

## 2025 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS - PRELIMINARY

[Council Operating Procedure \(COP\) 9](#) anticipates that at each September meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) considers proposed changes to the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and annual regulations for Area 2A (Attachments 1 and 2). The proposed changes are most often related to recreational season structures (e.g., opening dates, days open per week, port/area sharing, etc.) and more recently has included changes to the non-tribal commercial season structure of the non-treaty directed halibut fishery. Other changes may also be proposed, including allocation changes among areas or sectors.

Per Section 6.8 of the CSP, on August 13, 2024 Council staff facilitated a discussion between Washington, Oregon, California, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to share catch updates and inseason fishery information. The CSP allows for states to transfer to other states for the remainder of the current season a portion (in pounds net weight) of their respective sport allocation that is projected to be unused after accounting for their state management objectives. Current projections for Washington and California indicate that these states will meet but not exceed their sport allocation by the end of their seasons. Oregon catch projections indicate the state may have at least 50,000 pounds of quota unused. Given that Washington and California sport fisheries are not projected to exceed their respective quotas at this time, no adjustments were made. The states and NMFS will discuss updated inseason catch information and projections again in early September and take any additional steps as needed.

NMFS has provided a report under this agenda item that includes progress to date of the 2024 Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2A (Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 1). Attached to the NMFS report is documentation from the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) providing clarification on the methods used to estimate commercial discard mortality for Area 2A, as requested by the Council in March 2024. The discard mortality estimates for 2024 were greater than the 2023 estimate, which reduced the corresponding fishery constant exploitable yield (FCEY). The increase in discard mortality was primarily driven by a substantial increase in survey sublegal encounter rates in Area 2A. This topic of discard mortality was also flagged by the Groundfish Advisory Panel in their March 2024 statement ([Agenda Item G.1.c, Supplemental GAP Report 1](#)).

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has submitted a report describing their proposed changes to the CSP for fisheries off Oregon in 2025 (Agenda Item F.1.b, ODFW Report 1). Washington and California Departments of Fish and Wildlife are anticipated to each provide one supplemental report under this agenda item.

The Council is slated to adopt for public review proposed changes to the current CSP and the annual fishery regulations for 2025. Final action for establishing the 2025 Pacific halibut fisheries is scheduled for the November 2024 Council meeting. The final action will be transmitted to NMFS and reported to IPHC as soon as reasonably possible.

### **Council Action:**

1. Review and discuss the inseason update and commercial discard mortality rate, as appropriate.
2. Review and adopt for public review proposed changes to the 2023 Pacific halibut CSP and annual regulations.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 1: 2024 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2024 Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut.
3. Agenda Item F.1.a, NMFS Report 1: 2024 Area 2A Pacific Halibut Fisheries and Inseason Update.
4. Agenda Item F.1.a, ODFW Report 1: Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2025 Fishery.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.1 2025 Catch Sharing Plan and Annual Regulations - Preliminary Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt 2025 Preliminary Catch Sharing Plan and Regulation Changes for Public Review

PFMC  
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