

PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN: PROPOSED CHANGES TO
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND FISHERY FLEXIBILITY:

The following identifies proposed changes to the 2023 CSP in strike-out for existing language and underline for proposed language.

1. INCIDENTAL HALIBUT CATCH IN THE SALMON TROLL FISHERY

(Section 5.7.2 of the current CSP)

The primary management objective for this fishery is to harvest the subquota as an incidental catch during the April-June salmon troll fishery. The secondary management objective is to harvest the remaining troll quota as an incidental catch during the remainder of the salmon troll fishery. These management objectives will be achieved through landing restrictions (see section 5.7.4).

The landing restrictions are meant to assure that the incidental harvest rate is appropriate for salmon and halibut availability, does not encourage target fishing on halibut, ensure an equitable sharing of the halibut landings among the fishers and does not increase the likelihood of exceeding the quota for this fishery.

2. INCIDENTAL HALIBUT CATCH IN THE SALMON TROLL FISHERY

(Section 5.7.5 of the current CSP, *delete*)

~~Notice and effectiveness of inseason adjustments will be made by NMFS in accordance with section 6.8.5.~~

~~Landing restrictions implemented for the April-June salmon troll fishery will apply for as long as this fishery is open. Notice of the July opening of this fishery will be announced on the NMFS hotline (206) 526-6667 or (800) 662-9825.~~

~~Halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery will be allowed after June only if the opening has been announced on the NMFS hotline.~~

3. DIRECTED HALIBUT FISHERY

(Section 5.6.6 of the current CSP)

If NMFS determines ~~enough~~ that of the subquota remains after the conclusion of the initial fishing period(s), a sufficient amount of the subquota remains, then NMFS may set additional 3-day (58-hour) openings fishing periods to occur every other week, or as soon as practicable or prescribed, Tuesday through Thursday, until the ~~directed fishery allocation~~ subquota is ~~obtained~~ attained.

If NMFS determines that ~~poundage remaining in the~~ remaining subquota for directed fishery is insufficient to allow for an additional 58-hour fishing period ~~day~~, then the remaining halibut will be made available for incidental catch of halibut ~~in-to~~ the salmon troll ~~fisheries~~ fishery (independent of the incidental harvest allocation) as needed to conduct the incidental fishery through the planned season end date.

4. INCIDENTAL HALIBUT CATCH IN THE PRIMARY DIRECTED SABLEFISH FISHERY

(Section 5.8, *no management objective section included in current CSP*)

The management objective is to accommodate incidental halibut harvest through the duration of the primary directed sablefish fishery season consistent with IPHC halibut fishery season provisions. This objective will be achieved through landing restrictions. (see section 5.8.3).

The landing restrictions are meant to assure that the incidental harvest rate is appropriate for sablefish and halibut availability, does not encourage target fishing on halibut, ensure an equitable sharing of the halibut landings among the fishers and does not increase the likelihood of exceeding the quota for this fishery.

5. NOTICE PROCEDURES

(Section 6.8.2 of current CSP)

Inseason actions taken by NMFS will be published in the *Federal Register*. Actual notice of inseason management actions will be provided by a telephone hotline (206-526-6667 or 800-662-9825) and emailed fishery bulletins administered by the West Coast Region, NMFS, ~~at 206-526-6667 or 800-662-9825~~. Since provisions of these regulations may be altered by inseason actions, sport fishermen should monitor the telephone hotline and subscribe to receive fishery bulletin emails (https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/west-coast) -for current information for the area in which they are fishing.

6. PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

(Section 7.0 of the current CSP)

Each year, NMFS will publish a proposed rule with any regulatory modifications necessary to implement the Plan for the following year, with a request for public comments. The comment period will extend until after the IPHC annual meeting, so that the public will have the opportunity to consider the final Area 2A FCEY before submitting comments. After the Area 2A FCEY is known, and after NMFS reviews public comments, NMFS will implement final rules governing the Area 2A sport fisheries and the non-tribal directed commercial fishery. The ~~final ratio of halibut to Chinook to be allowed as~~ landing restrictions for incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery will be published with the annual salmon management measures.

7. PROTOCOL FOR INSEASON MODIFICATIONS

(Section 6.8.1 of the current CSP)

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

- a. The action is necessary to allow access to the allocation- and/or allow the management objectives to be met.
- b. The action will not result in exceeding the Area 2A non-tribal allocation ~~catch limit~~ catch limit for the area.

8. COLUMBIA RIVER SUBAREA

(Section 6.10.c of the current CSP)

This subarea typically has ~~may include~~ both an all-depth (primary) fishery and a nearshore fishery. The nearshore fishery is to allow incidental halibut retention on groundfish trips in the specific area described in section 6.10.a. The overall management objective is to maximize fishing opportunity while achieving but not exceeding the subarea allocation quota.

9. SOUTHERN OREGON SUBAREA

(Section 6.11.2.c of the current CSP)

Provide the opportunity to maximize fishing opportunity and to achieve but not exceed the ~~Southern Oregon Subarea~~ subarea quota.

10. CALIFORNIA COAST

(Section 6.12.c of the current CSP)

Maximize fishing opportunity and achieve but not exceed the California sport quota. Flexibility through timely inseason action may be necessary to achieve but not exceed the Area 2A FCEY.

PFMC

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