

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON FINAL CHANGES TO
THE 2022 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN AND UPDATE ON 2021
RECREATIONAL FISHERY

2022 Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) Changes

At the September 2021 Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) meeting, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) did not propose amendments to the CSP for 2022 but remains committed to incorporating angler input into future decisions affecting the California recreational Pacific halibut season structure. As in prior years, the 2021 season structure was designed with input provided by anglers in an online survey conducted by CDFW at the beginning of February, following determination of California’s quota amount at the IPHC’s annual meeting. The same will be done for the 2022 season.

Update on 2021 Recreational Catch

The 2021 recreational Pacific halibut fishery in California was open May 1-June 30, and September 3-November 15 (see [Agenda Item G.1.a. Supplemental CDFW Report 1, September 2021](#) for additional information on catch tracking and monitoring from the 2021 season). CDFW coordinated inseason with the National Marine Fisheries Service, International Pacific Halibut Commission, and Council staff to ensure catch did not exceed the federally set quota.

Total 2021 preliminary monthly projections through November 7 and catch estimates through September are provided below (Table 1). CDFW’s preliminary season total catch estimate for 2021 is 25,017 net pounds, or 64 percent of the 39,260 net pound quota. Final annual catch estimates are expected to be available in January 2022.

Table 1. Pacific halibut catch estimates in California by month in 2021. CDFW projection values are provided in ~~strikeout~~ to illustrate the process of replacing the projections with catch estimates when those estimates became available approximately six weeks following the end of the month. Data are from California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) and are preliminary and subject to change. Discrepancies in the total are due to rounding.

Month	Net Pounds Accrued	
	CDFW Projection	Preliminary CRFS Estimate
May	2,825	2,966
June	31,071	15,330
July	Closed	59
August	Closed	80
September	10,321	4,736
October	1,847	
November	0	
Total		25,017

CDFW acknowledges that projection modeling in June and September 2021 resulted in significant over-projection of the month’s catch estimate. As described in [Agenda Item G.1.a. Supplemental CDFW Report 1, September 2021](#), this was due to abnormally small-sized fish being landed in the fishery, and

the projection method that has been employed since 2015 is based on an assumption that all fish are of equal and average size between years. CDFW has made significant progress in 2021 to ensure that in the future, length information will be evaluated inseason to determine if there is a significant deviation from the multi-year average size, and if so, to consider that information in evaluating quota attainment.