

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON COMMERCIAL-DIRECTED  
FISHERY REGULATIONS FOR 2023

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview of this agenda item from Mr. Brett Wiedoff, Pacific Fishery Management Council staff officer, and reviewed the documents under this agenda item.

Similar to our [September 2021 GAP Report 1](#) regarding the directed commercial fishery, the GAP appreciates the effort, as noted in the [Situation Summary](#), to maintain the general season structure, with season openings and vessel limits consistent with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)-developed protocols for the non-tribal directed commercial fishery, as the management transfer from IPHC to the National Marine Fisheries Service progresses. The GAP acknowledges difficulties surrounding two-week separation between season openers exist. However, it is important to note that fishermen and buyers have become accustomed to this schedule over many years and it is vital to the success of the fishery that the period between openers remain as short as possible. The GAP remains ready to work with the Council and other advisory bodies to find creative solutions to this issue.

To be clear, participants in the directed commercial fishery appreciate the three-day openers that run from 8 a.m. Tuesday to 6 p.m. Thursday. This provides fishermen the ability to get ice on Monday and affords them the flexibility to sell halibut directly to the public over the weekend. The three-day openings also improve the safety for fishermen by providing a day or two of flexibility to account for weather changes. Adhering to this structure will continue to provide economic benefit to fishermen and coastal communities while maintaining a higher level of safety.

PFMC  
09/08/2022