

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT 2 ON 2021 DIRECTED
COMMERCIAL HALIBUT FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

ODFW recommends that the Council consider the following preliminary recommendation to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) for the commercial nontribal directed halibut fishery in Area 2A (Washington, Oregon, and California) in 2021:

**Status quo fishing period duration (58 hours, 0800 Mondays to 1800 Wednesdays)
and season start (fourth Monday in June).**

This recommendation is based on public input documented in Agenda Item I.3.a ODFW Report 1, September 2020. A majority of input favored the 58 hour periods used in 2020. Regarding the season start, ODFW finds the concern that an earlier season could lead to participation by more vessels, possibly resulting in even lower trip limits, a compelling reason to recommend status quo.

In addition, ODFW sees merit in further exploration of allowing “split loads”, or the delivery of halibut to multiple processors within a port, including at different offload sites. This could remove barriers for small buyers and potentially increase the overall value of halibut landings by allowing vessels to deliver to a combination of buyers for the best price; however, provisions would need to be made to ensure adequate sampling and enforcement.