

2016 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATION CHANGES

Each September meeting, the Council considers proposed changes to the annual Pacific halibut regulations and the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 2A (Agenda Item I.1, Attachments 1 and 2). The proposed changes are most often related to recreational season structures (e.g., opening dates, days per week, early season/late season ratios, and port/area sharing) as well as minor allocation changes among areas or gear groups. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has prepared a report on the progress to date of the 2015 Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2A (Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 1).

Public meetings were held by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to present agency staff proposals and to solicit proposed changes to the 2016 CSP and annual regulations. The recommendations resulting from the meetings are included in the reference materials (Agenda Items I.1.a, WDFW Report and I.1.a, ODFW Report). The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) also submitted a report recommending a process for establishing the 2016 recreational fisheries in California that is similar to the process used in 2015 (Agenda Item I.1.a, CDFW Report).

The NMFS prepared a report on recommended changes to the 2016 CSP and annual regulations intended to improve accuracy (Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 2). Additionally, NMFS outlines a mechanism to prohibit retention of Pacific halibut in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis when the quota for this fishery is reached or projected to be reached (Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 2).

The Council is scheduled to adopt for public review proposed changes to the 2016 CSP and annual fishery regulations under this agenda item. Final action for establishing the 2016 Pacific halibut fisheries is scheduled for the November 2015 Council meeting.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt for public review proposed changes for the 2016 Pacific halibut CSP, as necessary.**
- 2. Adopt for public review proposed changes for the 2016 annual fishery regulations, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1: 2015 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2015 Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut.
3. Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 1: Report on the 2015 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.
4. Agenda Item I.1.a, NMFS Report 2: NMFS Proposed Changes to Federal Regulations and 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.

5. Agenda Item I.1.a, WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan and 2016 Annual Regulations.
6. Agenda Item I.1.a, ODFW Report: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2016 Fishery.
7. Agenda Item I.1.a, CDFW Report: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.
8. Agenda Item I.1.b, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- I.1 2016 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulation Changes Kelly Ames
 - a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt for Public Review Proposed Changes for the 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishing Regulations

PFMC
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