

2026 COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL 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 have 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 20, 2025, Council staff facilitated a discussion with representatives from Washington, Oregon, California, and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to review catch updates and inseason fishery information. The CSP allows states to transfer a portion of their projected unused sport allocation (measured in pounds net weight) to other states for the remainder of the season, provided their own state management objectives are met. Prior to the meeting, 5,000 pounds were transferred from Oregon's Central Coast subarea to the Columbia River subarea through an inseason action taken on August 11. During the August 20 meeting, no state expressed an immediate need for additional pounds. However, Oregon noted that additional pounds could potentially be shifted from the Central Coast subarea if needed. The states and NMFS will correspond in early September to review updated catch data and projections and determine whether additional inseason adjustments are needed.

NMFS has provided a report under this agenda item that includes progress to date of the 2025 Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2A (Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 1). The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has also submitted a report describing their proposed changes to the CSP for fisheries off Oregon in 2026 (Agenda Item E.1.a, ODFW Report 1).

The Council is slated to adopt for public review proposed changes to the current CSP and the annual fishery regulations for 2026. Final action for establishing the 2026 Pacific halibut fisheries is scheduled for the November 2025 Council meeting. The final action will be transmitted to NMFS and reported to the International Pacific Halibut Commission as soon as reasonably possible.

Council Action:

- 1. Review and discuss the update on inseason actions taken to date, as appropriate.**
- 2. Review and adopt for public review proposed changes to the 2026 Pacific halibut CSP and annual regulations.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 1: 2025 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A.
2. Agenda Item E.1, Attachment 2: Visual Representation of the 2025 Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan for Pacific Halibut.

3. Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 1: 2025 Area 2A Pacific Halibut Fisheries and Inseason Update.
4. Agenda Item E.1.a: ODFW Report 1: Proposed Changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for the 2026 Fishery.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.1 2026 Commercial and Recreational Catch Sharing Plan
and Annual Regulations - Preliminary Angela Forristall
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt 2026 Commercial and Recreational Preliminary Catch Sharing Plan and Regulation Changes for Public Review

PFMC
08/21/25