

FINAL ANNUAL REGULATION AND 2A CATCH SHARING PLAN CHANGES

As described in Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Operating Procedure (COP) 9, the Council solicits proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 2A (Agenda Item F.1, Attachments 1 and 2) and annual fishery regulations at its September meeting. At the November meeting, the Council is scheduled to take final action, after reviewing public and agency comments.

At the September 2018 meeting, the Council adopted for public review proposed changes to the Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries. No changes were proposed for California recreational fisheries.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposed changes to the Columbia River South Coast subareas for public review.

1. Columbia River subarea: Revise the description of the season opening date so that it more closely aligns with the opening date in the other Washington subareas. Consider the following options:
 - a. Option 1: Open the second Thursday in May.
 - b. Option 2: Open the second Friday in May.
 - c. Option 3: Consult with stakeholders and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to determine the season opening date prior to the November Council meeting.
2. Columbia River subarea: Revise the days of the week that the season is open
 - a. Option 1: Status quo (Thursday, Friday, Sunday).
 - b. Option 2: Friday and Sunday.
3. South Coast subarea: Revise the CSP language to remove the set aside of 10 percent or 2,000 pounds for the nearshore fishery and allow the nearshore fishery to be open after the primary (all-depth) fishery closes, if sufficient quota remains.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife proposed one change for public review:

1. Columbia River subarea: Revise the description of the season opening date so that it more closely aligns with the opening date in the other Washington and Oregon subareas. Consider the following options:
 - a. Status quo: Opens the first Thursday in May.
 - b. Alternative 1: Opens the second Thursday in May.
 - c. Alternative 2: Opens the second Friday in May.
 - d. Alternative 3: Consult with stakeholders and the WDFW prior to the November Council meeting to determine the season opening date for the following year.

Although no changes to the non-tribal commercial directed halibut fishery were proposed at the September Council meeting, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) did provide a report expressing the continued desire to change the current structure of that fishery, and outlined the anticipated plans to propose and potentially adopt changes through their annual IPHC meeting process. The IPHC values any input from the Council and the public in consideration of a potential change to the fishery, which could be implemented in 2019.

At this November meeting, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has provided information on catch-to-date of Pacific halibut in 2018 (Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 1). Supplemental reports are anticipated from IPHC, and from WDFW and ODFW following solicited public input on the proposed changes, and subsequently prepared agency recommendations for Council consideration.

The Council is scheduled to consider the available information, as well as any advisory body and public comment, and adopt the final 2019 CSP and annual fishery regulations.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt final changes to the 2019 Pacific halibut CSP, as necessary.**
2. **Adopt final changes to the 2019 annual fishery regulations, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 1: 2018 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2018 Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut.
3. Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 1: Report on the 2018 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.

Agenda Order:

- F.1 Annual Regulations and 2A Catch Sharing Plan Changes – Final Action Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Changes for the 2019 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishery Regulations

PFMC
10/11/18