

2023 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS – FINAL ACTION

As described in Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) Operating Procedure (COP) 9, the Council solicits proposed changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 2A (Agenda Item E.1, Attachments 1 and 2) and annual fishery regulations at its September meeting. At its November meeting, the Council is scheduled to take final action, after reviewing public and agency comments.

At the September 2022 meeting, the Council adopted for public review proposed changes to the current Area 2A Pacific Halibut CSP and annual fishing regulations in Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries. No changes were proposed for California recreational fisheries.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposed changes only for the Puget Sound subarea. No changes were proposed for the North Coast, South Coast, and Columbia River Subareas.

Puget Sound Subarea

Option 1: Revise the CSP language to allow season openings up to five days per week during April, May, and June and up to seven days per week if sufficient quota remains to allow additional openings in August and September.

Option 2: Revise the CSP language to allow season openings up to seven days per week during April, May, and June and up to seven days per week if sufficient quota remains to allow additional openings in August and September.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) proposed one change for all Oregon ocean waters and three changes for the Central Oregon subarea.

Oregon Coastal Waters:

Option: Allow All-Depth halibut fishing and longleader gear fishing on the same trip with Pacific cod, sablefish, and other flatfish.

Central Oregon subarea (options may be combined):

Opening Date Option: If the Central Oregon Coast Subarea Spring All-Depth allocation is greater than 100,000 pounds, the season will open May 1.

Days Open per Week Option: If the Central Oregon Coast Subarea Spring All-Depth allocation is greater than 100,000 pounds, the season may open up to seven days per week during months when the bottomfish fishery is not depth restricted.

Daily-Bag-Limit Option: If the Central Oregon Coast Subarea allocation (all-depth and nearshore combined) is 200,000 pounds or greater, the daily-bag-limit may be increased to two fish per day, based on consultation between ODFW, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), International Pacific Halibut Commission, and the Council with the intent of taking the entire subarea allocation by September 30.

NMFS has provided information on catch-to-date of Pacific halibut in 2022 under this Agenda Item. Supplemental reports are anticipated from WDFW and ODFW describing the proposed changes and any public input received during their respective processes.

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt final changes to the 2023 Pacific halibut CSP, as necessary.**
- 2. Adopt final changes to the 2023 annual fishery regulations, as necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 1: 2022 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2022 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
3. Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 1: National Marine Fisheries Service Report on the 2022 Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Area 2A.
4. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.1 2023 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations – Final Action Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final 2023 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulation Changes

PFMC
10/06/22