

## GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON 2016 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN AND REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a presentation from Ms. Lynn Mattes and Ms. Heather Reed regarding Pacific Halibut regulation proposals for 2016. Our purpose here is to advise the Council regarding potential catch sharing alternatives to be considered by the Council for adoption. 2016 Halibut regulations will be finalized at this November Council meeting.

### **WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WDFW) PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CATCH SHARING PLAN (CSP)**

(Agenda Item J.1.a, WDFW Report)

The GAP supports adoption of the Washington proposed alternatives to the CSP stating the North Coast Subarea modify the season opening date to the first Saturday in May while maintaining the Thursday and Saturday opening during the second week in May and management closure in the third week of May.

### **OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (ODFW) PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CSP**

(Agenda Item J.1.a – ODFW Report)

The GAP supports ODFW and the status quo option. ODFW presented proposed changes to the catch sharing plan in the Columbia River Subarea with the option of keeping the CSP status quo at four days per week Thursday-Sunday or alternative 1 which opens the season seven days a week.

The GAP supports the ODFW proposed alternative for the nearshore recreational halibut in the Central Oregon Coast Subarea which combines status quo and alternative 1 to the CSP. Status Quo opens the fishery July 1, whereas alternative 1 opens the fishery May 1; both open seven days a week until October 31, or quota attainment. ODFW's alternative opens the fishery June 1 seven days a week until October 31 or quota attainment. The GAP supports the ODFW in this decision as it provides opportunity for anglers prior to the recreational Coho season opening July 1.

With regard to the Central Coast Subarea all-depth halibut fishery for 2016, the GAP supports alternative 1 which states the summer all-depth allocation would be reallocated 75 percent to the spring all-depth and 25 percent to the nearshore. The Central Oregon Coast allocations would then be 81.75 percent for the spring all-depth and 18.25 percent for the nearshore. This alternative eliminates the summer all-depth season fishery (25 percent of the allocated quota) that has higher reported yelloweye encounters than the spring all-depth fishery (63 percent of the allocated quota).

In the Southern Oregon Subarea, the GAP supports alternative 1 over status quo. Alternative 1 would allow the subarea to retain other species of flatfish, Pacific cod, and sablefish outside of 30 fathoms while fishing for halibut. Both the Central Oregon and Columbia River subareas are currently able to retain other species of flatfish outside of 30 fathoms while halibut fishing. Alternative 1 allows a consistent regulation across all Oregon Subareas.

The GAP received a statement from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and appreciated that they successfully managed their 2015 Pacific halibut season.

PFMC  
11/18/15