

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON  
ANNUAL REGULATIONS AND 2A CATCH SHARING PLAN CHANGES

In September, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) proposed options to revise the season structure in the Columbia River subarea all-depth fishery for 2019. The proposed changes include a process that would increase flexibility in setting the season opening dates and revising the days of the week the season is open. (Agenda Items, J.1.b, [Supp ODFW Report 1](#) and [Supp WDFW Report 1](#), September, 2018).

Prior to this meeting, WDFW and ODFW met independently with stakeholders from both states to gather input on the season structure and proposed season dates for 2019. Complete summaries of that input are provided in ODFW and WDFW reports, (Agenda Item, F.1.a, [Supp ODFW Report 1](#), and [Supp WDFW Report 1](#), November 2018). In general, stakeholders from both states supported a season setting process that increased flexibility in setting the season opening date through coordination between WDFW, ODFW, and stakeholders prior to the November Council meeting, and reducing the days of the week the season is open from three to two. In addition, Washington stakeholders supported specific season dates that aligned with the season in the South Coast subarea, which is adjacent to the Washington portion of the Columbia River subarea, to minimize effort shift, and spread out the season. Oregon stakeholders did not specify specific proposed dates for 2019 but were generally supportive of the changes recommended by WDFW.

**Together, WDFW and ODFW recommend the following season dates for the recreational halibut season in 2019.**

Columbia River: Thursday, May 2; Sunday May 5; Thursday, May 9; Sunday, May 12; Friday, May 24; Sunday, May 26. If sufficient quota remains after May 26, the Columbia River subarea would be open two days per week (Thursday and Sunday) until the remaining quota is achieved.