

SCOPING TOPICS FOR POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE
PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN AND
NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS

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1 Introduction

The purpose of this scoping report is to provide basic information that will help the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) identify and prioritize potential changes to current Pacific halibut (halibut) management policies. This report is limited to items that have been recommended for consideration by the Enforcement Consultants (EC), items recently discussed by the Council, and provided in the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) [report](#). It also provides issues that have recently come up during advisory body discussions in the GAP and Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS).

The goal of scoping is to define the problem and the magnitude of an issue. This will help the Council make informed decisions on how, if, and when to consider the topics outlined in this document, including the potential workload and timeline needed to address the issue(s).

2 Background

The Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) completed the transfer of management authority of commercial fisheries and licensing of commercial and charter vessels from the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) in 2022. As the management transfer process was underway, the Enforcement Consultants (EC) provided the Council with recommendations to consider that could improve enforcement of non-tribal commercial fisheries that retain halibut. The EC provided reports to the Council on these recommendations in [November 2019](#) and [September 2022](#)¹. While the Council discussed the transition of the fishery, the Council requested that no major changes to the commercial fisheries were to be made and requested that NMFS, in the near term, keep the non-tribal directed commercial halibut fishery management as close to status quo as possible (i.e., setting annual regulations in September/November, issuing permits, and setting vessel limits, season dates, and conducting inseason actions as needed) to stabilize management and ensure a successful transition.

At the September and November 2022 Council meetings, the Council considered annual changes to the [Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan](#) (CSP) and the season structure for the non-tribal directed commercial halibut fishery. In September 2022 under workload planning, the discussion included the Area 2A halibut allocation (Total Catch Exploitable Yield or TCEY) for the upcoming year. The Area 2A halibut fisheries had been managed on a set TCEY under a four-year agreement that had expired, and there was uncertainty if the agreement would be renewed and what the 2023 allocation would be. There was also uncertainty at the time on the stock status of Pacific halibut relative to abundance and changes in geographic distribution patterns. These issues would eventually be addressed at the January 2023 IPHC annual meeting. Because there was support for scheduling Council time to address the EC concerns, the topic of other major changes to the CSP was also included in this new halibut agenda item. A three-meeting process (June, September, and November 2023) was proposed to address these topics.

In November 2022, the discussion on halibut management was expanded to include utilization of the available Area 2A TCEY, with acknowledgement that in 2022 an estimated 87 percent of the available

¹ The EC recommendations regarding official length/class definition, requirement of the “72- hour pre-season closure and hold inspections”, replacement of text for “setline” with hook-and-line”, as well as licensing and continuous offload requirements were implemented under the final rule during the transfer of management authority; therefore, they are excluded from this scoping paper.

Area 2A allotment was used. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife ([CDFW](#)) [report](#) provided information on the performance of the Pacific halibut recreational fishery in 2022, and on the fishery since 2015 when the current California recreational fishery allocation and management structure was implemented. The report described how the fishery is constrained in most years (due to lack of allocation) from having a season that extends from May continuously through Labor Day weekend, and rarely can conduct a full season that extends through the scheduled end date (October 31 or November 15). The November 2023 GAP [report](#) included support for the request to consider changes to the CSP to ‘maximize’ California recreational fisheries to improve opportunity and requested potential changes to the CSP be scheduled as early as June 2023 to accommodate further discussion. The GAP also scheduled halibut discussions on their 2023 March and April agendas to begin scoping and identify primary concerns beyond the recreational allocation issue.

Also, in November under workload planning, the Council was provided clarification on the difference between the annual halibut CSP topics and the major halibut topics slated for June, September and November of 2023. We describe the major topics that have been discussed as ‘long-term’ topics relative to the timeframe it would take to address and implement potential changes. These items would be considered separately from the annual halibut management process that occurs in September and November. Therefore, the Council scheduled a scoping discussion to examine if there are any proposed changes that warrant further consideration and scheduling. Changes to the CSP are typically done within a two-meeting cycle (September and November); however, shifts in allocation between states and/or sectors could require more time to analyze potential impacts and garner stakeholder and public input.

In April 2023, under workload planning the [GAP report](#) requested guidance on the scope of potential items that could be considered for change in the CSP. To accommodate this, the Council suggested that an online meeting occur prior to the 2023 June Council meeting. Therefore, a pre-council webinar was set for June 13, 2023, to begin the discussion of this scoping paper.

3 Identified Topics

3.1 Enforcement Consultants Suggested Regulatory Changes

As previously noted, the Council’s EC recommended consideration of regulatory changes that pertained to commercial fisheries that retain halibut to help facilitate enforcement. We note that there is limited background information regarding these requests and the need for these potential changes. Therefore, as a first step we request the EC and the Council further discuss and articulate a problem statement for each item (Section 3.1.1 through 3.1.3). By doing so, staff will be able to describe the problem, develop a purpose and need statement and in turn develop a range of alternatives that would provide solutions to the problem. In addition, if possible, we ask that the EC prioritize these items for implementation. Finally, we expect the GAP and the SAS to provide preliminary input regarding the burden and effectiveness of implementing these measures.

3.1.1 Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)

The EC recommends adding a requirement for vessels participating in any non-tribal commercial halibut sector to carry VMS. We anticipate that this requirement would apply to vessels that participate in the commercial directed fishery south of Point Chehalis, WA that do not retain any groundfish, and to vessels that retain halibut incidentally in the salmon troll fishery and the sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA (if they have a permit endorsed for halibut retention and are using longline gear). We note that previous Council actions that developed a requirement

for VMS were mainly done to increase the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) ability to enforce fishing activity around restricted areas. It's unclear if this recommendation stems from observations or concerns that fishing activity is occurring in restricted areas.

VMS units automatically record a vessel's position (i.e., the vessel's geographic location in latitude and longitude coordinates) and transmit those coordinates to a communications service provider (either once per hour or at least once every 15 minutes, 24 hours a day depending on which Council managed fishery requires the VMS unit). Vessel operators must arrange for a NMFS OLE type-approved communications service provider to receive and relay transmissions to OLE prior to fishing. Currently, any vessel that uses open access gear to take and retain or possess groundfish in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ or federal waters between 3 and 200 miles) or lands groundfish taken in the EEZ is required to carry an OLE type-approved VMS. Those that fish for groundfish must transmit their position (ping rate) four times per hour. Therefore, vessels that fish for halibut in Federal waters and retain groundfish on the same trip must use VMS. Currently, a total of 1,641 West Coast vessels have a VMS requirement based on federal regulations; this number can vary daily, due to activations and deactivations for a host of reasons.

Table 1 provides a breakdown of the number of unique vessels that actively fished in these fisheries over a six-year period that have used a VMS because they fished in federal waters and landed groundfish in 2017 to 2022. The table also includes the number of unique vessels that actively fished in Federal waters and did not use VMS each year. Based on the EC recommendation, we anticipate that this potential requirement may apply to at least 16 unique directed commercial fishing vessels and 117 incidental salmon troll vessels.

Table 1. Number of unique commercial vessels that actively fished in Federal waters from 2017 through 2022 with or without VMS.

Fishery	Directed Commercial Halibut	Incidental Salmon Troll	Incidental Sablefish
Number of vessels with a permit	181	188	30
Number of vessels with a permit and VMS	165	71	29
Number of vessels with a permit without VMS	16	117	N/A*

*Per the regs, all vessels landing halibut incidental to sablefish are required to be equipped with VMS (due to landing the sablefish).

Table 2 provides the annual number of directed commercial halibut vessels that landed halibut with groundfish or landed only halibut. The table does not include incidental salmon troll or sablefish vessels. Directed halibut fishing vessels that landed only halibut were not required to use VMS; therefore, we assume that these vessels did not have an active VMS unit while fishing.

Table 2. Annual number of permitted directed commercial halibut vessels only landing halibut with and without groundfish, 2017-2021*.

Year	Vessels landing Pacific Halibut with Groundfish	Vessels landing only Pacific Halibut
2017	58	15
2018	55	8
2019	94	5
2020	70	11
2021	78	13
2022	70	12
Average	71	11

*Does not include incidental salmon or sablefish permitted vessels.

A cost/benefit analysis would be needed if this item is to be scoped further, including the applicable ping rate that would be required for each fishery. It's possible that a ping rate of four times per hour may be most applicable to be consistent with groundfish regulatory requirements that monitor closed areas. This rate may lessen the confusion of distinguishing between vessels and create more accurate position identification.

This item would likely be a regulatory amendment of the international halibut regulations codified at 50 CFR [Part 300](#) and West Coast regulations at 50 CFR [Part 660.14](#). In addition, we expect other regulations would be considered for applicability or changes such as VMS declaration codes (See Appendix A), potential exemptions for VMS use, and continuous transit requirements for restricted areas. It's likely collection of information requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act would be included in this regulatory package.

3.1.2 Logbooks

The EC recommends removing the logbook exemption for incidental Pacific halibut fishing during the commercial salmon troll season. As noted in the requirements below, the logbook requirement does not apply to the incidental Pacific halibut fishery during the salmon troll season in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. Based on Table 1 under Section 3.1.1, this requirement could apply to approximately 117 unique vessels that have operated in incidental salmon troll fishery over the past six years.

NOAA maintains halibut fishing management descriptions and regulatory information on their [website](#) and refers to the [IPHC](#) directed fishery under the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A fishery for current [logbook regulations](#). Current regulations require the operator of any U.S. vessel fishing for Pacific halibut that has an overall length of 26 feet (7.9 meters) or greater to maintain an accurate log of Pacific halibut fishing operations. This requires the operator of a vessel fishing in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A to use either the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Fixed Gear Logbook, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Coast Groundfish Non-trawl Logbook, or the logbook provided by IPHC (see Appendix B for general logbook requirements).

Collecting valuable fishery-dependent data (i.e., fishermen-reported haul-level information on catch, discards, fishing location, fishing depth, or gear configurations) can assist managers in

monitoring and assessing impacts and benefits of fisheries. The reasons for collecting logbook data can vary but in general logbooks can contribute to stock assessments, inform managers about location-specific catch and discards on non-observed trips, support economic analyses, and provide effort information to quantify fishery effort. They can also provide more precise estimations of bycatch of species listed under the Endangered Species Act and marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The EC proposal does not provide background regarding the need for this request. We assume that there may be a desire for regulatory consistency for all directed fisheries operating in Area 2A. However, defining the problem, developing the rationale, and examining the need for the logbook requirement is necessary to assist staff in developing a purpose and need statement for the proposed action and a range of alternatives. The Council would benefit from a better understanding of what information managers currently lack to better manage groundfish and halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery. As noted under the VMS proposal (Section 3.1.1), a cost/benefit analysis would be needed if this item is to be scoped further, including the number of fishermen this requirement would apply to and the conservation benefit.

3.1.3 Seabird Avoidance Measures

The EC recommends seabird avoidance gear be required when participating in the non-tribal directed-commercial Area 2A halibut fishery, regardless of whether a vessel retains groundfish or not.

Current groundfish fishing seabird avoidance measures (effective in January 2020) were developed as part of the 2017 Terms and Conditions of the short-tailed albatross biological opinion for the continued operation of the groundfish fishery. The avoidance measures can be found in the West Coast Region's [compliance guide](#). The current set of regulations apply to any non-tribal groundfish vessel at least 26 feet in length or longer using bottom longline gear fishing to fish for groundfish in federal waters (i.e., three nautical miles from shore to 200 nautical miles) north of 36° North latitude. These vessels must deploy streamer lines while setting gear or set gear at night. This includes vessels in the limited entry fixed gear fishery with a longline endorsement (including primary sablefish and sablefish daily trip limit participants), open access fixed gear fishery using bottom longlines, and Shorebased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) vessels using bottom longlines (i.e., gear switchers). The regulations do not apply for vessels fishing exclusively in state waters (0-3 nautical miles from shore) or for any vessels fishing south of 36° N. latitude (regardless of how far offshore).

Vessels that fish for halibut but also target groundfish must use streamer lines if they meet the above requirements. Therefore, we anticipate that this measure would only apply to those vessels that target halibut in the directed fishery with bottom longlines that do not retain groundfish in Federal waters above 36° N. latitude on the same trip. Based on vessel landings in Table 2 we anticipate this action would apply to an average of 11 vessels. We assume the vessel length requirement would be included as part of this measure to be consistent with current groundfish fishing regulations.

The EC proposal does not provide background regarding the need for this request. We assume that there may be a desire for regulatory consistency for all directed fisheries operating in Area

2A. As noted in other sections, the Council process would benefit from a better understanding of what managers lack to better manage vessels operating in the directed halibut fishery. Seabird interaction information would assist in defining the problem as well; therefore, additional information may be needed. Vessels that fish for halibut but retain groundfish would be required to use streamer lines and would be subject to observer coverage. Any observed trips, interaction rates and the potential effectiveness of the streamer line requirements that were implemented in 2020 for groundfish fishing vessels could inform the need for the suggested requirements for other vessels.

3.2 CSP and Area 2A Allocation Utilization

The Council and the GAP have discussed various halibut management topics, including current recreational allocations provided to each state, the percentage of the allocations taken each year, and managing all Area 2A fisheries to better utilize the Area 2A halibut TCEY.

In 2021 and 2022 utilization of recreational allocations for each state varied (Appendix C, Table C.1 and Table C.2, respectively). In those years Oregon and Washington recreational fisheries underharvested their overall allocations whereas California under harvested in 2021 but over harvested in 2022. COVID-19 related coastal port closures in 2021 impacted WA recreational fishery utilization of its allocation. We note that seasonal structures to manage recreational fisheries differ between states, whereby Oregon and Washington set openings during certain weeks/dates with an annual limit per angler, and California determines fishery dates pre-season and closes the fishery when the allocation is projected to be reached. Utilization of allocations in the commercial sectors has varied as well. In the past two years, the directed and the incidental sablefish allocations were nearly fully utilized or exceeded the allocation (ranging from 95 percent to 114 percent); however, the percent allocation taken in the incidental salmon troll has been 50 percent or less (likely due to poor weather, low effort, reduced salmon seasons and/or COVID-19 restrictions). Table C.3 describes halibut catch (in number of pounds) by each state in Area 2A commercial halibut fisheries (directed and incidental).

Past CSP items have included some discussion on how to better utilize the entire Area 2A halibut TCEY. Because the overall Area 2A TCEY is fully allocated, shifting allocation within each sector, or from one sector to another typically requires a timely, thoughtful process. The current California recreational allocation was finalized during the annual CSP process for the 2015 season and was one of the final actions in a multiyear stepwise process. The process included formation of an Ad Hoc committee, adjustments to management boundaries, fishery objectives, season dates, quota tracking procedures, and changes to sector allocations. Between 2015 and present, only minor season date changes have been made to the CSP for the fishery off California and no changes to the California recreational allocation have occurred. Since then, the GAP has discussed the desire for additional allocation to the recreational halibut fisheries off California with the intent that additional quota could allow the fishery to operate through the summer season.

Investigating ways to provide the California recreational fishery with a higher allocation will require input from the agencies and stakeholders involved, including the public. Changes could include developing a system that provides inseason flexibility to access unharvested allocation from one fishery and shift that balance to another fishery, or adjust the fixed percentage allotted for each state's sport fishery from the total recreational 2A allotment. There may be other approaches that may provide full utilization of the Area 2A allocation as well. In order to develop options for change, more information

is needed to define the magnitude of the problem and the additional amount of allocation needed to improve the California recreational fishery opportunity. To help the Council in this matter, the coastal states could work together to better define the issue, compile data, and provide ideas to address the concern.

3.3 Other Considerations

During advisory body discussions of potential halibut management scoping topics and concerns expressed by the salmon fishing industry during the March 2023 Council meeting, a variety of additional topics were identified that could be considered by the Council and NMFS. A list of ideas and issues is listed here to memorialize the topics for the Council's reference.

3.3.1 Permit application deadline flexibility

The permit application deadlines are now February 15 for directed commercial fishery participants and March 1 for incidental fishery participants (salmon and sablefish). These dates fall before the commercial salmon seasons are set. Participants in the salmon troll fishery must decide which fishery they would like to apply for (directed or incidental, not both) prior to any known salmon commercial season. Salmon troll fishermen noted they desired more flexibility in the deadline to determine which fishery to apply for since the decision based mainly on economics. There may be a desire to discuss if the deadlines are appropriate given processing time and fishery start dates. For flexibility, the Council could consider offering a brief period after the application deadline but before the permit is issued, when the applicant could request a change in the type of permit applied for.

3.3.2 Flexibility in allowing multiple types of permits - changes to application rules

A participant is allowed to apply for a salmon troll permit or a directed halibut permit, but not both. *"A vessel may hold a permit in both the directed and incidental sablefish fisheries, but no other combination of Pacific halibut permits may be held."*

As noted under item 3.3.1 *Permit application deadline flexibility*, the deadline to apply for a Directed Commercial permit is February 15, which is earlier than the incidental permit deadline, and well in advance of when any potential salmon seasons are known. In 2023, the salmon forecasts were very low which resulted in a closure of ocean salmon fishing off most of the Oregon coast and all the California coast (South of Cape Falcon, Oregon). The 2023 salmon troll permits issued to the fishermen that participate in Oregon and California waters essentially provided no economic opportunity, unless the participant was willing and able to travel many miles to open fishing areas, which would likely decrease the economic viability of participation in the fishery.

The Council could consider allowing fishers to apply for both permits (directed halibut and incidental salmon troll) then allow participants to decide which permit they would use once the salmon season is set in approximately mid-April ('activate' only one permit). If there is room for flexibility, it's possible that activating a 'notice of intent' for the permits could help with business planning logistics yet allow NMFS to develop a list of potential participants for vessel limit forecasting.

3.3.3 Limit Access in the Directed Fishery

During the March and April 2023 GAP meetings, there was a general discussion regarding potential modification of the directed fishery and a question if this agenda item would consider creating an individual fishing quota system or some type of limited access privilege program, or an incidental fishery with sablefish south of Pt. Chehalis. At this time, Council staff provided an opportunity to discuss this idea; however, it was noted that per the Council's management transfer guidance no major changes to the fishery are anticipated for at least a few years after the transfer to allow time to refine the management logistics as needed. This item could remain as a future topic for consideration as appropriate.

4 Potential Pathways Forward

There are several items identified that could affect all commercial and recreational halibut fishery participants in one way or another. Data and information would need to be collected to identify the pros and cons of each item, including impact, or burden, to the fishery participants. Any changes would have to go through the federal regulatory process, either under the Pacific Halibut Act and/or the Magnuson Steven Act and be included in the CSP.

4.1 Regulatory items

The EC recommended the Council consider a variety of regulations changes that pertained to commercial fisheries that retain halibut that would help facilitate enforcement. The Council will need additional information and data to make an informed decision about whether the proposed changes are warranted. Staff has identified potential items needed:

- a) Define each issue and request an EC report that would prioritize the items. Include detail regarding the number violations, etc. that have occurred in the recent past (2017-2022). This would help to illustrate the magnitude of the issue.
- b) Request a report from staff (NMFS, State) with data and information regarding the current regulations for each EC topic, including any historical reasoning for current regulation. Include number of participants, number of vessels that may be affected by a change, etc.
- c) Request preliminary costs (if available) to participants, state agencies, OLE and NMFS administration.
- d) Provide these reports to the Council. The Council could identify items to move forward, assign the appropriate agency staff to compile the work, and set a reasonable timeline.

4.2 CSP items

- a) Request a detailed report from each state describing the season structure, catch and effort, available allocation, etc. of the recreational fishery (2017-2022). This will help put each fishery in context relative to the 2A allocation and the fishery allocation. (Washington, Oregon, California staff)
- b) Request a detailed report on the performance of halibut fisheries (2017-2022) relative to the individual allocation and summarize the utilization of the 2A allocation (NMFS staff).
- c) Once the information is available, the Council will have the baseline to understand how the Area 2A allocation is currently utilized.
- d) Ask the States to work together and develop options for potential allocation changes for the California recreational fishery and solicit stakeholder and public input. Submit a tri-state report

to the Council with options for CSP changes. If needed, consider forming an ad-hoc workgroup to develop recommendations for changes to the CSP based on guidance from the Council.

5 Workload and Process Considerations

Each of the topics discussed will require a certain amount of work and time to complete. Some data is more available than others, compilation and analysis of data will likely need to come from many sources. The Council will need to prioritize the work, and then consider the available staff to do that work/analyses. The Council does not have halibut-specific advisory bodies, instead it is advised by members of the salmon and groundfish advisory bodies. Additionally, many of the state agency staff who will likely need to be involved in this work also work on groundfish, which is about to begin its 2025-26 biennial process. Therefore, the work and time for this process will need to be considered in conjunction with the salmon and groundfish workload and priorities. Understanding the magnitude of the issue may help the Council decide how to best prioritize the work.

Working through each topic will likely take some time given the Council's meeting schedule and staffing limitations. Approaching the issues in a stepwise fashion provides for an efficient process that focuses on one phase at a time.

- a) Define the problem and the need for change,
- b) Collect baseline data,
- c) Select where to focus or which direction to take,
- d) Prioritize items,
- e) Develop recommendations,
- f) Make informed decisions.

Appendix A – Example of VMS Declaration Report

OMB Control No. 0648-0573; Expires
12/31/2025

Declaration Report Worksheet

This worksheet is for your own use and is intended to help you organize information that will be submitted in a declaration report.

Please do not submit this worksheet to NMFS.

- 1) Dial 1-888-585-5518 to connect to the West Coast Groundfish Declaration Line.
- 2) You will be connected to a live operator during normal business hours to file a declaration or be asked to leave a voice mail declaration after hours, on weekends or holidays.
- 3) Provide your vessel identification number to the operator or voicemail.

Vessel Number						

- 4) Provide your 5 digit vessel pass code to the operator or voicemail.

Vessel Pass code				

- 5) Provide the two-digit code from the list below, to the operator or voicemail.

Code		

10 - Limited entry fixed gear, not including shorebased IFQ
 11 - Limited entry groundfish non-trawl, shorebased IFQ
 20 - Limited entry midwater trawl gear, non-whiting shorebased IFQ
 21 - Limited entry midwater trawl, Pacific whiting shorebased IFQ
 22 - Limited entry midwater trawl, Pacific whiting catcher/processor sector
 23 - Limited entry midwater trawl, Pacific whiting mothership sector (catcher vessel or mothership)
 30 - Limited entry bottom trawl, shorebased IFQ, not including demersal trawl or selective flatfish trawl

31 - Limited entry demersal trawl, shorebased IFQ
 32 - Limited entry selective flatfish trawl, shorebased IFQ
 33 - Open access bottom contact hook-and-line gear for groundfish (e.g., bottom longline, commercial vertical hook-and-line, dinglebar)
 34 - Open access groundfish trap or pot gear
 35 - Open access non-bottom contact hook and line gear for groundfish (e.g., troll, jig gear, rod & reel gear)
 36 - Open access non-bottom contact stationary vertical jig gear
 37 - Open access non-bottom contact groundfish troll gear

- 40 - Non-groundfish trawl gear for ridgeback prawn
- 41 - Non-groundfish trawl gear for pink shrimp
- 42 - Non-groundfish trawl gear for CA halibut
- 43 - Non-groundfish trawl gear for sea cucumber
- 50 - Tribal trawl gear
- 60 - Open access prawn trap or pot gear,
- 61 - Open access Dungeness crab trap or pot gear,
- 62 - Open access Pacific Halibut longline gear
- 63 - Open access salmon troll gear

- 64 - Open access California halibut line gear
- 65 - Open access sheephead trap or pot gear
- 66 - Open access Highly Migratory Species line gear
- 67 - Open access Coastal Pelagic Species net gear
- 68 - Open access set net or gillnet gear California
- 69 – Other, a gear that is not listed above
- 70 – Gear testing, Trawl Rationalization fishery

6) For your records, record the confirmation number provided by the operator. Re-enter the confirmation number in the area provided below.

Confirmation Number						

7) Ask the operator to review the information in your declaration. Once you confirm that your declaration report is correct you may disconnect from the West Coast Groundfish DeclarationLine.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 4 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other suggestions for reducing this burden to Karen Palmigiano, National Marine Fisheries Service/Northwest Region, at karen.palmigiano@noaa.gov.

This information is confidential under Section 402 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subjected to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

Appendix B – IPHC Logbook Requirements

Excerpts from [IPHC Logbook Data Requirements](#) (Section 19, Page 15 of 21):

The logbook must include the following information:

- (a) the name of the vessel and the State (ADFG, WDFW, ODFW, or CDFW) or Tribal ID number;
- (b) the date(s) upon which the fishing gear is set or retrieved;
- (c) the latitude and longitude coordinates or a direction and distance from a point of land for each set or day;
- (d) the number of skates deployed or retrieved, and number of skates lost; and
- (e) the total weight or number of Pacific halibut retained for each set or day.

The logbook referred shall be:

- (a) maintained on board the vessel;
- (b) updated not later than 24 hours after 0000 (midnight) local time for each day fished and prior to the offloading or sale of Pacific halibut taken during that fishing trip;
- (c) retained for a period of two years by the owner or operator of the vessel;
- (d) open to inspection by an authorized officer or any authorized representative of the Commission upon demand; and
- (e) kept on board the vessel when engaged in Pacific halibut fishing, during transits to port of landing, and until the offloading of all Pacific halibut is completed.

Appendix C – Allocation and Harvest

Table C-1. Summary of all Area 2A fishery allocations and preliminary 2021 harvest estimates, updated with fishery information reported to NMFS through 12/15/2021.

IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Fisheries			Allocation (lb)	Landings (lb)	Allocation Taken (%)
Tribal			528,500		
Tribal	C&S		41,478	-	-
Tribal	Comm.		487,022	494,139	102
Non-Tribal			981,500	735,531	75
Commercial			301,321	261,559	87
Commercial	Directed		256,122	242,997	95
Commercial	Incid. Salmon Troll		45,198	18,562	41
WA Recreational			349,414	299,421	86
WA Recreational	Incid. Sablefish		70,000	69,081	99
WA Recreational	Puget Sound		78,291	54,955	70
WA Recreational	North Coast		128,928	84,759	66
WA Recreational	South Coast		63,636	90,626	142
WA/OR	Columbia River	All-Depth	18,162	21,477	118
WA/OR	Columbia River	Nearshore	500	-	0
OR Recreational			291,506	128,275	44
OR Recreational Central OR Coast		Spring all-depth	172,244	69,795	41
OR Recreational Central OR Coast		Summer all-depth	68,351	41,799	61
OR Recreational Central OR Coast		Nearshore	32,808	10,982	34
OR Recreational Southern OR Coast			8,000	5,699	71
CA Recreational			39,260	24,800	63
Total			1,510,000	1,229,670	81

Table C.2. Summary of Area 2A fishery allocations and preliminary 2022 harvest estimates, updated with fishery information reported to NMFS through December 16, 2022.

IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Fisheries		Allocation (lb)		Landings (lb)	Allocation Taken (%)
Tribal			521,500	497,173	95
Tribal	C&S		23,500	-	-
Tribal	Commercial		498,000	497,173	100
Non-Tribal			968,500	786,234	81
Commercial			297,330	263,646	89
Commercial	Directed		252,730	241,365	96
Commercial	Incid. Salmon Troll		44,599	22,281	50
WA Recreational			285,611	232,237	82
WA Recreational	Incid. Sablefish		50,000	57,061	114
WA Recreational	Puget Sound		83,210	64,825	71
WA Recreational	North Coast		133,847	96,209	72
WA Recreational	South Coast		68,555	71,203	104
WA/OR	Columbia River	All-Depth	18,537	20,211	109
WA/OR	Columbia River	Nearshore	500	43	9
OR Recreational			287,645	178,866	62
OR Recreational Central OR Coast		Spring all-depth	169,963	123,359	73
OR Recreational Central OR Coast		Summer all-depth	67,445	41,947	62
OR Recreational Central OR Coast		Nearshore	32,374	4,846	15
OR Recreational Southern OR Coast			8,000	8,714	109
CA Recreational			38,740	48,009	124
Total			1,490,000	1,291,378	87

Table C.3. Summary of 2021-2022 Area 2A preliminary commercial Pacific halibut harvest estimates (in pounds) by State.

	Directed				Salmon Troll (Incidental)				Sablefish (Incidental)
	WA	OR	CA	Total	WA*	OR	CA	Total	WA*
2021	51,557	213,897	3,509	268,963	23,669	1,413	15	22,085	69,155
2022	63,382	213,457	4,732	281,571	27,924	1,376	0	25,784	57,061

* <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/02411/wdfw02411.pdf>

West Coast Allocations

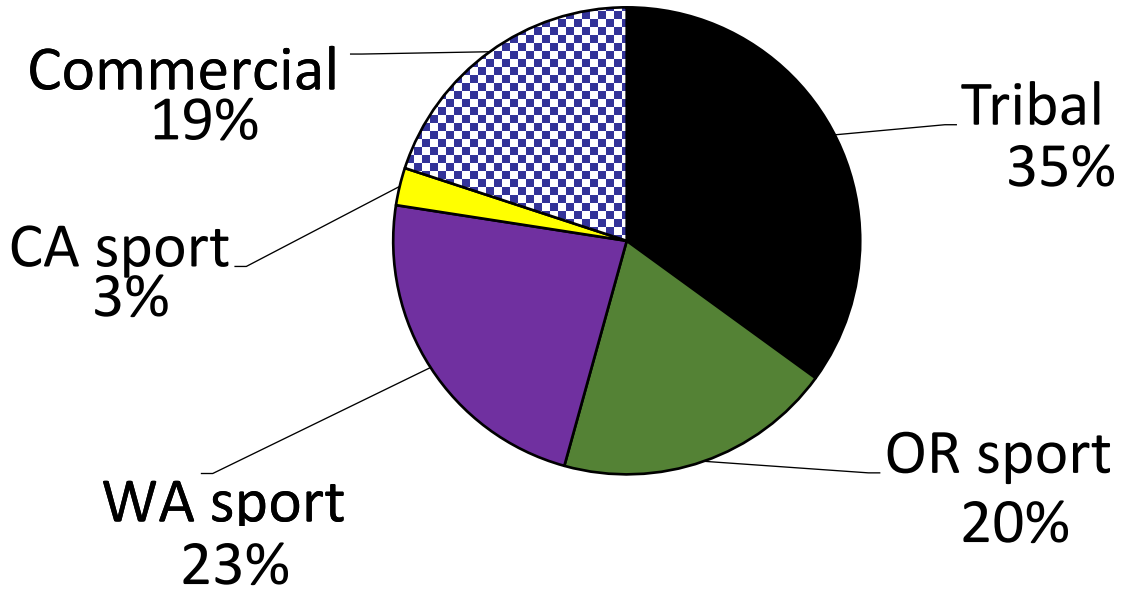


Figure C-1 – Graph of IPHC Area 2A allocation by fishery based on the CSP