OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR THE 2026 FISHERY

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) solicited public input via e-mail, phone, and three public meetings in Oregon[1], 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. Forty-nine members of the public attended meetings in person, fifteen participated remotely, and others reached out via phone and email to provide feedback for the 2026 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 2026 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

Oregon sport anglers approved the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife proposal for the Columbia River subarea to revise the language to clarify how the decision on the additional dates for the month of June would be made, Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1, September 2025. **Therefore, ODFW recommends adopting that proposed change into the CSP.**

Oregon sport anglers are also in favor of the proposal to remove the nearshore fishery for 2026 as specified under Option 2 in Agenda Item E.1.a, ODFW Report 1, September 2025, allocating the 500 pounds for that fishery back to the Columbia River Subarea all-depth season. **ODFW recommends adopting this proposed change into the CSP.**

Central Oregon Coast Subarea

Oregon sport anglers voiced their approval of the following proposals for the Central Oregon Coast subarea. Adding flexibility to the CSP will allow better utilization of the quota and provide anglers with additional opportunity to harvest halibut. For more information regarding the Central Oregon Coast proposals, please see Agenda Item E.1.a, ODFW Report 1, September 2025. **ODFW recommends adopting the following into the CSP:**

> "Allocate 75 percent of the subarea sub-quota to the spring all-depth fishery, regardless of the Regulatory Area 2A FCEY, and (1) if the Area 2A FCEY is 700,000 pounds or greater, allocate 10,000 pounds to the nearshore fishery with the remaining subarea sub-quota allocated to the summer all-depth fishery, or (2) if the Regulatory Area 2A FCEY

[1] https://myodfw.com/news/odfw-invites-anglers-recreational-bottomfish-and-pacific-halibut-public-meetings-meetings-held

is less than 700,000 pounds, allocate the remaining 25 percent of the sub-quota to the nearshore fishery."

In addition, **ODFW recommends adopting the following below into the CSP:**

"The nearshore season opens May 1, seven days per week, only in waters shoreward of the 40-fathom (73 meter) regulatory line, unless the Regulatory Area 2A FCEY is less than 1.2M pounds, then it may be postponed and open on June 1."