

2017 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) is expected to provide a report on the progress to date of the 2016 Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2A (Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report).

Public meetings were held by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to present agency staff proposals and to solicit proposed changes to the 2017 CSP and annual regulations. The recommendations resulting from the meetings are included in the reference materials (Agenda Item I.1.a, ODFW Report; and Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report).

The Council is scheduled to adopt for public review proposed changes to the 2017 CSP and annual fishery regulations under this agenda item. Final action for establishing the 2017 Pacific halibut fisheries is scheduled for the November 2016 Council meeting.

Update on the Council's Pacific Halibut Data Request

At its June 2016 meeting, the Council began scoping to determine whether greater changes to future CSP allocations are appropriate. As a first step, the Council requested additional information on the spatial distribution of the Pacific halibut exploitable biomass in Area 2A. Council staff have requested assistance from the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) in developing an analysis that would provide such information for Council consideration at the June 2017 Council meeting in Spokane, Washington. The IPHC provided a response to the Council's request (Agenda Item I.1.a, IPHC Report).

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt for public review proposed changes for the 2017 Pacific halibut CSP, as necessary.**
- 2. Adopt for public review proposed changes for the 2017 annual fishery regulations, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 1: 2016 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item I.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2016 Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut.
3. Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental NMFS Report: Report on the 2016 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.
4. Agenda Item I.1.a, IPHC Letter: Response to the Council's Data Request.
5. 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 2017 Fishery.
6. Agenda Item I.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan and 2017 Annual Regulations.

Agenda Order:

- I.1 2017 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 2017 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishing Regulations

PFMC
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