Allocations within the non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries are described in sections (e) and (f) of this Plan. These allocations may be changed if new information becomes available that indicates a change is necessary and/or the Pacific Fishery Management Council takes action to reconsider its allocation recommendations. Such changes will be made after appropriate rulemaking is completed and published in the *Federal Register*.

(c) SUBQUOTAS

The allocations in this Plan are distributed as subquotas to ensure that any overage or underage by any one group will not affect achievement of an allocation set aside for another group. The specific allocative measures in the treaty Indian, non-Indian commercial, and non-Indian sport fisheries in Area 2A are described in paragraphs (d) through (f) of this Plan.

- .
- .
- .
- .

(f) SPORT FISHERIES

The non-Indian sport fisheries are allocated 68.3 percent of the non-Indian share, which is approximately 44.4 percent of the Area 2A TAC. The allocation is further divided as subquotas among ~~seven~~ **six** geographic subareas.

- (1) Subarea management. The sport fishery is divided into ~~seven~~ **six** sport fishery subareas, each having separate allocations and management measures as follows.

- .
- .
- .

(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 is also allocated an amount equal to the contribution from the Washington sport allocation from the Oregon/~~California~~ sport

allocation. **The Columbia River subarea quota will be allocated as follows: 10 percent or 1,500 pounds, whichever is less, will be set aside to allow incidental halibut retention on bottomfish trips in the area shoreward of the 40 (or 30) fathom curve (73 m), with the remaining amount allocated such that 80 percent is reserved for an early season beginning in May.** 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 the first **Thursday Friday** in May or May 1 if it is a **Friday**, Saturday or Sunday, **3 4** days per week, **Thursday Friday** through Sunday until 80 percent of the subarea allocation is taken. The fishery will reopen on the first **Thursday Friday** in August and continue **3 4** days per week, **Thursday Friday**-Sunday until the remainder of the subarea quota has been taken, or until September 30, whichever is earlier. 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 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 taken and retained, possessed or landed, 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 **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. If the overall 2A TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater, 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, and provide a period of fishing opportunity in the summer for nearshore waters. If the overall 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt), the structuring objectives for this subarea are to provide a period of fishing opportunity beginning in Spring in productive deeper water areas along the coast, and provide a period of fishing opportunity in nearshore waters. Any poundage remaining unharvested in the Spring all-depth subquota will be added to either the Summer all-depth sub-quota or the nearshore subquota based on need, determined via joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS and ODFW. If the 2A TAC exceeds 700,000 pounds, any poundage that is not needed to extend the inside 40-fathom (73 m) fishery through 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 taken and retained,

possessed or landed, except sablefish and Pacific cod when allowed by groundfish regulations, if halibut are on board the vessel.

Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within the Stonewall Bank YRCA. The Stonewall Bank YRCA is an area off central Oregon, near Stonewall Bank, and is defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates.

Coordinates for the Stonewall Bank YRCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70 (f) and will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register*.

ODFW will sponsor a public **input process 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 ~~second~~ **first** season (Spring fishery) is an all-depth fishery with two potential openings and is allocated 63 percent of the subarea quota if the TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater, or 75 percent of the subarea quota if the subarea if the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt). **Two percent of the allocation for this fishery is allocated to the Southern Oregon Subarea under either scenario.** 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. 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 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 may 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) may 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 is earlier if the 2A TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater. If the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) the fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota for an additional day of fishing or October 31, whichever is earlier.

B. The first ~~second~~ season (nearshore fishery) opens ~~the first Thursday in May or on May 1 if it is a Friday or Saturday, 3 7 days per week the day Thursday through Saturday,~~ only in waters inside the 40-fathom (73 m) curve. **This fishery will begin when not enough quota remains in the spring all-depth fishery for additional back-up dates.** The fishery continues until the subquota is taken, or until October 31, whichever is earlier and is allocated 12 percent of the subarea quota if the 2A TAC is above 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater or 25 percent of the subarea quota if the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt). Any overage in the all-depth fisheries would not affect achievement of allocation set aside for the inside 40-fathom (73 m) curve fishery. ~~On or after August 15, the IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW will consult to determine whether increasing the inside of 40-fathom fishery open days per week is warranted, with the intent that the subquota for the inside 40-fathom fishery is taken by October 31.~~

C. The third season (summer fishery) is an all-depth fishery that begins on the first Friday in August and is allocated 25 percent of the subarea quota if the 2A TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater. If the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) then 0 percent of the subarea quota will be allocated to this season. The fishery will be structured to be open every other week on Friday and Saturday except that week(s) may be skipped to avoid adverse tidal conditions. The fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen for another fishing day or October 31, whichever is earlier. The potential open Fridays and Saturdays 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 and Saturday (versus every other Friday and Saturday), 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. If after the 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 and the fishery is not already open every Friday and Saturday, the fishery will re-open on every Friday and Saturday (versus every other Friday and Saturday), if determined to be appropriate through joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW. After the Labor Day weekend, the IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW will consult to determine whether increasing the Oregon Central 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 taken by September 30, the season will remain open, maintaining the bag limit in effect at that time, through October 31 or quota attainment, whichever is earlier. The inseason action will be announced by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline.

(vi) Southern Oregon Subarea

This sport fishery is allocated 2.0 percent of the Oregon Central Coast Subarea spring all-depth allocation. This area is defined as the area south of Humbug Mountain, OR (42° 40.50' N. lat.) to the Oregon/California Border (42° 00.00' N. lat.). This fishery will open May 1, seven days per week until the subquota is taken, or October 31, whichever is earlier. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit.

(vii vi) South of Humbug Mountain California subarea.

This sport fishery subarea is allocated ~~1.0~~ **3.0** percent of ~~the non-Indian allocation. the Oregon/California subquota which is approximately 0.62 percent of the Area 2A TAC.~~ This area is defined as the area south of the Oregon/California Border (42° 00.00' N. lat.) 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 preseason 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.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON PROPOSED
CHANGES TO THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR
THE 2014 FISHERY

At the September 2013 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) discussed a range of alternatives to reduce the recreational catch of Pacific halibut in the South of Humbug Management Subarea (SOH). The proposed alternatives put out by the Council for public review were based on the recommendations of the South of Humbug Pacific Halibut Policy Committee Report¹ (Policy Committee), which included the intent to reduce catches in California's recreational fishery by 40 to 60 percent from the latest five-year average. Interested parties who attended the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) July 18, 2013 public meeting were notified by email that the alternatives recommended by the Council were available for public review, and additional input was received from constituents. Considering this input, CDFW recommends the following changes to sections (b) ALLOCATIONS and (f) SPORT FISHERIES of the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for 2014.

California Allocation

CDFW recommends modifications to the CSP language that create a new subarea management line at the Oregon/California border (42° N. Latitude), and provide a separate recreational allocation for California. The boundary change and separate allocation were the only measures proposed for 2014 that had widespread support from constituents providing comments. Based on the Council's proposed alternatives, the 2014 California allocation would be equal to 1 percent of the non-Indian allocation (as described in Agenda Item G.1.a Attachment 2), based on converting the South of Humbug portion of the combined Oregon/California recreational allocation to a stand-alone California allocation. Additional strikeout language will be required throughout the CSP to update references to the Oregon/California sport allocation by identifying them as either Oregon or California sport allocations, as appropriate.

Proposed Changes to the CSP language:

(b) ALLOCATIONS

This Plan allocates 35 percent of the Area 2A TAC to U.S. treaty Indian tribes in the State of Washington in subarea 2A-1, and 65 percent to non-Indian fisheries in Area 2A. The allocation to non-Indian fisheries is divided into ~~three~~ four shares, with the Washington sport fishery (north of the Columbia River) receiving 36.6 percent, the Oregon/~~California~~ sport fishery receiving ~~31.7~~ 30.7 percent, the California sport fishery receiving 1 percent, and the commercial fishery receiving 31.7 percent. Allocations within the non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries are described in sections (e) and (f) of this Plan.

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¹ http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/D2b_SOH_POLICY_COMMITTEE_SEPT2013BB.pdf

Management Measures

CDFW recommends reducing the 2014 open season dates off California to May 1 through July 31, and September 1 through October 31 (Alternative 3a from September 2013 Agenda Item D.2.b, SOH Workgroup Report²). Based on the Workgroup's analysis, closing the month of August will result in a projected catch reduction of 39 percent. Existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Northern California waters are also expected to contribute to the potential catch reduction by up to an additional three percent. In combination, these measures are projected by the Workgroup's analysis to reduce catches off California by approximately 42 percent, meeting the Policy Committee's recommended goal of reducing catch off California by 40-60 percent.

During their September discussion, the Council noted that the 40 to 60 percent reduction in catch recommended by the Policy Committee would still result in a potential harvest of almost double the subarea quota amount for 2013 (6,063 lbs). The Council requested guidance from the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding anticipated actions on the part of these agencies in the event that the California allocation is exceeded for 2014, as would be expected based on projections. The direction provided from both agencies indicated that management of the SOH area, and in particular California, was expected to be undertaken in a stepwise manner. While the proposed 2014 management measures may still result in catches that exceed the proposed 2014 California allocation, action to reduce catches by 40 to 60 percent was viewed as meeting the goal of making forward progress. In addition, it was noted that harvest amounts in other subareas of 2A are often at or under the allocated amount, providing enough buffer that there would be no conservation risk to Pacific halibut should catches in the new California subarea exceed the quota.

There was a wide range in public comments concerning which, if any, of the proposed management measures to reduce catches should be adopted for 2014. This lack of consensus was likely a result of the apparently disproportionate impacts the various measures would have on particular ports or fishery sectors [private boats or Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFVs) —see below]. Some supported doing nothing in 2014 beyond moving the boundary, and taking an approach similar to that used for 2013. However, a majority of those supporting some action to reduce catches in 2014 would support the August closure. This alternative maximizes time on the water, while also providing for some opportunity during the critical summer months. Given the projected catches meet the Policy Committee's reduction goal, and considering the significant impacts some communities may experience from this action, CDFW is not recommending additional measures be implemented for 2014. [Other alternatives receiving comments in support either don't provide adequate savings when applied alone (e.g., prohibiting salmon retention) or result in substantially fewer available fishing days (day of week closures) during the open season.]

CDFW considered the potential for anglers to shift fishing effort to open months during the season as a result of an August closure, and does not expect a significant re-distribution of effort due to the nature or limitations of tourism and summer vacation seasons, availability of

² http://www.pcouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/D2b_SOH_WORKGROUP_SEPT2013BB.pdf

necessary infrastructure, and weather. The north coast depends on fishing-related tourism during the peak summer months of July and August to support local businesses and many visitors to Northern California ports do not have the flexibility to schedule their trips earlier or later in the year. In addition, two major port areas for Pacific halibut fishing on the north coast (Trinidad and Shelter Cove, see Figure 1) have temporary launching services and/or facilities that are dependent on the demand for their services during the tourist season. It is typical for these launching services (e.g., private launch ramps or tractors) to be closed or removed by mid-September, which is expected to prevent a significant shift of effort into the later part of the open season. Weather patterns and rough seas are variable, unpredictable, and frequent on the north coast, which generally restricts boat anglers' activities during the spring and early summer, and again in the fall. So, poor weather also prevents effort shifts to other times of the year.

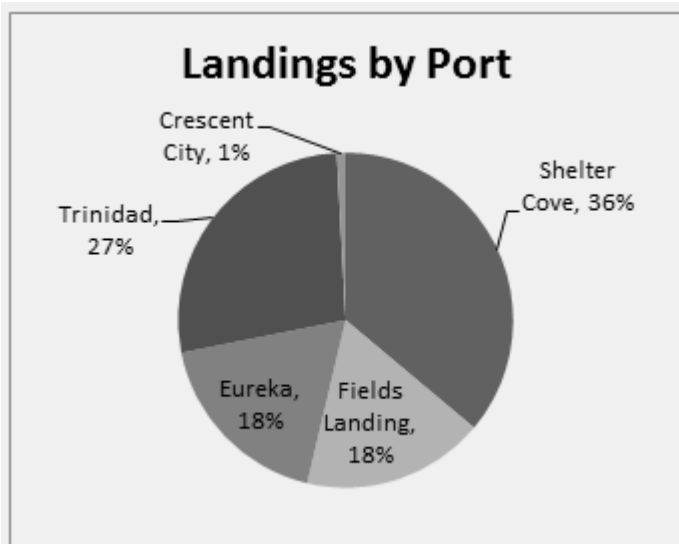


Figure 1. California Recreational Fisheries Survey average proportion of estimated catch of Pacific halibut by private boats and port area from 2008 to 2011 in net pounds. Private boats represent approximately 86% of the total Pacific halibut recreational catch off California.

Closing Pacific halibut fishing in August is expected to have a considerable impact on the North Coast communities, on top of the continued impacts from restrictive groundfish management measures already in place for the recreational fishery. CDFW received reports that Trinidad and Shelter Cove launching services, which are the only way for private boats to utilize these ports, are heavily dependent on July and August for their annual income. August revenues accounted for approximately 40 percent or more of their income, which directly corresponds to available fishing opportunities. Some CPFVs also rely on the launching services, and may be financially impacted by reduced fishing opportunities resulting from an August closure.

Proposed Changes to the CSP:

(f) SPORT FISHERIES

(vi) ~~South of Humbug Mountain subarea.~~ California subarea

This sport fishery subarea is allocated ~~3.0~~ 1.0 percent of the ~~Oregon/California Subquota non-Indian allocation~~. This area is defined as the area south of ~~Humbug Mountain, OR (42°40.50' N. lat.)~~ the Oregon/California border (42° N. Latitude), including all 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 July 31, and September 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, this fixed season will be established preseason by NMFS based on projected 2014 seasonal catch; ~~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.

...

Recommendations for Future CSP Modifications Beyond 2014

CDFW views the proposed 2014 CSP amendments as only the first step in establishing a California allocation that is grounded in science and based on data, and supports the Council's expressed intent at the September 2013 meeting to further consider an appropriate California allocation for use in 2015 and beyond. California is interested in engaging with the other states to explore the prospect of using the new survey data and other sources of survey, catch and bycatch information to inform future discussions regarding allocation decisions. The new IPHC research survey stations surveyed off northern California in 2013 will contribute to an abundance index for Area 2A, which will be used in the assessment and apportionment process to ultimately determine the 2014 Area 2A Total Allowable Catch. In addition, information from the survey should provide evidence of the distribution of Pacific halibut off California in relation to the other states. Because the IPHC has indicated there may be budget constraints that prevent the northern California stations from being surveyed annually, CDFW is also interested in considering other approaches to examine and possibly inform the apportionment process to ensure that future allocation discussions appropriately reflect the contribution of Pacific halibut biomass from California.

Summary of Recommendations for the 2014 CSP:

- CDFW recommends modifications to the CSP language that create a new subarea management line at the Oregon/California border (42° N. Latitude), providing a separate recreational allocation for California equal to one percent of the non-tribal allocation for 2014.
- CDFW recommends reducing the 2014 fishery season to May 1 through July 31 and September 1 through October 31 (Alternative 3a from September 2013 Agenda Item D.2.b SOH Workgroup Report). In combination with savings from the implementation of new marine protected areas, this action is expected to provide a projected catch reduction of 42 percent.

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON 2014 PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) heard presentations from Ms. Heather Reed, Ms. Lynn Mattes and Ms. Deb Wilson-Vandenberg about potential changes to the halibut catch-sharing plan for Area 2A.

In general, the GAP agrees with the recommendations from the Departments of Fish and Wildlife from Washington and Oregon but is concerned about recommendations for California. Specifically:

Washington and Oregon: The GAP supports the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) proposed changes, which address concerns brought forward previously about the Columbia River Subarea and northern Washington..

Central Oregon: The GAP requests a change to the start date for the nearshore fishery to a standard July 1 opening. This would alleviate some of the uncertainty of when the nearshore fishery opens.

South of Humbug Mountain, Oregon: The GAP supports separate management for this area, with the understanding it will be allocated 2 percent of the Oregon quota and close completely when the quota is achieved.

California: The GAP understands this is a particularly tough situation, with no clear consensus among the stakeholders at public meetings about whether to use a days-of-the-week option or a complete closure in August.

GAP members discussed this in September as well and urged the Council to consider a days-of-the-week option that would lessen the socio-economic impact to the ports of Shelter Cove and Trinidad. We believe this is the best option. These kinds of management measures have worked in other states; it should work in California as well.

August is critical to these small ports, which have invested in public launch facilities and require use to make the ports break even. The highest halibut landings are in August (see page 14, [Agenda Item D.2.b., South of Humbug Workgroup report from September 2013](#)). Halibut has become so prevalent that sport fishermen visit the northern California coast specifically to target them. This is a significant change; in the past, most recreational fishermen targeted salmon.

To reach the target savings in California without closing August, the GAP references alternatives that were analyzed in September (see: [Agenda Item D.2.b., Supplemental South of Humbug Workgroup PowerPoint](#)), changing the combinations of Alternatives 1, 3 and 4 to achieve the 40 percent target. These recommendations are:

- Use the no salmon retention from Alternative 1, which would provide a 19 percent reduction;
- Close June instead of August, from Alternative 3, which results in a savings of 18.5 percent; and
- Take the 2.98 percent reduction from Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Alternative 4.

Mathematically, these savings add up to equal the reductions that would be achieved by an August block closure. However, these would support the small ports, tribes and related businesses that depend on halibut sport fishing.

The GAP notes these are not easy decisions, and we look forward to the survey information to better inform future halibut management issues, particularly in California. Until we have the survey data in hand, it's difficult to come up with a biological reason to justify the August block closure and that this will be a multi-year process.

[PFMC](#)
[11/02/13](#)

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ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA

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Agenda Item G.1.b
Supplemental IPHC Report
November 2013

October 25, 2013

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-7204

Re: PFMC November 2013 meeting, Agenda item G: Pacific halibut management

Dear Chairperson Lowman:


The staff of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) notes the Council's upcoming actions regarding proposed changes to the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. We specifically wish to comment on the proposals for the South of Humbug (SOH) sport fishery subarea.

First, let me say that we appreciate the work of the Council and state agencies in addressing management of the sport fishery off southern Oregon and northern California. The Council has been responsive to the concerns expressed by the Commission and we believe our joint efforts on this issue have been beneficial to all parties. The IPHC has certainly benefitted from these efforts, as we have used this opportunity to learn more about the portion of the stock off northern CA. In addition, the expansion of our survey into northern CA has been useful in learning more about the southern range of the species and this knowledge will help inform our future dialogue with the Council.

The Council will be considering proposals to revise the SOH subarea and possibly respecify the allocation amounts. We realize these changes may, in some cases, entail substantial impacts to what has been the current practice for the area's users and we recognize that the Council may choose to adopt necessary management adjustments incrementally over the next year or two. While we expect the Council to manage these fisheries to their respective allocations, we support the direction in which the Council is proceeding.

A member of the IPHC staff will be attending the meeting and will be available to answer any questions the Council may have.

Sincerely,



Bruce M Leaman
Executive Director

cc: IPHC Commissioners

REPORT ON THE 2013 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES IN AREA 2A
(10/23/2013)

The 2013 Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) of 990,000 lbs set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was allocated as follows:

Treaty Tribes	346,500 lbs (35%)
Non-Tribal Total	643,500 lbs (65%)
Non-Tribal Commercial	225,400 lbs
Washington Sport	214,110 lbs
Oregon/California Sport	203,990 lbs

All weights in this report are net weight (gutted, head-off, and without ice and slime.) The structure of each fishery and the resulting harvests are described below. Refer to the table at the end of this report for the catches by the tribal, commercial and recreational fisheries.

NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

A quota of 225,400 lbs (31.7% of the non-tribal share + 21,410 lbs for incidental halibut catch in the sablefish primary fishery) was allocated to two fishery components: 1) a directed longline fishery targeting on halibut south of Point Chehalis, WA; and 2) an incidental catch fishery during the salmon troll fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California. An additional 21,410 lbs were allocated to an incidental catch fishery in the sablefish primary fishery for vessels using longline gear north of Point Chehalis, WA. This allowance for the sablefish primary fishery is only available in years when the overall Area 2A TAC exceeds 900,000 lbs and is taken from the portion of the Washington sport allocation that is above 214,110, as long as the amount is at least 10,000 lbs.

Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery

A quota of 30,600 lbs of Pacific halibut (15% of the non-tribal commercial fishery allocation) was allocated to the non-tribal commercial salmon troll fishery in Area 2A as incidental catch during salmon troll fisheries. During the development of the 2013 Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) the management objective for this fishery was changed from May-June to April-June. This change was made in anticipation of the 2014 pre-may salmon fisheries not for the 2013 fisheries. Therefore, in 2013 halibut retention was allowed beginning May 1, even though the CSP had already been amended to reflect the April-June timing.

If any of the allocation for this fishery remains after June 30, the fishery may continue to retain incidentally caught halibut in the salmon troll fisheries until the quota is taken. The final catch ratio established preseason by the Council at the April 2013 meeting was one halibut (minimum 32 inches) per three Chinook landed by a salmon troller, except that one halibut could be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 15 halibut could be landed per open period. Fishing with salmon troll gear is prohibited within the Salmon Troll Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) off the northern Washington Coast. Additionally, the "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA off Washington is designated as an area to be avoided (a voluntary closure) by salmon trollers.

- Halibut retention was permitted in the salmon troll fisheries began on May 1, 2013, with the following ratio: 1 halibut per each 3 Chinook, except that 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 15 halibut may be possessed or landed per trip.
- Beginning August 1, 2013, the ratio was changed to 1 halibut per each 3 Chinook, except that 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 5 halibut may be possessed or landed per trip. The goal of this change was to extend the opportunity through the summer.
- As of August 6, 2013, 30,301 lbs were landed.
- The fishery closed on August 8 in the area north of Cape Falcon, Oregon, and on August 10 in the area south of Cape Falcon, Oregon.

Directed fishery targeting on halibut

A quota of 173,390 lbs (85% of the non-tribal commercial fishery allocation) was allocated to the directed longline fishery targeting on halibut in southern Washington, Oregon, and California. The fishery was confined to the area south of Subarea 2A-1 (south of Point Chehalis, WA; 46°53.30' N. lat.). In addition, there are closed areas along the coast defined by depth contours. Between the U.S./Canada border and 40°10' N. lat the western boundary is defined by a line approximating the 100 fm depth contour. The eastern boundary is defined as follows: Between the U.S./Canada border and 46°16' N. lat., the boundary is the shoreline. Between 46°16' N. lat. and 43°00' N. lat, the boundary is the line approximating the 30 fm depth contour. Between 43°00' N. lat and 42°00' N. lat the boundary is the line approximating the 20 fm depth contour. Between 42°00' N. lat and 40°10' N. lat the boundary is the 20 fm depth contour. One-day fishing periods of 10 hours in duration were scheduled every other week by the IPHC starting June 26, 2013. A 32 inch minimum size limit with the head on was in effect for all openings. Vessel landing limits per fishing period based on vessel length were imposed by IPHC during all openings as shown in the following table. Vessels choosing to operate in this fishery could not land halibut in the incidental catch salmon troll fishery, nor operate in the recreational fishery.

2013 fishing period limits (dressed weight, head-off without ice and slime in pounds) by vessel size.

Vessel Class/Size	June 26 Opening	July 10 Opening
A 0 - 25 ft.	755 lbs	250 lbs
B 26 - 30 ft.	945 lbs	315 lbs
C 31 - 35 ft.	1,510 lbs	505 lbs
D 36 - 40 ft.	4,165 lbs	1,390 lbs
E 41 - 45 ft.	4,480 lbs	1,495 lbs
F 46 - 50 ft.	5,365 lbs	1,790 lbs
G 51 - 55 ft.	5,985 lbs	1,995 lbs
H 56+ ft.	9,000 lbs	3,000 lbs

- The June 26 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of about 118,000 lbs, leaving approximately 55,390 lbs.

- The July 10 directed commercial opening resulted in an approximate catch of 55,000 lbs. The fishery closed following the July 10 opening.

Incidental halibut catch in the sablefish primary longline fishery north of Point Chehalis A quota of 21,410 lbs was allocated to the limited entry sablefish primary fishery in Area 2A as an incidental catch during longline sablefish operations north of Point Chehalis, WA. The sablefish primary season is open from April 1 to October 31, although incidental halibut retention was not permitted until May 1. Vessels with a groundfish limited entry permit endorsed for both longline gear and with a sablefish tier were permitted to retain up to 75 lbs (dressed weight) of halibut per 1,000 lbs (dressed weight) of sablefish and up to 2 additional halibut in excess of the landing limit ratio. The fishery is confined to an area seaward of a boundary line approximating the 100-fm depth contour. Fishing is also prohibited in the North Coast Commercial YRCA, an area off the northern Washington coast. In addition, the "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA off Washington is designated as an area to be avoided (a voluntary closure) by commercial longline sablefish fishermen.

- Through October 10, 2013, this fishery is estimated to have taken 11,285 lbs.

SPORT FISHERIES (Non-tribal)

418,101 lbs (68.3% of non-tribal share, minus 21,410 lbs allocated to the sablefish primary fishery from the Washington sport allocation) was allocated between sport fisheries in the Washington area (36.6%) and Oregon/California (31.7%). The allocations were further subdivided as quotas among six geographic subareas as described below. Unless otherwise noted the daily bag limit in all subareas was one halibut of any size, per person, per day.

Washington Inside Waters Subarea (Puget Sound and Straits of Juan de Fuca).

This area was allocated 57,393 lbs (23.5% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs). Due to inability to monitor the catch in this area inseason, a fixed season was established preseason based on projected catch per day and number of days to achieve the sub-quota. The Puget Sound eastern sub-area, east of Low Point, was open for two 3-day periods on May 2-4 and May 16-18 (Thursday-Saturday), one 4-day period on May 23-26, Thursday-Sunday, and one 2-day period on May 30-31 (Thursday-Friday). The fishing season in western Puget Sound (west of 123°49.50' W. long., Low Point) is open May 23-26, Thursday – Sunday, and May 30-June 1, Thursday-Saturday and one day on Saturday June 8.

- The estimates for total catch in this area are not yet available.

Northern Washington Coastal Waters Subarea (landings in Neah Bay and La Push).

The coastal area off Cape Flattery to Queets River was allocated 108,030 lbs (62.2% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,945 lbs and 224,110 lbs). The fishery was open for four days (May 9, 11, 16, 18, 2013). The "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA, southwest of Cape Flattery, was closed to sport halibut fishing.

- The estimated total catch for this area is 107,856 lbs, leaving 174 lbs.

Washington South Coast Subarea (landings in Westport)

The area from the Queets River to Leadbetter Point was allocated 42,740 lbs (12.3% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery and 32% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs). This subarea operates with a primary fishery and a nearshore fishery. The primary fishery was open May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, and closed after the 19th. The nearshore fishery was open

every day between May 5 and 19, 2013.

The nearshore fishery occurs in waters between the Queets River and 47°25.00' N. lat. south to 46°58.00' N. lat., and east of 124°30.00' W. long. The south coast subarea quota was allocated as follows: 2,000 lbs to the nearshore fishery and the remaining lbs (40,740 lbs) to the primary fishery.

- The estimated total catch for this area is 42,085 lbs, leaving 653 lbs.

Columbia River Subarea (Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon)

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 11,895 lbs, consisting of 2.0% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 4.0% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 lbs and 224,110 lbs, minus 21,410, (which is the amount allocated to incidental take in the sablefish primary fishery), and an equal amount from the Oregon/California sport allocation.

The fishery opened May 3 and closed September 30, 2013.

- The early fishery was open May 3 to July 28 with an estimated catch of 4,725 lbs.
- Catch during the early season resulted in underage of 4,791 lbs, which was added to the late season quota, for a revised late season quota of 7,170 lbs.
- The late season fishery opened August 2 and continued until September 30.
- Through September 30 the estimated late season total catch is 1,743 lbs.

Oregon Central Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain).

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 191,979 lbs (97% of the Oregon/California sport allocation).

Three seasons were set for this subarea: 1) a restricted depth (inside 40-fm) fishery commenced on May 2 and continued 3 days a week (Thursday-Saturday) until July 26; 2) a fixed Spring season in all depths that was open on May 9-11, 16-18, May 30-June 1, 6-8, 20-22, and; 3) a Summer season in all depths that was open on August 2-3.

- The inside 40-fathom fishery closed on July 26 with an estimated total catch of 22,248 lbs. This was a 790 lbs underage which was added to the summer quota.
- The fixed Spring all-depth season closed on June 22 with an estimated total catch of 145,167 lbs. This resulted in an overage of 24,220 lbs which was deducted from the summer quota.
- The initial Summer all-depth season quota of 47,995 lbs, was revised by the 790 lbs nearshore underage and the 24,220 lbs spring overage resulting in a revised summer quota of 24,565 lbs.
- The Summer all-depth fishery was open August 2-3, and resulted in an estimated catch of 27,069 lbs. This was a 2,504 lbs overage.
- The summer fishery closed on August 3rd.

South of Humbug Mountain, Oregon and off the California Coast Subarea

This sport fishery was allocated 6,063 lbs (3.0% of the Oregon/California quota). This area had a pre-set season of 7 days per week from May 1 to October 31.

- This season is scheduled to remain open through October 31. No total catch estimates are available for this fishery.

TRIBAL FISHERIES

346,500 lbs (35% of the Area 2A TAC) was allocated to tribal fisheries. The tribes estimated that 32,200 lbs would be used for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries and the remaining 314,300 lbs were allocated to the commercial fishery. The 2013 management plan was based on a court-order, to use the 2000 season plan, updated to reflect the current allocation and management measures. It contains

provisions for both unrestricted fisheries with no landing limits and restricted fisheries with limits as well as a late season or mop-up fishery that can be set up to have no landing limits or with limits, toward the end of the season.

The unrestricted fishery began at noon on March 23 and lasted 48 hours. The unrestricted fishery landed 221,463 lbs in 309 landings.

The restricted fishery had two openers with each tribe choosing to participate in one or the other. The first began at noon on April 3 and lasted 36 hours. This fishery was managed with a landing limit, set at 500 lbs/vessel/day. A makeup restricted fishery was setup on April 15 for 36 hours and it also had a landing limit of 500 lbs/vessel/day for those tribes that did not participate in the earlier opener. There was a total of 74,667 lbs taken in 259 landings during both restricted fisheries.

The first late season fishery (mop-up fishery) took place beginning at noon on May 8 and continued for 12 hours. This late season fishery had a landing limit of 150 lbs. The fishery landed 5783 lbs in 54 landings. A second late season fishery took place on June 6 for 12 hours. The landing limit for this fishery was 200 lbs. The fishery landed 3,572 lbs in 25 landings. A third late season fishery opened on July 13 and continued for 12 hours with a 200 lb landing limit. This fishery landed 471 lbs in 7 landings.

The remaining 8,344 lbs of halibut was allocated by mutual agreement of the halibut tribes to the Quinault Indian Nation to harvest in a special fishery for the 2013 canoe journey that Quinault was hosting this year. The special fishery landed 7,547 lbs in 3 landings.

In all, Treaty tribal fisheries harvested 313,503 lbs in 657 landings. This was an underage of 797 lbs below the commercial allocation. The C&S fishery will continue through December 31 and tribal estimates of catch will be reported by the tribes in January 2014.

Fishery	Dates Held	Pounds Landed	# of Landings
Unrestricted	March 23-25 (48 hr.)	221,463 lbs	309 landings
Restricted, 500 lbs/vessel/day	April 3-4 and April 15-16 (36 hr.)	74,667 lbs	259 landings
Late Season (Mop Up)	May 8, June 6, July 13 (12 hr.)	9,826 lbs	86 landings
Special Fishery	July 22-Aug. 3	7,547 lbs	3 landings
Total		313,503 lbs	657 landings

2013 Area 2A TAC and Catch (in pounds)		(Preliminary data as of 10/23/2013)			
	Quota	Inseason Revised Quota		Catch	% of Quota Taken
TRIBAL INDIAN	346,500			313,503	90.5
Commercial	314,300			313,503	99.7
Ceremonial and Subsistence	32,200			%	0.0
NON-TRIBAL	643,500			571,947	88.9
COMMERCIAL	225,400			214,586	95.2
Troll	30,600			30,301	99.0
Sablefish incidental	21,410			11,285	%
Directed	173,390			173,000	99.8
SPORT	418,101			350,893	83.9
WA Sport	214,110			149,941	70.0
OR/CA Sport	203,990			194,484	95.3
WA Inside Waters	57,393			*	0.0
WA North Coast	108,030			107,856	99.8
WA South Coast	42,740			42,085	98.5
Columbia River	11,895			6,468	54.4
Early Season	9,516			4,725	49.7
Late Season	2,379	7,170		1,743	24.3
OR Central Coast	191,979			194,484	101.3
Inside 40 fathoms	23,038			22,248	96.6
Spring (May-June)	120,947			145,167	120.0
Summer (August- October)	47,995	27,279		27,069	99.2
OR S. of Humbug/CA	6,063			%	0.0
TOTAL	990,000			885,450	89.4

* Complete data not available

% This fishery is ongoing

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CATCH SHARING PLAN AND 2014 ANNUAL REGULATIONS

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) held a recreational halibut meeting in Montesano, on October 7, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposed changes to the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC) Catch Sharing Plan for 2014, and refine the proposals adopted for public review at the September PFMC meeting.

We recommend the following changes to the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2014, section (f) SPORT FISHERIES. These changes are consistent with those adopted by the Council for public review.

Washington North Coast Subarea

For this subarea implement the following changes:

1. WDFW recommends revising the CSP language to more clearly describe the management closure and remove the provision for a nearshore fishery when there is not enough quota for another off-shore fishing day.

Rationale: A management closure during the third week following the season opening has been used for several years. The closure provides WDFW time to tally the early season catch against the quota and provide sufficient notice to stakeholders regarding additional fishing days. The closure also has the potential to increase the chances that the fishery will extend into June provided there is sufficient quota. The provision to allow a nearshore fishery has not been used for several years due to increased impacts to yelloweye rockfish that occur when the halibut fishery is directed to the nearshore area. Clarifying the language regarding the closure and removing the nearshore fishery language from the CSP plan would better match the intent of the management approach for this subarea.

Columbia River Subarea (Washington and Oregon)

For this subarea implement the following changes:

1. Revise the days of the week that the season is open from Friday through Sunday to Thursday through Sunday. Changing the days of the week that the fishery is open would also require changing the early season opening date from the first Friday in May to the first Thursday in May. The late season opening date would change from the first Friday in August to the first Thursday in August.

Rationale: This change would allow for more fishing opportunity in an area where the total season catch has been below the set aside. There is wide spread support for this proposal.

2. Revise the subarea allocation such that 1,500 pounds or 10% of the subarea allocation, whichever is less, is set aside for incidental catch in the nearshore area with the remaining allocation divided such that 80 percent is reserved for the early season and 20 percent is reserved for the late season. Groundfish retention with halibut onboard would be allowed seven days per week in the nearshore area. Groundfish, except Pacific cod and sablefish, would continue to be prohibited when halibut are onboard seaward of this line. The nearshore area would extend from Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon, OR. The coordinates for the nearshore area off Washington are (Figure 1):

46°38.17' N. lat., 124°15.88' W. long.

46°16.00' N. lat., 124°15.88' W. long.

The intent is to connect to the 30 or 40 fathom depth contour off Oregon.

Rationale: This change would allow for halibut that are currently being caught incidentally while anglers are targeting bottomfish in the nearshore area to be retained. Halibut fishing effort in this area has been low in recent years and reserving some of the subarea allocation for incidental catch should not reduce the number of fishing days available to the early and late seasons. While the vast majority of halibut are caught deeper than 50 fathoms, WDFW data does show some discarded halibut in the area shallower than 40 fathoms. Allowing incidental halibut retention in the nearshore area will convert discarded fish into retained fish and improve the recreational fishing experience in this area.

Figure 1. Proposed nearshore area in the Washington portion of the Columbia River subarea



Proposals Considered but Rejected

North Coast Subarea:

1. Revise the days of the week that the fishery is open so that the fishery is open on Saturdays only after the first week of fishing which maintains the status quo open days per week of Thursday and Saturday.

Rationale: Changing the season structure to only one day per week after the first week of fishing would likely not extend the length of the season or address the derby nature of this fishery. While some anglers were in favor of the change, the majority of anglers supported the status quo season structure. The ports of Neah Bay and La Push are remote for most Washington residents and, when faced with only one day per week to fish for halibut, anglers may shift their effort to other areas. Most coastal and Puget Sound subareas are also experiencing high fishing effort and reduced seasons, this proposal could simply shift the problem to other subareas. Safety could also be an issue when anglers are faced with marginal ocean conditions and have only one day for

halibut fishing per week.

Columbia River Subarea:

3. Revise the bottomfish restrictions in this subarea such that lingcod retention would be allowed when halibut are onboard according to one of the following three options:
 - Allow lingcod retention when halibut are on board on Thursdays through Sundays from the first Thursday in May until the first Thursday in August or, until 80 percent of the subarea allocation is taken whichever occurs first, in the area seaward of 30 fathoms.
 - Allow lingcod retention when halibut are on board seven days per week in the area shoreward of 30 fathoms.
 - Allow lingcod retention throughout the entire halibut season.

Rationale: This change would allow lingcod to be retained when halibut are onboard during a portion of the Columbia River halibut season. Currently lingcod that are caught when halibut are onboard are discarded. However, allowing lingcod retention would likely increase encounters with yelloweye rockfish and potentially increase catch for both Washington and Oregon where very little buffer exists.

Proposed changes to the CSP language

(f) SPORT FISHERIES

The non-Indian sport fisheries are allocated 68.3 percent of the non-Indian share, which is approximately 44.4 percent of the Area 2A TAC. The allocation is further divided as subquotas among six geographic subareas.

- (1) Subarea management. The sport fishery is divided into six sport fishery subareas, each having separate allocations and management measures as follows.

(ii) Washington north coast subarea.

WDFW Proposed CSP Changes for the North Coast Subarea:

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 62.2 percent of the first 130,845 lb (59.4 mt) allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32 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 is defined as all U.S. waters west of the mouth of the Sekiu River, as defined above in paragraph (f)(1)(i), and north of the Queets River (47°31.70' N. lat.). The management objective for this subarea is to provide a quality recreational fishing opportunity during May and June. The fishery will open on the first Thursday between May 9 and 15, and continue 2 days per week (Thursday and Saturday) in May ~~for two weeks, with as scheduled pre-season, unless there is~~ a quota management closure ~~scheduled for the third week.~~ scheduled for the third week. ~~If there is no quota management closure in May, If sufficient quota remains,~~ the fishery will reopen on the ~~first following~~ Thursday ~~or Saturday in June as an all-depth fishery on Thursdays and Saturdays as long as sufficient~~ or Saturday.

~~quota remains. This schedule allows~~ Subsequent openings will be scheduled to allow adequate public notice of any inseason action before each ~~Thursday~~ opening. ~~If there is not sufficient quota for an all depth day, the fishery would reopen in the nearshore areas described below:~~

~~WDFW Marine Catch Area 4B, which is all waters west of the Sekiu River mouth, as defined by a line extending from 48°17.30' N. lat., 124°23.70' W. long. north to 48°24.10' N. lat., 124°23.70' W. long., to the Bonilla Tatoosh line, as defined by a line connecting the light on Tatoosh Island, WA, with the light on Bonilla Point on Vancouver Island, British Columbia (at 48°35.73' N. lat., 124°43.00' W. long.) south of the International Boundary between the U.S. and Canada (at 48°29.62' N. lat., 124°43.55' W. long.), and north of the point where that line intersects with the boundary of the U.S. territorial sea.~~

~~Shoreward of the recreational halibut 30 fm boundary line, a modified line approximating the 30 fm depth contour from the Bonilla Tatoosh line south to the Queets River. Coordinates for the closed area will be specifically defined annually in federal halibut regulations published in the Federal Register.~~

No sport fishing for halibut is allowed after September 30. If the fishery is closed prior to September 30, and there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen ~~the nearshore areas~~ for another fishing day, then any remaining quota may be transferred inseason to another Washington coastal subarea by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. The daily bag limit in all fisheries is one halibut per person with no size limit.

Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within the North Coast Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA). The North Coast Recreational YRCA is a C-shaped area off the northern Washington coast and is defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates. Coordinates for the North Coast Recreational YRCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70(a) and will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register*.

(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 is also allocated an amount equal to the contribution from the Washington sport allocation from the Oregon/California sport allocation. The Columbia River subarea quota will be allocated as follows: 10% or 1,500 pounds, whichever is less, will be set aside to allow incidental halibut retention in the nearshore area with the remaining amount allocated such that 80 percent is reserved for an early season beginning in May. 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 the first ~~Friday~~ Thursday in May or May 1 if it is a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, ~~34~~ days per week, Thursday~~Friday~~ through Sunday until 80 percent of the subarea allocation is taken. The fishery will reopen on the first ~~Friday~~ Thursday in August and

continue 34 days per week, ~~Friday~~Thursday-Sunday until the remainder of the subarea quota has been taken, or until September 30, whichever is earlier. 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 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. [Groundfish is allowed to be taken, retained, possessed or landed with halibut onboard in the nearshore area seven days per week when allowed by groundfish regulations.](#) No groundfish may be taken and retained, possessed or landed, except, sablefish, and Pacific cod when allowed by groundfish regulations, if halibut are on board the vessel [seaward of the nearshore area.](#)

From: Tom Peters [mailto:tpete@reninet.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 22, 2013 11:22 AM
To: 'pfmc.comments.@noaa.gov'
Cc: 'hasa6191@gmail.com'
Subject: California Pacific halibut management

First let me say that setting any restrictive season BEFORE the halibut survey data have been released appears to have more to do with politics than sound fishery management. Hopefully the survey will show that sports fishing pressure in the California zone is miniscule when compared to even bycatch rates from the groundfish fishery in earlier years.

If forced to choose between the options offered (again, with NO supporting data), I would choose the least restrictive (May 1 – July 31 and September 1 through October 31)).

Weather on the California coast offers very limited opportunity for small sport boats to go far enough offshore to catch halibut. While every year is different, maximizing POTENTIAL days on the water is most important to me. Limiting the fishery to certain days of the week suggests that weather can be predicted with uncommon accuracy and that the good days won't all fall during the closures. My experience with other weekday closures is that is exactly what happens (Murphy's Law!)

The sport fleet out of Eureka consist of boats under 26' long. Many are in the 15-20' range. We fish salmon mainly in nearshore waters. Only on those days that are calm enough (and there's few enough of those!) can we venture the several additional miles westward To fish halibut. Given the vagaries of weather, we need the most possible open days in order to find and fish those few days when conditions allow.

In previous years there was a very significant bycatch of halibut by the trawl fishery, far in excess of what the sport catch is today, even on our best year. Now the trawl fleet has been severely reduced, eliminating most of this bycatch. This makes me confident that no damage whatever will occur to the halibut population in this area, regardless of season and sport catch.

That is why I am favoring the LEAST restrictive option for 2014. When the numbers are in from the survey, I firmly believe a more liberal quota and longer season will be justified. If that is the case, I hope you will support both of these measures.

I sincerely hope that in the future our season might be set based on data and science, not on whim.

Tom Peters
221 Dollison St.
Eureka, CA 95501
tpete@reninet.com
[707-445-1666](tel:707-445-1666)

From: **Peter Nelson** <pnelson@cfr-west.org>
Date: Thu, Oct 3, 2013 at 9:22 AM
Subject: 2014 Pacific Halibut Recreational Fishery Management Options
To: pmmc.comments@noaa.gov

The subarea management line addition and the California recreational allocation make sense, as does the fixed season. However, I suggest that the 'days of the week' option NOT be exercised: weather and at-sea conditions in this area are so changeable and challenging that the latter option may represent greater limitations on fishing pressure than are actually intended. Furthermore, I expect that limiting days of the week would impose difficulties for fishermen and charter boats that would foster resentment with vanishing returns on management objectives. In short, establish the subarea and the fixed season and examine the effects on catch rates before further restrictions.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Nelson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Collaborative Fisheries Research West
930 Western Dr
Santa Cruz, California 95060

www.cfr-west.org

p (831) 440-8690
c (707) 267-5896

From: Tim
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 4:26 PM
To: pmmc.comments@noaa.gov
Cc: Jimmy Y
Subject: Pacific Halibut options for California Recreational Fishing

My name is Tim Klassen. I am a Charter boat operator in Eureka California. After reviewing the options for the 2014 California Pacific Halibut Regulations I would favor the August closure while maintaining a May 1 to July 31 and September 1 to October 31 open season. I do not want to see a "days of the week" type of season since it is confusing to people, may encourage people to go out during unsafe weather and we would lose days in May, September and October that would not help in catch reduction much but would reduce "days on the water". I could also support "no retention" of Halibut with Salmon if the August closure is not enough. I would not support a "no retention" of Halibut with Rockfish since the 20 Fathom depth restriction keeps Halibut bycatch low and if an angler were to catch a Halibut while Rockfishing there may be temptation by some to release dead Rockfish in order to keep a trophy Halibut. Pacific Halibut fishing is an extremely important part of the economic success of the Northern California Charter fleet. Tim Klassen Reel Steel Sportfishing [707-499-4925](tel:707-499-4925)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mark Cedergreen** <mvcedergreen@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 9, 2013 at 9:44 AM

Subject: Halibut agenda G.1.c

To: pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov

Cc: Culver Michele <Michele.Culver@dfw.wa.gov>, Reed Heather
<Heather.Reed@dfw.wa.gov>

October 9, 2013

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Way , STE 101
Portland, OR 97220

Re: Halibut, Agenda Item G.1.c

Dear Ms. Lowman,

The Westport Charterboat Association is strongly opposed to the Washington proposal to reduce the days per week in the North Coast subarea from 2 to 1 after the first week of the season. Our understanding of the intent of some of the North Coast participants is that they would like to discourage the effort that accompanies a 2 day week. They have assumed that by doing so many participants would simply stay home rather than go to the coast for only 1 day of fishing. We contend that they would simply go to other areas that were open for a longer weekly duration.

In 2013 we had a 5-day season in the South Coast; the North coast had a 4-day season. While we are sympathetic with their frustration over the "derby" nature of the fishery, it is a fact that we in the South Coast (with a 2-day week) are experiencing the "derby" phenomena also. If they were to go to 1 day per week much of that effort would shift to the South Coast and exacerbate our situation by shortening our season even further.

We are open to discuss any proposal that might minimize the derby nature of the fishery in both areas. However, encouraging a major shift in effort without a concomitant shift in quota allocation is not the solution.

Respectfully yours,
Mark Cedergreen
Executive Director
Westport Charterboat Association
POB 654
Westport, WA 98595

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dan Berman** <dberman@humboldt看bay.org>

Date: Tue, Oct 8, 2013 at 4:59 PM

Subject: Pacific Halibut management and quality of CRFS data

To: Kelly.Ames@noaa.gov

Cc: John Powell <jpowell@humboldt看bay.org>, Tom Marking <tmmarking@sbcglobal.net>

Hi Kelly,

The attached file showing the CRFS data on pacific halibut is part of the presentation posted on the pfmc halibut website from the meeting this summer.

This graphic shows catch occurring in Humboldt Bay, and also in close to Crescent City.

Those have to be California halibut - the Pacifics are not caught that close in.

It's easy to go from that observation, to broadly questioning whether Pacific and California are all mixed up in the CRFS data. I realize that's a question for CDFW, but wanted to let you know that I'm hearing a lot about it here in Humboldt Bay.

Best,
Dan

Dan Berman
Director of Conservation
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District
601 Startare Drive, Eureka, CA 95502
Office: [\(707\) 443-0801](tel:7074430801)

CRFS Type 2 & 3 Sample Catch Data for Pacific Halibut from 2004 to 2011

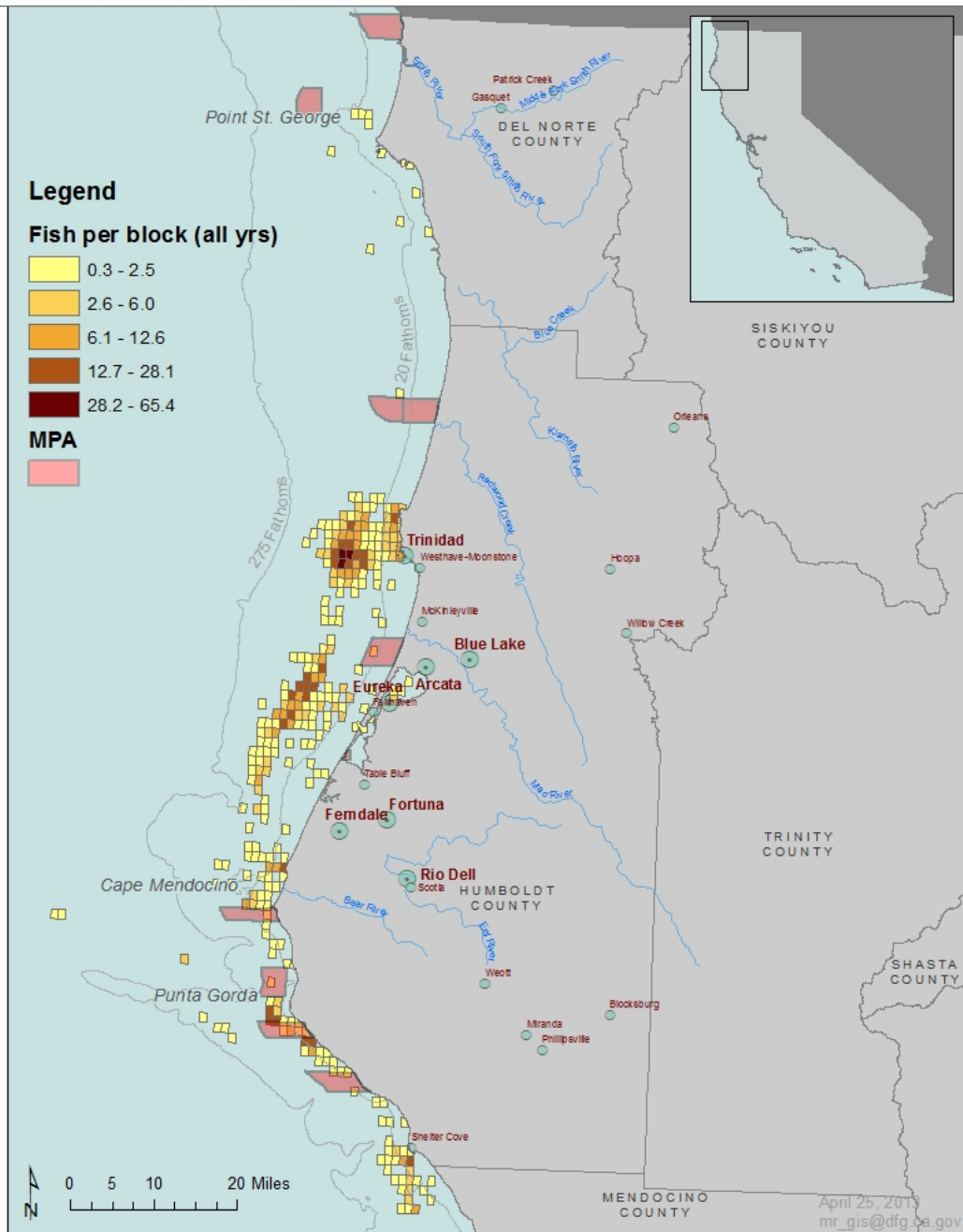


Figure 1. Map of new California north coast MPAs and locations of recreational Pacific halibut catch from 2004-2011. Recreational catch data based on CRFS information from CDFW.

October 9, 2013

Ms. Dorothy Lohman, Chairwoman
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Agenda Item G.1. Pacific Halibut Management in the South of Humbug Mt. Subzone of 2A

Dear Chairwoman Lohman:

The Council adopted a motion to put two alternatives out for public comment at the September, 2013 meeting. Both of these alternatives had additional measures that could be adopted to augment either of the first two alternatives. While the average angler is somewhat confused with the complexity of this topic, meetings were held in the Eureka area to gather public input to present to you prior to any final action.

Regarding the separation of the southern Oregon area from California there was unanimous agreement by all anglers. Of the two alternatives under consideration for closures: the second option to close the halibut season during the month of August only was the preferred alternative. Any further proposed Council action beyond this one month closure was somewhat contentious and varied. At issue is the impact a block closure will have on those ports that rely heavily on tourism and have launch facilities. There are basically four ports in northern California that will be affected by the council action, Crescent City, Trinidad, Humboldt Bay and Shelter Cove. Fort Bragg has only a very small incidental catch of halibut while fishing for rockfish. Of those four ports mentioned, Shelter Cove and Trinidad are heavily dependent upon tourism for their business plans. An August closure will have very detrimental impacts upon both of these ports, while the ports of Humboldt Bay and Crescent City have ocean access from bays or breakwaters. As such, these two ports can much more easily shift their fishing effort to months earlier or later than the closures proposed. Trinidad, who has just committed large financial capital improvements to their pier and have committed the bulk of their cash reserves to this effort, are very concerned about the Council Action. While a one month closure may be the preferred position by the CDFW and the Council, this option will be devastating to this small port. Trinidad has the only access to rockfishing for the Eureka/Trinidad region for the small boat owner. Loss of this launch facility will cause substantial economic harm to the region and loss of opportunity for hundreds of small boat owners.

There is really no conservation issue at stake, rather it is a politically required decision based upon allocation issues. That is not to detract from the seriousness of this Councils deliberative process, but one of clarification. The Council feels compelled to take a stepwise process to reduce harvest in the California Area through management measures over the next few years.

There is a divergence of opinion among anglers past the proposed August closure alternative. Any further action beyond this has dramatically different impacts on these ports. Those two with tourism/launch facility based businesses will suffer the heaviest financial impact. At some point in this discussion, NS 4 should come to the forefront so that one area, port or group of fisherman

don't have an unfair advantage over other areas. NS 4 implies that control measures should be fair and equitable across all groups, whenever possible. While it may seem logical to start with block closures in August, the highest harvest period, it also has the most serious financial impacts.

Hopefully, the Council will take this into consideration prior to taking any proposed action. While we acknowledge the Council's commitment to implement management measures to reduce halibut harvest, we sincerely hope that the Council will act cautiously and judiciously and long term approach. Decisions made at this meeting could have long lasting impacts on our region, particularly for the Trinidad and Shelter Cove ports.

Respectfully,

Tom Marking, GAP Representative
1456 Whitmire Avenue,
McKinleyville, CA 95519



Coastside Fishing Club

P.O. Box 5928, Napa, CA 94581

7 October, 2013

Re Agenda Item G1: Comments on Halibut CSP and 2014 Management Measures

The Coastside Fishing Club is an all-volunteer California non-profit organization of 13,000 recreational fishermen dedicated to enhancing the recreational fishing experience for all Californians. Our members are keenly interested in the opportunity to fish for Pacific Halibut off our northern coast. This is a fishery that has (re)emerged over the past decade as a focused activity for many of us. That the fishery occurs largely off of Eureka, requires many of us travel to the area where we provide significant contributions to the local economy in the way of hotels, food, and gas, in addition to our direct fishing related expenses.

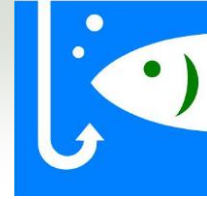
In 2014 we look forward to a season that will provide for reasonable opportunities for California fishermen. We understand the intent is to manage the 2014 California fishery with an objective of staying within a take of 13,000 lbs. This represents nearly a 50% reduction in the fishery from our recent 5 year average, but we understand the obligation to sustainably manage the Pacific Halibut fishery as a responsible party to the Catch Sharing Plan.

We also support the temporary 2014 adjustments to the CSP, but we look forward to the three Pacific states getting together to make further adjustments to the plan to ensure that California is provided a reasonable and responsible increase in *allocation* from prior years. This year, for the first time, the fishery in California is recognized in the CSP as a legitimate fishery, and Oregon has already made good faith overtures to identify how the CSP can be further modified to ensure that the California fishery is properly supported. What is certain, is that compared to the other states, the California fishery is small – finding 10,000 to 20,000 lbs of fish in a fishery that totals almost 1,000,000 lbs in typical years should not be a difficult task.

Thanks

Richard Ross, President
Coastside Fishing Club

HUMBOLDT AREA SALTWATER ANGLERS INC



Agenda Item G. 1.
Pacific Halibut
November 2013

October 6, 2013

Pacific Fishery Management Council
Dorothy Lowman, Chair
7700NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

RE: 2014 Pacific Halibut Regulations

Dear Chair Lowman and Council Members:

The Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Inc. (HASA) has some significant concerns about and interest in the development of the 2014 Pacific Halibut Regulations. Members of the HASA Board of Directors have been actively involved in the process of developing these regulations beginning with a late year 2012 meeting at the PFMC offices in Portland, Oregon and throughout the series of SOH Workgroup, SOH Policy Committee and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) meetings. The HASA Board of Directors has sought the opinions relative to these proposed regulations and season changes from the approximately 200 HASA members as well as other interested fishermen from Crescent City to Fort Bragg, California.

The fishermen involved in HASA's outreach have expressed concern about the lack of current data about the Pacific Halibut stock in the California portion of the SOH Subarea. They are aware that the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) conducted a survey of sites from the California/Oregon border to the area south of Cape Mendocino. Additionally, HASA has contributed a significant amount of funding to a Humboldt State University (HSU) graduate project designed to study the Pacific Halibut stock in the area offshore of Eureka and north to Trinidad. The fishermen know that the IPHC survey has been done and the results are known to the IPHC. The fact that the results will not be available until after the PFMC crafts the 2014 Pacific Halibut seasons and regulations causes the fishermen to question why that current data is not being considered to craft the 2014 Pacific Halibut regulations.

HASA has reached out to the charter boat fleet from Crescent City to Shelter Cove. We received responses from most of the Eureka based charter boat captains, but unfortunately none from either Trinidad or Shelter Cove. The summer months of June, July and August represent the majority of the charter boat fleet's income in any given year. The inability to fully pursue salmon, rock fish and Pacific Halibut during those three months could economically be devastating to the charter fleet.

While Eureka and Crescent City have protected public operated launching facilities, both Trinidad and Shelter Cove launching facilities are privately controlled and both launch directly into the surf by trolley and tractor respectively. The summer months are the heart of their season, as private, for profit, launch operations the two areas do not maintain full operations prior to the opening of salmon season in May and after the Labor Day holiday. The loss of any summer months, particularly July and/or August, may make

the difference between continued launch operations or the loss of those launch operations due to insufficient income. A CDFW slide featured in their September presentation to the Council indicated that these two ports represent 63% of the Pacific Halibut caught in the California portion of the SOH Subarea.

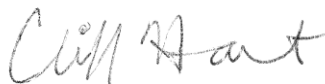
The Trinidad Rancheria purchased the Trinidad Pier and launching facility from a private party in 2003. After that purchase, the Rancheria undertook an 8.5 million project completely replacing the old wooden pier with a new concrete structure to address environmental concerns and to enhance the pier's usability by both sport and commercial fishermen. Over four million dollars of the project's costs were paid from Trinidad Rancheria funds. The pier project was completed in September of 2011. The Rancheria subsidized the operation of the pier for a number of years, prior to and after the reconstruction, from other Trinidad Rancheria business interests funds and only realized a positive cash flow from the pier, launching facility and associated fishing related operations in the summer of 2013. Their representative at a September 24, 2013 informational meeting on Pacific Halibut indicated that the loss of Pacific Halibut fishing opportunity in the mid-summer months may limit their ability to continue to fund and operate the launch and pier facilities.

HASA supports separating the SOH Subarea at the California/Oregon border, creating two areas, one in Oregon and one in California. Given the significant difference in the management and data collection methods of the two states, this action would simplify the enforcement activities of both states as well as allow the fishing public to understand and comply with the seasons and regulations within their own state.

HASA understands the need of the PFMC to respond to the IPHC's request to manage the individual subarea's seasons in a method which adheres to quotas the IPHC establishes for each subarea each year. The problem with achieving this for the 2014 season is that there is insufficient current data available to justify the significant Pacific Halibut seasons reductions represented by the season structure alternatives that were promulgated at the PFMC's September 2013 meeting in Boise, Idaho. The season restrictions proposed, based on dated data, will cause an unnecessary and sudden economic downturn in the area south of the California border for fishermen, charter boat operators, sport fishing support businesses and other businesses that benefit from the influx of sports fishermen into the area each summer.

A representative of the Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers will be in attendance at the Council's November 2013 meeting in Costa Mesa to work with the state, federal and international agencies with the intent of achieving a more reasonable solution for managing Pacific Halibut season south of the California border in 2014.

Sincerely,



Cliff Hart, President
Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers, Inc.



Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria



D.2. Public Comment

October 8, 2013

Ms. Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Pacific Halibut Management in the South of Humbug Mt. Subzone of 2A

Dear Ms. Lowman,

Attached you will find a Resolution from the Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Trinidad Rancheria) that makes specific requests regarding North Coast California Pacific halibut management in 2014.

The Trinidad Rancheria owns and operates the Trinidad Pier, Trinidad Boat Launch, Seascape Restaurant and associated harbor businesses. Trinidad bay and harbor is the economic epicenter for both tribal and non-tribal personnel in our respective community. Trinidad has historically been a fishing community dating back to the early 1800's and we recognize the immeasurable value of Pacific halibut to our regional economy and quality of life. We are home to hundreds of recreational fishermen, private boaters and charter Fishers that migrate to Trinidad each summer, and support our local community. As stewards of the ocean we are very aware of the importance of not stretching the current halibut fisheries; however as stewards to the economic lifeblood of the community of Trinidad we are very concerned of the impact the current alternatives set before you will deliver.

After careful review of the draft workgroup documents and alternative management measures currently being detailed we would like to submit to you the following:

- Halibut is an economically valuable fishery for our area, according to recent numbers 27% of the Halibut Harvest has occurred in Trinidad
- The blocking out of summer months, whether it be either alternative, May 1 through July 15 and September 1 through October 31 or May 1 through July 31 and September 1 through October 31 will effectively eliminate out-of-area fishing enthusiasts which will harm the entire community of Trinidad.
- Loss of the July and August months for halibut would be a severe revenue loss to the entire community. The loss of revenue will effectively eliminate the launch facilities.
- Aggregate revenue streams from the Launch and Charters of fishing enthusiast's drops from an average of \$23,000.00 per month for June, July and August to \$4,500.00 in September. The last two weeks of July and the month of August currently show the highest volume of launch services and aggregate revenue associated to fishing enthusiasts.
- Trinidad Harbor begins removal of the moorings soon after Salmon Season, usually the second week in September, and launch operations become dangerous and risky due to south winds.

- Since 2008 the Trinidad Rancheria has slowly emerged from subsidizing the harbor businesses with 2013 being the first year that they have been able to stand alone. The loss of the aggregate revenue streams from fishing enthusiasts will have severe consequences to the Rancheria, one of the largest employers in Trinidad.

The Trinidad Rancheria would request that the council does not rush into the implementation of such harsh management measures to reduce harvest in the South of Humboldt Area (SOH) when the data necessary to assist in this decision will not be released until after the Council has acted; and

- that National Standard 2 which states, **"that conservation and management measures shall be based on the best scientific information available"** be adhered to; and
- that National Standard 4 which states, **"that conservation and management measures shall not discriminate between residents of different states. If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishers, such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishers; (B) reasonably calculated to promote conservation; and (c) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges"** be adhered to.

However, if the Council is determined to move forward on the Alternatives as presented by the Committee, we would request the Council accept the following options in this order of importance:

1. That Alternative 6 to move the management line to the CA/Ore border is implemented.
2. That Alternative 2 (restrict days of the week) remain in consideration.

Additionally, we believe the current allocation is unfair, lacks parity and the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) is based on outdated population estimates. Our area has historically had a long history of halibut landing and is being only allocated 0.62%. Perhaps that formula was deemed appropriate in 1988 when these allocations were first instituted, but conditions have changed and the CSP should be re-examined in the near future. Halibut is an economically valuable fishery for our community and should be addressed as such. We respectfully request the Council address this concern in the coming year to correct this inequity. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Garth Sundberg, Tribal Chairman
Trinidad Rancheria



Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria



CHER-AE HEIGHTS INDIAN COMMUNITY OF THE TRINIDAD RANCHERIA RESOLUTION OF THE TRIBAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO: TC-13-13

**SUBJECT: NORTH COAST CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT PACIFIC HALIBUT
MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS: The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Trinidad Rancheria) is a federally recognized Indian Tribe located in California and has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS: The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria Tribal Council (hereinafter "Tribal Council") is the governing body of the Trinidad Rancheria under the authority of the Tribe's Constitution; and

WHEREAS: The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria (Trinidad Rancheria) owns and operates the Seascape Harbor Properties, including the Trinidad Pier, Launch, Seascape Restaurant and Tackle Shop which promotes domestic commercial and recreational fishing under sound conservation and management principles; and

WHEREAS: The governments of coastal cities, counties, harbor districts and community services districts of Northwestern California have come together as the North Coast Local Agency Coordinating Committee, which is organized by the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District; and

WHEREAS: The group works together to protect fisheries resources, but also to maintain fishing access to healthy stock of marine fish species, including Pacific halibut; and



- WHEREAS:** The commercial trawl fleet once harvest tens of millions of pounds annually of species, such as Petrale, Dover and English Sole, but these fisheries have been greatly reduced. This trawl fishery reduction has caused a huge decrease in catch and landings in all North Coast ports and a sharp decline in this sector of our economy. The reduction in fishing effort has greatly reduced the by-catch of Pacific halibut, and there is minimal directed commercial fishing effort on the species in the waters of California and the North Coast; and
- WHEREAS:** The historic Pacific halibut landings on the North Coast averaged 400,000 pounds and reached levels as high as 1 million pounds historically. The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) and Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) have created a South of Humbug Mountain Management Zone within Zone 2A that extends from southern Oregon to the Mexican border and includes the entire coast of California, and this management zone spans two states with different management methods and is cumbersome and impractical; and
- WHEREAS:** A catch-shared of 0.62% was allocated to management area South of Humbug Mountain, as a target based on old data that has now changed into a not-to-exceed quota; and
- WHEREAS:** South of Humbug Mountain fishermen began to exceed this quota in years since 2008 and fishing restriction in 2014 are being considered based on exceeding a non-scientific quota; and
- WHEREAS:** The Humboldt Area Salt Water Anglers, the UC Cooperative Extension and Humboldt State University are working cooperatively to collect size and age data on Pacific halibut in northern California and providing it to the IPHC in 2013; and
- WHEREAS:** The IPHC collected data on the North Coast in 2013 using standard long line methods used throughout the Pacific Northwest to gauge the health and abundance of Pacific halibut stocks, but decisions made regarding the 2014 season for South of Humbug Mountain will be set before IPHC North Coast data are available for use; and
- WHEREAS:** North Coast governments strongly favor conserving and protecting marine fisheries resources, which allows continued access for sport fishers and charter boat enterprises that constitute important contributions to the North Coast economy and quality of life.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

The Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria Tribal Council hereby request that the IPHC and PFMC 1) give California an exclusive management zone that does not include parts of southern Oregon, 2) that any 2014 restrictions on access to North Coast Pacific halibut stocks be deferred until newly collected data are available, and 3) the IPHC expeditiously calculate and implement a science-based Pacific halibut quota.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that **Resolution TC-13-13** was approved through the standard Trinidad Rancheria Tribal Council Polling Procedure, through which a quorum was established, and that this Resolution was adopted by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 and abstaining.

Dated this 8th day of October, 2013:


Garth Sundberg, Chairperson

ATTEST:


Amy Atkins, Recording Secretary

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jeff E** <jeffsk7@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Oct 13, 2013 at 4:49 PM
Subject: Halibut change at Neah Bay and La Push
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

October 10, 2013

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Re: Halibut. Agenda Item G.1.c

Dear Ms. Lowman:

The Puget Sound Anglers Organization, representing 17 statewide chapters, in conjunction with the recreational community in Washington state, are adamantly opposed to the reduction of days of the week for the Washington North Coast Halibut Fishery for 2014. We contacted many members of our organization and recreational fishers for comment. 99% are against any reduction in days of the week.

Ocean weather in May is the largest factor for this proposal and can be very dangerous. This fishery is 30-40 miles offshore and anything can happen in the amount of time out, catch your halibut, and travel back. Below are reasons to keep status quo for two days of the week for the 2014 season.

1. One day a week will cause people to make illogical choices to go out, when the weather is not safe. This is a high cost/effort remote fishery. With only one day per week, it is use it or lose it. In this fishery we have seen boats flip and people die in the past.
2. Sportsfishers that normally go on the second week will be forced to go the first week, making sure they have a chance to get out one of the two days due to weather. The current fishery days of the week allows the chance to lose one day while being able to fish the other. This proposal will overcrowd the marinas, towns, ramp, etc. even more on the first week opener.
3. Will cause sportsfishers to move to other areas to fish such as Westport and Illwaco, where two days a week is still open. This will move the North Coast overcrowding problem to another area to collapse their fishery. Keep all ports open with two days a week to evenly spread out fishing pressure.
4. This will only benefit the locals and not the sportsfishers of Washington State.

5. In the past, we have had some excess halibut poundage left over in the north coast. WDFW picked a random single day opener for us to harvest it. Few go as they are not going to chance the weather to fish the one day. There is no support for a one day fishery.

This annual fishery in May is the worst weather condition fishery we have in Washington. We have many days that the weather is not good but are forced to go as opportunity is limited.

This proposed change to one day a week, was met with not only opposition but many were irate asking why such a dangerous proposal to put us in harms way. We have been making the decisions for this fishery for many years to keep us fishing. This is a meat fishery with normally marginal to bad weather. We fish it hard and go home. No one stays to go hiking or any other recreational activity. This kind of activity is saved for July and August when the weather is not a factor. This is a statewide halibut fishery and belongs to all of the people. Please see the CSP feedback from this website: <http://www.bdoutdoors.com/forums/showthread.php...>

Please stay with status quo for the two days a week. We consistently work with NOAA, WDFW, and with PFMC on many fishery issues, directly and indirectly. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss.

Sincerely yours,
Jeff Goodwin

----- Forwarded message -----
From: <powderhound86@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Oct 12, 2013 at 12:57 PM
Subject: Neah bay
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Ms. Dorothy Lowman,
I'm writing to voice my concern with the halibut fishery in Neah bay. I plan on staying at a rental house for two weeks to attend this fishery with my cousin and uncle. I don't run a big boat and have to pick my days according to weather. Safety is our main concern and the less days fishing means less opportunity for us to fish. If the fishery shortens our season we will be forced to head to Vancouver Island. If everyone did this it would truly hurt the region's economy. Please let the season stand as is.

Sincerely,
Justin Williams

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Davis, Christian** <christian.davis@emc.com>

Date: Tue, Oct 15, 2013 at 8:58 AM

Subject: Halibut, Agenda Item G.1.c

To: "<pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov>" <pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov>

Attn: Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair

October 14, 2013

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair

Pacific Fisheries Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101

Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Re: Halibut. Agenda Item G.1.c

Dear Ms. Lowman:

It has come to my attention via the Puget Sound Anglers that you are considering a change to the Halibut season at La Push. Please DO NOT reduce this to a 1 day per week fishery.

For the last 6 years, I have traveled to La Push with 3 other anglers in pursuit of halibut, ling cod and rockfish. We stay at the Oceanside Resort, eat at restaurants in Forks, buy gas from local stations, pay launch and marina fees. Our total for a 4 day trip is approx. \$1200. Frankly, that's a lot to pay for a couple halibut, but we enjoy the experience.

We carefully monitor the weather and often forgo a day of halibut fishing to avoid dangerous conditions. Since we are there for several days, we can get at least 1 day offshore to catch halibut. If the season is reduced to 1 day, we will have some difficult decisions to make – perhaps we will cancel the trip, perhaps we will risk a trip in dangerous conditions rather than forgo the opportunity to catch a halibut.

Please keep the season status quo.

Thanks for your consideration.

Chris Davis

[\(425\) 830-0993](tel:(425)830-0993)

EMC Corporation

www.emc.com

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jim Fahey** <faheyje@comcast.net>

Date: Sat, Oct 12, 2013 at 11:27 AM

Subject: Halibut, Agenda Item G.1.c

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear Ms. Lowman & Pacific Fisheries Management Council Members,

I have reviewed the recommendation/opinion of the Puget Sound Anglers – State Board (submitted by Ron Garner) regarding the Halibut management decision. On every aspect, I find myself in complete agreement.

As a skipper and father of 3, I am very familiar with and respectful of the marginal weather conditions on our coast fisheries and the decisions every skipper must make for the safety of his or her family and crew. This reminds me of the single-day Spot Shrimp fisheries we have for inner Puget Sound in May. The weather often does not cooperate and we see so many people make poor decisions when they are ill-equipped for the weather.

We had one such tragic accident in recent years as a result, and I know of many similar incidents in La Push and other ports:

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/121437209.html>

I am hopeful the PFMC will maintain the status quo for this area to prevent folks from being forced to make tough decisions in this fishery, or avoiding it altogether. We must continue to preserve and promote the highest, best, (and wisest) use of our natural resources.

Thank you!

Jim Fahey
613 – 2nd Ave N
Edmonds, WA 98020

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <blu9222158@aol.com>

Date: Sat, Oct 12, 2013 at 10:28 AM

Subject: Halibut fishery

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Ms Lowman,

Ditto below. Your going to kill people, and further destroy small struggling economies. You can find the real problem by following the money trail. Not the one that supports 1,000's of local business and small towns.

Bruce Ludwig

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mike** <blackelk@centurytel.net>

Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 4:11 PM

Subject: Halibut agenda

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Attn: Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair

Agenda: Halibut, Agenda Item G.1.c

I agree 100% with Ron Garner and everything he stated in this.

Mike Hume

147 katon rd.

Montesano, Wa 98563

[360-249-2290](tel:360-249-2290)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Sheehan** <sheehanjohn@comcast.net>

Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 3:24 PM

Subject: Halibut 1 Day fishery policy

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Hello Dorothy,

Please mark me down for agreeing with Ron on the problems in changing of this fishery. It would put lives in danger due to the 1 Day window. If I am correct this was also a policy years/decades back for the Alaskan commercial fishery. The fishery was only open 1-2 days and boats would imperil themselves trying to get their allotments. It's just not worth the dangers people would/could subject themselves to. That policy was changed to an overall yearly take which allowed boaters to fish under safer conditions.

Thanks you,

John Sheehan

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Steven Perkins** <sstevep@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 3:03 PM

Subject: Attn: Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair Agenda: Halibut, Agenda Item G.1.c

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Ms. Lowman,

I fully support and agree with all of Ron Garners comments in his letter below. Please consider these comments when determining any future changes to our sport fishing seasons.

Regards,

Steve Perkins
Sport fisherman from Tacoma, WA

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **McDowell, Brian (HAL)** <BMcDowell@hollandamerica.com>
Date: Wed, Oct 16, 2013 at 4:39 PM
Subject: Halibut change at Neah Bay and La Push
To: "pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov" <pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov>

Ms Dorothy Lowman, I just wanted to take a moment and say I support Ron's comments below. As a captain that is responsible for 3-4 other souls on my boat during the halibut season changing the season to 1 day will either force me to take chances with marginal weather or just flat out stop fishing Halibut since it costs too much to haul my boat over to Lapush or Neah Bay for a 1 day fishery only to have a chance the weather won't let me fish.

Thanks for your consideration
Brian McDowell
3102 232nd St SW
Brier, Wa 98036
206-949-3862

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Aaron Thom** <AThom@anicainc.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 1:47 PM
Subject: response to purposed Halibut change at Neah Bay and La Push
To: "pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov" <pfmtc.comments@noaa.gov>

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Re: Halibut. Agenda Item G.1.c

I 100% agree with Ron Garner's comments below. Please consider them in the decision making process.

Thank you,
Aaron Thom
Sports Fisherman

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tim Tucker** <timt72@yahoo.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 16, 2013 at 4:48 PM

Subject: Halibut, Agenda Item G.1.c

To: "pfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Greeting Ms Lowman,

I am forwarding an extremely well written correspondence that accurately describes my response to the proposed rule changes. I do not believe I could do a better job to articulate my response to the proposed rule changes.

I am proud to say I am member of both Puget Sound Anglers and BloodyDecks both of which are referenced in Mr. Garner's letter dated October 7th, 2013.

Endorsing the above forwarded message from Ron Garner (President of Puget Sound Anglers)

Tim Tucker



October 7, 2013

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Re: Halibut. Agenda Item G.1.c

Dear Ms. Lowman:

The Puget Sound Anglers Organization, representing 17 statewide chapters, in conjunction with the recreational community in Washington state, are adamantly opposed to the reduction of days of the week for the Washington North Coast Halibut Fishery for 2014. We contacted many members of our organization and recreational fishers for comment. 99% are against any reduction in days of the week.

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halibut, and travel back. Below are reasons to keep status quo for two days of the week for the 2014 season.

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2. Sports fishermen that normally go on the second week will be forced to go the first week, making sure they have a chance to get out one of the two days due to weather. The current fishery days of the week allows the chance to lose one day while being able to fish the other. This proposal will overcrowd the marinas, towns, ramp, etc. even more on the first week opener.
3. Will cause sports fishermen to move to other areas to fish such as Westport and Illwaco, where two days a week is still open. The move will cause a North Coast overcrowding problem in another area and collapse their fishery. Keep all ports open with two days a week to evenly spread out fishing pressure.
4. This will only benefit the locals and not the sports fishermen of Washington State.
5. In the past, we have had some excess halibut poundage left over in the north coast. WDFW picked a random single day opener for us to harvest it. Few go as they are not going to chance the weather to fish the one day. There is no support for a one day fishery.

This annual fishery in May is the worst weather condition fishery we have in Washington. We have many days that the weather is not good but are forced to go as opportunity is limited. This proposed change to one day a week, was met with not only opposition but many were irate asking why such a dangerous proposal to put us in harms way. We have been making the decisions for this fishery for many years to keep us fishing. This is a meat fishery with normally marginal to bad weather. We fish it hard and go home. No one stays to go hiking or any other recreational activity. This kind of activity is saved for July and August when the weather is not a factor. This is a statewide halibut fishery and belongs to all of the people. Please see the CSP feedback from this website: <http://www.bdoutdoors.com/forums/showthread.php...>

Please stay with status quo for the two days a week. We consistently work with NOAA, WDFW, and with PFMC on many fishery issues, directly and indirectly. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss.

Sincerely yours,
Ron Garner
President
Puget Sound Anglers State Board

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Walter J. Wojcik** <wojcikw@comcast.net>

Date: Sat, Oct 12, 2013 at 10:59 AM

Subject: Halibut. Agenda Item G.1.c

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Re: Halibut. Agenda Item G.1.c

Dear Ms. Lowman:

As a sport fisherman that regularly fish for halibut during the regular 3 day a week season I am adamantly opposed to the reduction of days of the week for the Washington North Coast Halibut Fishery for 2014. This proposal effectively eliminates my ability to fish ocean halibut. Ocean weather in May unpredictable and is the largest factor for eliminating this proposal. Bad weather is very dangerous. The fishery is 30-40 miles offshore and weather dependent. Marginal weather places the lives of fishermen in jeopardy during the trip to the fishing grounds. Anything can happen in the amount of time for the trip out, catch your halibut, and travel back. Below are reasons to keep status quo for two days of the week for the 2014 season.

1. One day a week will cause people to make illogical choices to go out, when the weather is not safe. This is a high cost/effort remote fishery. With only one day per week, it is use it or lose it. In this fishery we have seen boats flip and people die in the past.
2. Sports fishermen that normally go on the second week will be forced to go the first week, making sure they have a chance to get out one of the two days due to weather. The current fishery days of the week allows the chance to lose one day while being able to fish the other. This proposal will overcrowd the marinas, towns, ramp, etc. even more on the first week opener.
3. Will cause sports fishermen to move to other areas to fish such as Westport and Illwaco, where two days a week is still open. The move will cause a North Coast overcrowding problem in another area and collapse their fishery. Keep all ports open with two days a week to evenly spread out fishing pressure.
4. This will only benefit the locals and not the sports fishermen of Washington State.
5. In the past, we have had some excess halibut poundage left over in the north coast. WDFW picked a random single day opener for us to harvest it. Few go as they are not going to chance the weather to fish the one day. There is no support for a one day fishery.

This annual fishery in May is the worst weather condition fishery we have in Washington. We have many days that the weather is marginal but are forced to go as opportunity is limited. This proposed change to one day a week, was met with not only opposition but many were irate asking why such a dangerous proposal to put us in harm's way. We have been making the

decisions for this fishery for many years to keep us fishing. This is a meat fishery with normally marginal to bad weather. We fish it hard and go home. Other recreational activity such as hiking occurs in July and August when the weather is not a factor. This is a statewide halibut fishery and belongs to all of the people.

I recommend that you stay with status quo for the two days a week.

Cordially,
Walter J. Wojcik
Bothell, WA

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **kevin lanier** <kclanier@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 3:54 PM

Subject: Halibut. Agenda Item G.1.c

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

Dear Ms. Lowman:

The Puget Sound Anglers Organization, representing 17 statewide chapters, in conjunction with the recreational community in Washington state, are adamantly opposed to the reduction of days of the week for the Washington North Coast Halibut Fishery for 2014. We contacted many members of our organization and recreational fishers for comment. 99% are against any reduction in days of the week.

Ocean weather in May is the largest factor for this proposal and can be very dangerous. This fishery is 30-40 miles offshore and anything can happen in the amount of time out, catch your halibut, and travel back. Below are reasons to keep status quo for two days of the week for the 2014 season.

1. One day a week will cause people to make illogical choices to go out, when the weather is not safe. This is a high cost/effort remote fishery. With only one day per week, it is use it or lose it. In this fishery we have seen boats flip and people die in the past.

2. Sportsfishers that normally go on the second week will be forced to go the first week, making sure they have a chance to get out one of the two days due to weather. The current fishery days of the week allows the chance to lose one day while being able to fish the other. This proposal will overcrowd the marinas, towns, ramp, etc. even more on the first week opener.

3. Will cause sportsfishers to move to other areas to fish such as Westport and Illwaco, where two days a week is still open. This will move the North Coast overcrowding problem to another area to collapse their fishery. Keep all ports open with two days a week to evenly spread out fishing pressure.

4. This will only benefit the locals and not the sportsfishers of Washington State.

5. In the past, we have had some excess halibut poundage left over in the north coast. WDFW picked a random single day opener for us to harvest it. Few go as they are not going to chance the weather to fish the one day. There is no support for a one day fishery.

This annual fishery in May is the worst weather condition fishery we have in Washington. We have many days that the weather is not good but are forced to go as opportunity is limited. This proposed change to one day a week, was met with not only opposition but many were irate asking why such a dangerous proposal to put us in harms way. We have been making the decisions for this fishery for many years to keep us fishing. This is a meat fishery with normally marginal to bad weather. We fish it hard and go home. No one stays to go hiking or any other recreational activity. This kind of activity is saved for July and August when the weather is not a factor. This is a statewide halibut fishery and belongs to all of the people.

Please see the CSP feedback from this website:

<http://www.bdoutdoors.com/forums/showthread.php...>

Please stay with status quo for the two days a week. We consistently work with NOAA, WDFW, and with PFMC on many fishery issues, directly and indirectly. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or to discuss.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Lanier
Vice President
Puget Sound Anglers State Board

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dave Reese** <piscado@hotmail.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 12:18 PM

Subject: Proposed halibut changes

To: "pfmc.comments@noaa.gov" <pfmc.comments@noaa.gov>

Attn: Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Agenda: Halibut, Agenda Item G.1.c

October 11, 2013

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Re: Halibut. Agenda Item G.1.c
Dear Ms. Lowman:

I am adamantly opposed to the reduction of days of the week for the Washington North Coast Halibut Fishery for 2014.

Ocean weather in May is the largest factor for opposition to this proposal and can be very dangerous. This fishery is 30-40 miles offshore and anything can happen in the amount of time offshore. Below are reasons to keep status quo for two days of the week for the 2014 season.

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We fish it hard and go home. No one stays to go hiking or any other recreational activity. This kind of activity is saved for July and August when the weather is not a factor. This is a statewide halibut fishery and belongs to all of the people.

Please see the CSP feedback from this website:
<http://www.bdoutdoors.com/forums/showthread.php...>

Please stay with status quo for the two days a week.

David Reese

[illegible]

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Cory Rose** <crose@uslfreight.com>

Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 11:50 AM

Subject: Halibut fishery, Agenda Item G.1.c

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fisheries Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384
Re: Halibut. Agenda Item G.1.c

Dear Ms. Lowman:

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Cory Rose

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **jeff redburn** <jpredburn21@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Oct 11, 2013 at 11:07 AM
Subject: Response to proposal of on day a week Halibut after week one
To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Please reconsider this change. It will cause stupid decisions and negatively affect the local economy. Neah Bay and La Push are far too far to travel for anyone for one day of fishing. Weather is inconsistent that time of year. Please reconsider.

Thank you.

Jeff Redburn
7511 6th Ave NW Apt 4
Seattle, Wa
98117
206-954-6800

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **dave gudgell** <boatdriverdgc@yahoo.com>

Date: Sat, Oct 19, 2013 at 10:09 PM

Subject: columbia river halibut and ling cod

To: pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

We here on the Columbia river would like to strongly endorse all halibut and ling cod changes that have been proposed for this area during our halibut fisheries. We would also like to endorse the retention of halibut as an incidental while fishing ground fish. Thank you for your consideration. David Gudgell captain m/v Westwind Pacific Salmon Charters

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OCT 21 2013



Noyo Harbor District
19101 S. Harbor Drive
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
707-964-4719 Fax 707-964-4710
noyohd@yahoo.com

IPHC

Robert Armitage
Chairman

Joe Caito
Vice Chairman

James Burns
Commissioner

Tommy Ancona
Commissioner

Dusty Dillion
Commissioner

Kevin Michel
Secretary/Treasurer

Jere Kleinbach
Manager

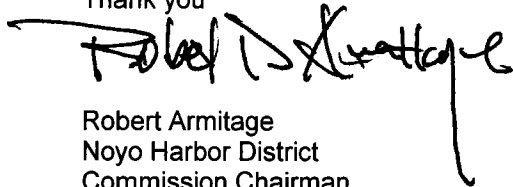
October 11, 2013

International Pacific Halibut Commission
2320 W. Commodore Way Suite 300
Seattle WA 98199-1287

Dear International Pacific Halibut Commissioners

The Noyo Harbor District Commission is writing this letter to express support for the proposal to create a separate zone for California's recreational halibut fishery.

Thank you



Robert Armitage
Noyo Harbor District
Commission Chairman

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OCT 21 2013

PFMC



Noyo Harbor District
19101 S. Harbor Drive
Fort Bragg, CA 95437
707-964-4719 Fax 707-964-4710
noyohd@yahoo.com

Agenda Item G.1.c
Supplemental Public Comment 3
November 2013

Robert Armitage
Chairman

Joe Caito
Vice Chairman

James Burns
Commissioner

Tommy Ancona
Commissioner

Dusty Dillion
Commissioner

Kevin Michel
Secretary/Treasurer

Jere Kleinbach
Manager

October 11, 2013

The Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384
pfmc.comments@noaa.gov

Dear Pacific Fishery Management Council Members

The Noyo Harbor District Commission is writing this letter to express support for the proposal to create a separate zone for California's recreational halibut fishery.

Thank you

Robert Armitage
Noyo Harbor District
Commission Chairman