

## 2018 AND BEYOND 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 G.1, Attachments 1, 2, and 3). 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. In November 2016, it was anticipated that development of future CSPs could involve more substantive changes, therefore the Council invoked a three-meeting process which began in June 2017.

In June 2017, the Council reviewed the agency and advisory subpanel reports and heard public comment. Alternatives presented at the meeting included:

- A. Alternatives for the Washington recreational sector as described in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Report, intended to provide flexibility to share allocations among the Washington recreational sub-areas; a statewide season in May, along with reducing the possession limit in the field to one fish and an annual bag limit of two halibut per angler. ([Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental WDFW Report, June 2017.](#))
- B. Alternatives for a combined commercial and recreational allocation for California as described in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Report. The allocation would be 7.51 or 7.15 percent of the non-tribal quota by reducing the non-tribal commercial share by 3.51 or 3.15 percent. The California commercial share would provide for incidental retention in the groundfish and salmon troll fisheries and the non-tribal commercial share would then be for north of 42° N. latitude only. CDFW may also consider an option that limits the California commercial share to incidental retention in the groundfish fisheries only, while maintaining the incidental salmon troll allocation. ([Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental CDFW Report, June 2017](#))
- C. Increase the California recreational subarea allocation from 4 to 6 percent by equally reducing the Washington and Oregon recreational subarea allocations as outlined in the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) Report. When considering this option, WDFW may consider reducing the incidental halibut allocation to the primary sablefish north of Pt. Chehalis to provide Washington's proposed 1 percent contribution. ([Agenda Item G.1.b, Supplemental GAP Report, June 2017](#))
- D. Alternatives for moving away from 10-hour derby openings, such as managing the non-tribal directed commercial fishery for halibut to provide a 20-day, 30-day, or shorter season managed with per vessel trip limits by vessel length, as outlined by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). ([Agenda Item G.1.a, Supplemental IPHC Letter 2, June 2017](#))

After full Council discussion at the June 2017 meeting, the Council decided to wait and consider these alternatives here at the September 2017 Council meeting. The intent was to allow time for the alternatives to be further developed, provide time for public review of all the alternatives, and allow time for development and assessment of the required analysis by the National Marine Fishery Service.

Meetings were held over the summer by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), CDFW, and WDFW to present agency staff proposals and to solicit proposed changes to the 2018 and beyond CSP and annual regulations. The recommendations resulting from the meetings are included in the reference materials (Agenda Item G.1.b, ODFW Reports 1 and 2 and WDFW Report 1). It is anticipated that WDFW and CDFW will provide additional supplemental reports on the proposed changes.

At the request of the Council, IPHC conducted an analysis on vessel limit options in lieu of a 10-hour 'derby' non-tribal directed commercial troll fishery which is summarized in a report (Agenda Item G.1.a, IPHC Report 1).

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) also provided a report on the progress to date of the 2017 Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2A (Agenda Item G.1.b, NMFS Report 1).

The Council is scheduled to adopt for public review proposed changes to the 2018 CSP and beyond, and to the 2018 annual fishery regulations under this agenda item. Final action for establishing the 2018 Pacific halibut fisheries is scheduled for the November 2017 Council meeting. Ideally the Council will identify which items are to be considered for 2018 implementation, and which items may need further analysis, perhaps by establishing an Ad Hoc policy committee and technical workgroup. For those items that require further analysis, a schedule could be provided at the November Council meeting outlining the tasks and the proposed timeline.

### **Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt for public review proposed changes for the 2018 Pacific Halibut CSP and 2018 annual fishery regulations, as necessary.**
- 2. Adopt for public review proposed changes for future Pacific Halibut CSP beyond 2018, as necessary.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 1: 2017 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2017 Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut.
3. Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 3: Historical Catch Sharing Plan Allocations and Catch.
4. Agenda Item G.1.a, IPHC Report 1: IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Directed Commercial Pacific Halibut Fishery Sample Vessel Fishing Period Limit Options for Longer Fishing Periods.
5. Agenda Item G.1.b, NMFS Report 1: Report on the 2017 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.
6. Agenda Item G.1.b, WDFW Report 1: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan Changes for 2018.
7. Agenda Item G.1.b, ODFW Report 1: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2018 Fishery.

8. Agenda Item G.1.b, ODFW Report 2: Summary of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Public Meetings on Proposed Changes to the Non-Tribal Directed Commercial Fishery for Pacific Halibut.
9. Agenda Item G.1.c, Public Comment 1.

Agenda Order:

- G.1 2018 and Beyond Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulation Changes Robin Ehlke
  - a. Report of the International Pacific Halibut Commission Steve Keith, Jamie Goen
  - b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - c. Public Comment
  - d. **Council Action:** Adopt for Public Review Proposed Changes for the 2018 and beyond Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan, and 2018 Annual Fishing Regulations

PFMC  
08/21/17