

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
2023 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of the 2023 Pacific halibut catch sharing plan (CSP) from Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Pacific Fishery Management Council staff; during the GAP's August 25, 2022 work session and we revisited the issue at the start of the September GAP meeting.

The GAP generally agrees with the reports from [Washington](#) and [Oregon](#) under this agenda item. The states have proposed several recreational fishery-change alternatives, which the GAP believes will give the public some choices and flexibility. The GAP appreciates the states exploring changes that would allow the recreational fisheries more operational flexibility but does not express a preference of any of the choices at this time.

Washington recreational fishermen on the GAP noted that several days of inclement weather in May prevented them from accessing the quotas proposed in November. Therefore, GAP members agree with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) rationale and proposal that could provide up to three days per week of halibut fishing in May for the coastal subareas. Charter boat operators prefer more time for halibut fishing in May as most businesses will transition to salmon and albacore tuna as summer approaches. Changes to the CSP are not necessary to do this, but the GAP supports consideration of the potential flexibility this would provide to fishermen.

The GAP notes WDFW proposes two options for changes to the Puget Sound subarea, but the GAP does not have a preference for one or the other at this time.

Oregon representatives on the GAP expressed interest in finding ways to optimize fishing access and opportunities particularly earlier in the season as a means to more fully attain their quota: for example, the GAP encourages Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to utilize their inshore, spring and summer quotas to develop an all-depth halibut season open from May 1st through October 31st.

California GAP members stated that California reached its halibut quota allocation before the end of the summer fishing season in 2022. The GAP recognizes that California representatives are interested in future consideration of allocation increase.

PFMC  
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