

# Updated Range of Alternatives for the Proposed Transfer of Management Responsibilities for Area 2A Pacific Halibut Fisheries with Focus on the Non-Tribal Directed Commercial Fishery

**Preliminary Preferred Alternatives Highlighted in **Bold****

November 2020

Prepared for:  
Pacific Fishery Management Council

Prepared by:  
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# Goals for today



Review Preliminary Preferred Alternatives



Adopt Final Preferred Alternatives



Discuss the Future Workload and Schedule

# Highlights



2019 Project team and NMFS provided reports on management transfer



March 2020: Council adopted Range of Alternatives



September 2020: Council adopted Preliminary Preferred Alternatives

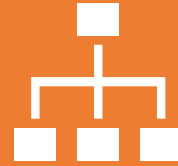


November 2020: Council scheduled to adopt Final Preferred Alternatives

## 4.0 Range of Alternatives

4.1 Fishery management process

4.2 Permitting process



Focus is the transfer of management responsibilities

4.1 – Fishery management process: When to consider the framework of the directed fishery falls mainly to the Council

4.2 – Permitting process: How to implement the permitting process is mostly an administrative task and falls mainly to NMFS

## 4.1 Fishery Management Process

To accommodate the management transfer, the Council will need to:

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1. Establish a framework for a preseason process



2. Provide guidance for inseason management



3. Decide when decisions will be made



Provide for public comment and review

## 4.1.1 Fishery Management Process

Three Alternatives provided for the schedule and process for setting seasons



4.1.1: No Action Alternative



**4.1.2: Directed fishery considered during the CSP process**

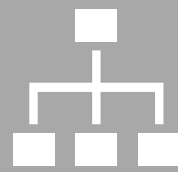


4.1.3: Same as 4.1.2, except delay guidance for vessel limits and inseason changes until spring

## 4.1 Fishery Management

### 4.1.2 Alternative 2 (Preliminary Preferred Alternative)

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### **Alternative 2: Consider the directed fishery during the CSP process (Sep/Nov)**

- September: adopt fishery framework, including any guidance for vessel limits and inseason changes, for public review
- November: adopt fishery framework for recommendation to NMFS
- NMFS implements fishery
- No changes needed for NMFS rulemaking schedule

## 4.2 Permitting Process

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**4.2.1 Which Area 2A halibut fisheries would be issued permits**



**4.2.2 Application deadlines**



**4.2.3 Development of application process**



**4.2.4 Notification for issuance of permit**



**4.2.5 Proof of permit**

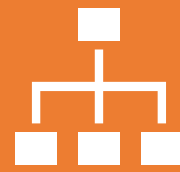


## 4.2.1

# Which Permits to Issue

## Alternative 2: Preliminary Preferred Alternative

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Alternative 1: Issue permits only for the Area 2A non-Indian directed commercial halibut fishery



**Alternative 2: Issue permits for all Area 2A halibut fisheries**

Permits would include:  
commercial directed,  
incidental salmon troll,  
incidental sablefish, and  
recreational charter halibut fisheries

## 4.2.2 Application Deadlines

### Alternative 2: Preliminary Preferred Alternative

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#### Alternative 1:

Status quo: Maintain the IPHC application deadline for the directed fishery of April 30



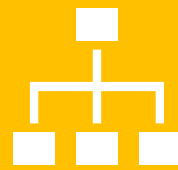
#### Alternative 2:

**NMFS determines appropriate application deadlines**

### 4.2.3 Development of an Application Process

### 4.2.4 Notification for Issuance of Permit

These are mainly administrative matters that will be addressed by NMFS



NMFS is the best suited to determine and implement the most efficient and appropriate application platform

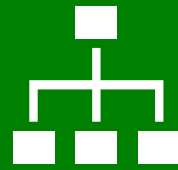


NMFS best suited to determine the appropriate means of notification

## 4.2.5 Proof of Permit

Alternative 1 (revised):  
Preliminary Preferred  
Alternative

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**Alternative 1: Status quo. Require ~~paper copy of~~ proof of permit to be onboard fishing vessel and made readily available upon request, regardless of the type of permit (e.g., paper or electronic). NMFS to provide access to permit in a printable format or send paper copy directly to participant.**



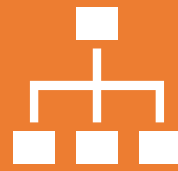
Alternative 2: No requirement for paper proof of permit to be onboard fishing vessel. NMFS work with enforcement to develop acceptable format of required proof of permit.

## 4.3 Roles and Responsibilities

Which management entity(s) will be responsible for any tasks related to management of the fishery during and after the transfer.

As the transition progresses and is eventually complete, roles and responsibilities may need to change.

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Some tasks fall into NMFS purview while others fall naturally to the Council

NMFS responsible for permits and management (comparable to IPHC process).

Council responsible for public process to recommend seasons and regulations to NMFS

Section 6 provides additional information, Tables 2 and 3

# 5.0 Workload and Timeline

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November 2019 - Project Team assigned to develop report for March 2020



March 2020 – Council approves purpose and need, scope of action, and adopts range of alternatives (ROAs) for public review



September 2020 – Council considers ROAs and adopts preliminary preferred alternatives (PPAs) for public review



November 2020 – Council considers PPAs and adopts final preferred alternatives for recommendation to NMFS



February –March 2021 NMFS develops permitting system



January 2022: NMFS initiates new permit system

# Council-adopted Preliminary Preferred Alternatives



4.1.2 - Alternative 2: Consider the directed fishery framework during the CSP process in September and November, including any guidance for vessel limits and inseason changes for NMFS implementation



4.2.1 Alternative 2: Issue permits for all Area 2A halibut non-Indian fisheries (commercial directed, incidental salmon troll, incidental sablefish, and recreational charter).



4.2.2 Alternative 2: Allow NMFS to determine the appropriate application deadlines for all commercial halibut applications, set to coincide with Council meetings and NMFS processing time.



4.2.5 Alternative 1: Status quo (revised). Require proof of permit to be onboard fishing vessel and made readily available upon request, regardless of the type of permit (e.g., paper or electronic).