

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON 2022 CATCH SHARING PLAN
AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS – FINAL ACTION

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the documents under this agenda item, heard from Christian Heath, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), about the ODFW report, and offers the following comments.

The GAP reviewed the state reports from [California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (CDFW), [ODFW](#) and [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) (WDFW) and supports the alternatives for season structures as proposed in the ODFW and WDFW reports.

Referencing the WDFW report, the GAP suggests amending the catch sharing plan to include the following (*addition in bold italic*):

6.8 Flexible inseason management provisions

Protocol for inseason modifications The Regional

The Regional Administrator, NMFS West Coast Region, after consultation with the Chair of the Council, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Executive Director, and the Fisheries Director(s) of the affected state(s), or their designees, **and the affected Tribes**, is authorized to modify regulations during the season after making the following determinations:

The Tribes are an integral part of halibut management, and they hope to be able to open their ports for more fishing next year.

Additionally, California sport fisheries members requested a two percent increase of the Area 2A non-Tribal Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield allocation from four percent to six percent. California sport fishermen are under severe pressure from poor salmon seasons and the downturn in quillback and copper rockfish will cause further stress and economic harm to California ports. The change was not included for public review in September, but California and Oregon sport fishermen on the GAP support this change at this time; Washington sport representatives do not at this time but might support considering it in the future, once more analysis is available.