

2021 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS – FINAL ACTION

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 E.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 2020 meeting, the Council adopted for public review proposed changes to the current Area 2A Pacific Halibut CSP and annual fishing regulations in Washington, Oregon, and California recreational fisheries for the 2021 season as follows:

1. In the Columbia River subarea, allow the retention of yellowtail, widow, canary, redstriped, greenstriped, slivergray, chilipepper, bocaccio, and blue/deacon rockfishes, Pacific cod, flatfish species, and lingcod north of the Washington – Oregon border on all depth halibut days.
2. Remove the description of the South Coast Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) and the Westport Offshore YRCA from the CSP in section 6.9.3 South coast subarea, h. Closed conservation areas.
3. Coastwide in Oregon, allow all-depth halibut fishing and longleader gear fishing on the same trip.
4. In the California sport fishery, change the end date from October 31 to no later than November 15.

At this November meeting for Council consideration, NMFS has provided information on catch-to-date of Pacific halibut in 2020 (Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 1). Supplemental reports are anticipated from Washington, Oregon, and California Departments of Fish and Wildlife describing the proposed changes and any public input received during their respective processes.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt final changes to the 2021 Pacific halibut CSP, as necessary.**
- 2. Adopt final changes to the 2021 annual fishery regulations, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 1: 2020 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2020 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
3. Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 1: National Marine Fisheries Service Report on the 2020 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.1 2021 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations – 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 2021 Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Fishery Regulations

PFMC
10/19/20