

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR THE 2027 FISHERY

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) solicited public input via e-mail, phone, and four public meetings in Oregon¹, one of which was webcast, to discuss proposed changes to the Pacific halibut (halibut in remainder of report) Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) forwarded by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) during the September Council meeting. Approximately 25 members of the public attended the meetings, others reached out via phone and email to provide feedback for the 2027 sport halibut fisheries. ODFW considered the public input and provides the following information for consideration by the Council in determining which alternatives to adopt for the 2027 halibut fishery. In general, Oregon sport anglers support adding flexibility into the CSP to provide opportunity for attainment of allocations.

Proposed Changes for the 2026 Catch Sharing Plan

Columbia River Subarea

Proposed changes to this subarea are intended to reduce the administrative burden and ease the process to allow for days to be open in June if enough quota is available. Opening the Monday of Memorial Day weekend is also being proposed.

Option 1: In June, open the subarea 5 days per week (Thursday, Friday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday; except for day open to the non-tribal directed commercial fishery). If catch estimates indicate that the subarea quota will be reached before June 30, Mondays and Tuesdays may be closed through inseason action.

- Under the status quo season structure, the season opens for three days per week in June, and an additional two days may be added via inseason action

Option 2: Add Monday to the Memorial Day weekend fishing days.

ODFW recommends adopting Option 1 and Option 2 for the Columbia River Subarea. This will should ease administrative burden and the inseason process for state agencies and the National Marine Fisheries Service while providing opportunities for anglers to attain the subarea allocation.

ODFW is not recommending any other changes to the CSP for 2027 beyond the clean-up changes noted in the September ODFW report ([Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental ODFW Report 1, September 2026](#)).

¹<https://myodfw.com/news/odfw-host-four-public-meetings-receive-input-2027-recreational-bottomfish-and-pacific-halibut>

Other Feedback from the Public Meetings

During the public meetings a number of anglers again expressed concerns about the stock off Oregon and the US West Coast. Many indicated that it was the worst halibut season they have ever had or had in many years. This led to some discussion, but no recommendations, about reinstating a minimum size limit, having the daily bag limit be one fish per angler per day, and reducing the number of days open each week. There were also some questions and discussion about bycatch in other fisheries, catch limits in other IPHC regulatory areas, and recreational regulations in Alaska and British Columbia.