

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
2025 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS - PRELIMINARY

Item 1: 2025 non-tribal directed commercial fishery. The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) discussed potential structure for the 2025 non-tribal directed commercial (DC) halibut fishery. Section 5.6.4 of the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) describes the season structure.

- **SAS Recommendation 1: Maintain the status quo season (3-day openers no more than 2 weeks apart).**

Item 2: Application deadlines for Permits. The SAS continues to urge the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to work with industry on providing some flexibility in acquiring halibut permits for the upcoming season, either by changing the deadlines back to their original dates or changing which permits can be held in tandem. The SAS thinks that changing a deadline would be the most efficient approach.

Since management authority was transferred from the International Pacific Halibut Commission to NMFS the deadlines to apply for permits are earlier in the season. This makes it difficult to decide which fishery to participate in since you must choose one over the other. The current deadlines are February 15 for the non-tribal DC fishery which starts in late June, and March 1 for the incidental salmon troll fishery which starts in April. Historically the deadlines were March 15 for incidental salmon troll and April 30 for the DC fishery.

Section 5.4 of the CSP says (in part) that participants must choose to either 1) participate in the DC fishery and/or retain halibut caught incidentally in the primary sablefish fishery; or 2) retain halibut in the salmon troll fishery. Section 5.5 includes the application deadlines and other permit restrictions.

- **SAS Recommendation 2: change the applications deadlines to March 15 for the incidental salmon troll permit and April 30 for the DC fishery permit.**

This change would allow applicants to make better-informed economic decisions as to which permit to apply for. With the deadlines as they are now, an applicant must decide by February 15 to either apply for the DC permit or forego that opportunity and apply for the incidental salmon permit two weeks later. The status of the salmon runs and an idea of potential seasons are not available in mid-February so the applicant is forced to make a decision with little to no information on which of the two fisheries would provide the most economic benefit.

The change would require NMFS to make similar changes to their permit deadlines as described on their [webpage](#).