WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CATCH SHARING PLAN AND 2021 ANNUAL REGULATIONS

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) recommends including the following change to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for 2021 for public review, in addition to those recommended in Supplemental WDFW Report 1 (<u>Agenda Item I.1.a, Supp. WDFW Report 1</u>, September 2020).

Proposed Changes to the CSP for 2021

South Coast Subarea

Proposed Change: Revise the CSP to remove the description of the South Coast Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) and the Westport Offshore YRCA from section 6.9.3 South coast subarea, h. Closed conservation areas of the CSP.

Rationale: This proposed change was analyzed during the 2021-2022 groundfish harvest specifications and management measure process and was included in the groundfish regulations adopted by the Council and anticipated to be implemented by the National Marine Fisheries Service beginning in 2021. However, it also needs to be implemented into the halibut regulations in order to be available for 2021.

PFMC 09/14/20