

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
2021 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the 2021 Pacific halibut catch sharing plan (CSP) from Ms. Robin Ehlke, Pacific Fishery Management Council staff, and offers the following comments.

The GAP generally agrees with the reports from [California](#), [Oregon](#), and [Washington](#) under this agenda item.

The GAP supports the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife ([Supplemental WDFW Report 2](#)) recognizing revisions to the 2021 CSP may be necessary regarding Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas (YRCAs). Removing the description of the South Coast Recreational YRCA and Westport Offshore YRCA from pertinent sections of the CSP will align those regulations with the biennial harvest specifications and management measures approved by the Council earlier this year. This change will decrease confusion for enforcement.

Additionally, the GAP also appreciates the proposal (Alternative 1) in the [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife report](#) to allow longleader gear on the same trip as all-depth halibut trips. This will indeed add flexibility for sport fishers. Since longleader gear is currently allowed only in Oregon, the GAP is comfortable that Oregon enforcement will be able to monitor this change. Oregon fishery managers could change this to be more restrictive than Federal regulations, should the need arise.

PFMC  
09/16/20