

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 its November meeting, the Council is scheduled to take final action, after reviewing public and agency comments.

At the September 2019 meeting, the Council adopted for public review proposed changes to the current Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan and annual fishing regulations in Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries. No changes were proposed for California recreational fisheries.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposed three changes for public review:

1. Puget Sound Subarea: Provide flexibility for this subarea to open in April.
2. North Coast, South Coast, and Columbia River Subareas: In years when April 30 falls on a Thursday, provide flexibility for the season to open on April 30.
3. All Washington Subareas: Revise the current CSP language to provide the flexibility to open up to three days per week.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) proposed five changes for public review:

1. Oregon Coastwide: Allow all-depth halibut fishing and longleader gear fishing on the same trip.
2. Columbia River and Southern Oregon Subareas: Revise the Southern Oregon Subarea allocation rule so that any poundage over 8,000 pounds is allocated to the Columbia River Subarea.
3. Central Coast Subarea: Revise the start date of the nearshore fishery from June 1 to May 1 in years when the allocation is 25,000 pounds or greater.
4. Central Coast Subarea: Revise the number of days open per week in the summer all-depth fishery from two days to three days if after the spring all-depth fishery concludes the remaining spring allocation plus the summer all-depth allocation totals at least 60,000 pounds. The additional open day in the summer fishery could be Thursday or Sunday.
5. Central Coast Subarea: Revise the spring all-depth season back-up days from every other Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday if, after the spring all-depth season fixed dates conclude, ODFW, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), International Pacific Halibut Commission and Council staff confer and deem reasonable.

At this November meeting for Council consideration, NMFS has provided information on catch-to-date of Pacific halibut in 2019 (Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 1) and ODFW has provided a report summarizing public feedback on their proposed changes, and subsequently prepared agency recommendations (Agenda Item F.1.a, ODFW Report 1). A supplemental report of the same nature is anticipated from WDFW.

Council Action:

1. **Adopt final changes to the 2020 Pacific halibut CSP, as necessary.**
2. **Adopt final changes to the 2020 annual fishery regulations, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 1: 2019 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2019 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
3. Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 1: Report on the 2019 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.
4. Agenda Item F.1.a, ODFW Report 1: Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2020 fishery
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

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 2020 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishery Regulations

PFMC
10/18/19