

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
COMMERCIAL-DIRECTED FISHERY REGULATIONS FOR 2021

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the 2021 Commercial-Directed Fishery Regulations for Pacific halibut from Ms. Robin Ehlke, Pacific Fishery Management Council staff, and offers the following comments and suggestions.

The GAP reviewed the reports from the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW, [Report 1](#), [Report 2](#)) and agrees that the 58-hour fishery that took place this year is a good compromise between the single-day (10-hour) openings and proposed 5-day or 10-day seasons considered in the past.

However, the GAP suggests considering a Tuesday-Thursday 58-hour season instead of a Monday-Wednesday season. This change would allow fishermen to purchase ice on Monday and avoid weekend ice plant rates that, in some places, are higher than weekday rates. It also would allow fishermen to deliver fresh halibut for weekend markets.

The GAP also supports the proposal for “split delivers” or “split loads,” as identified in both the WDFW and ODFW reports.

PFMC
09/16/20