

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

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

The GAP agrees with the reports regarding the catch sharing plan changes from [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW), [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (ODFW) and the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) under this agenda item.

The GAP supports the CDFW proposal of extending the sport fishing season through November 15 or until the allocation is taken, whichever is earlier. This will spread the season out and allow California anglers more time to catch their halibut sport allocation.

Additionally, the GAP supports the ODFW proposal for the use of longleader gear in all-depth halibut trips in Oregon, as we reported in our [September 2020 GAP report](#) on the halibut catch-sharing plan.

Furthermore, the GAP supports the proposed seasonal dates changes as proposed in the WDFW report.

The GAP notes the tribal fishery was successful again this year with another near-record harvest of halibut, despite challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The commercial sector landed high-quality fish throughout the season.

GAP members also recommend an Area 2A total constant exploitation yield (TCEY; mortality limit) of 1.65 million pounds to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), consistent with the 2020 TCEY as noted in Table 6 of the February 2020, [IPHC Report](#).

PFMC
11/12/20