

AREA 2A

2026 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN

For tribal, commercial, and recreational Pacific halibut fisheries of Washington, Oregon, and California

DRAFT

Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland Oregon 97220-1384
503-820-2280
www.pcouncil.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
1.0 FRAMEWORK.....	4
2.0 Allocation.....	4
2.1 Subquotas.....	4
3.0 AREA OF APPLICATION	6
4.0 TRIBAL FISHERIES	6
4.1 Allocation.....	6
4.2 Geographic area	6
4.3 Participants.....	6
4.4 General fishery description	6
4.5 Ceremonial and Subsistence	7
4.5.1 Sub allocation.....	7
4.5.2 Season structure	7
4.5.3 Landing restrictions	7
4.6 Tribal Commercial	7
4.6.1 Sub allocation.....	7
4.6.2 Season structure	7
4.6.3 Landing restrictions	7
5.0 NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES	7
5.1 Allocation.....	7
5.2 Area description	7
5.3 General fishery description	8
5.4 Participants.....	8
5.5 Commercial permit restrictions/declarations.....	8
5.6 Directed Halibut Fishery	8
5.6.1 Sub allocation.....	8
5.6.2 Geographic area	8
5.6.3 Management objective	8
5.6.4 Season structure	9
5.6.5 Landing restrictions	9
5.6.6 Inseason adjustments	9
5.6.7 Groundfish regulations.....	9
5.6.8 Closed areas	9
5.7 Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery.....	9
5.7.1 Sub allocation.....	9
5.7.2 Management objectives	9
5.7.3 Season structure	10
5.7.4 Landing restrictions	10
5.7.5 Inseason adjustments	10
5.7.6 Groundfish regulations.....	10
5.7.7 Closed conservation areas	10
5.8 Incidental halibut catch in the primary directed sablefish fishery	11
5.8.1 Sub allocation.....	11
5.8.2 Management Objectives.....	11

46	5.8.3	Season Structure.....	11
47	5.8.4	Landing restrictions	11
48	5.8.5	Inseason adjustments	11
49	5.8.6	Groundfish regulations.....	11
50	5.8.7	Closed conservation areas.....	12
51	6.0	SPORT FISHERIES	12
52	6.1	Allocation.....	12
53	6.2	Area description	12
54	6.3	General fishery description	12
55	6.4	Port of landing management	12
56	6.5	Vessel participation.....	12
57	6.6	Sport fishery closure provisions.....	12
58	6.7	Possession limits	12
59	6.8	Flexible inseason management provisions.....	13
60	6.8.1	Protocol for inseason modifications.....	13
61	6.8.2	Notice procedures	14
62	6.8.3	Effective dates.....	14
63	6.8.4	Availability of data	14
64	6.8.5	Flexible inseason management provisions.....	14
65	6.9	Washington Coast subareas	14
66	6.9.1	Puget Sound subarea	15
67	6.9.2	North Coast subarea.....	16
68	6.9.3	South Coast subarea.....	17
69	6.10	Columbia River subarea.....	18
70	6.11	Oregon Coast subarea	20
71	6.11.1	Oregon Central Coast subarea	20
72	6.11.2	Southern Oregon subarea.....	23
73	6.12	California Coast subareas	24
74	6.12.1	Northern California subarea.....	24
75	6.12.2	South of Point Arena subarea	25
76	7.0	PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION	25

77 **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

78	CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
79	CEY	Constant Exploitable Yield
80	Council	Pacific Fishery Management Council
81	CSP	Catch Sharing Plan
82	FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
83	IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
84	NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
85	ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
86	PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council)
87	RCA	Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)
88	TAC	Total Allowable Catch, see FCEY
89	TCEY	Total Constant Exploitable Yield
90	WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
91	YRCA	Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area

92

1.0 FRAMEWORK

This document is the *Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan*, a catch sharing plan (CSP, or Plan) of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council, or PFMC) revised and updated for implementation in 2026. It guides tribal, non-tribal commercial, and recreational (or sport) Pacific halibut (halibut) fisheries off the coasts of Washington (WA), Oregon (OR), and California (CA) (IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Area 2A, 2A)) by prescribing an allocation formula for the allowable catch, and by describing the general season structure of the fisheries, especially in the sport sector.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) annually determines the amount of halibut (in pounds [lbs] of fish, net weight¹) available for harvest in Area 2A through a process that is based on a stock assessment and harvest policy. Once the total constant exploitable yield (TCEY) is determined, projected bycatch and wastage mortality is subtracted to produce the fishery constant exploitable yield (FCEY). FCEY is synonymous with total allowable catch (TAC), which was terminology used in this document prior to 2021.

This Plan describes a framework that allocates the annual Area 2A FCEY to subareas. The annual FCEY is approved by the IPHC at their annual meeting which typically occurs in late January. The framework is then implemented in both IPHC regulations and domestic regulations (via the National Marine Fisheries Service, NMFS) as published in the *Federal Register*.

2.0 ALLOCATION

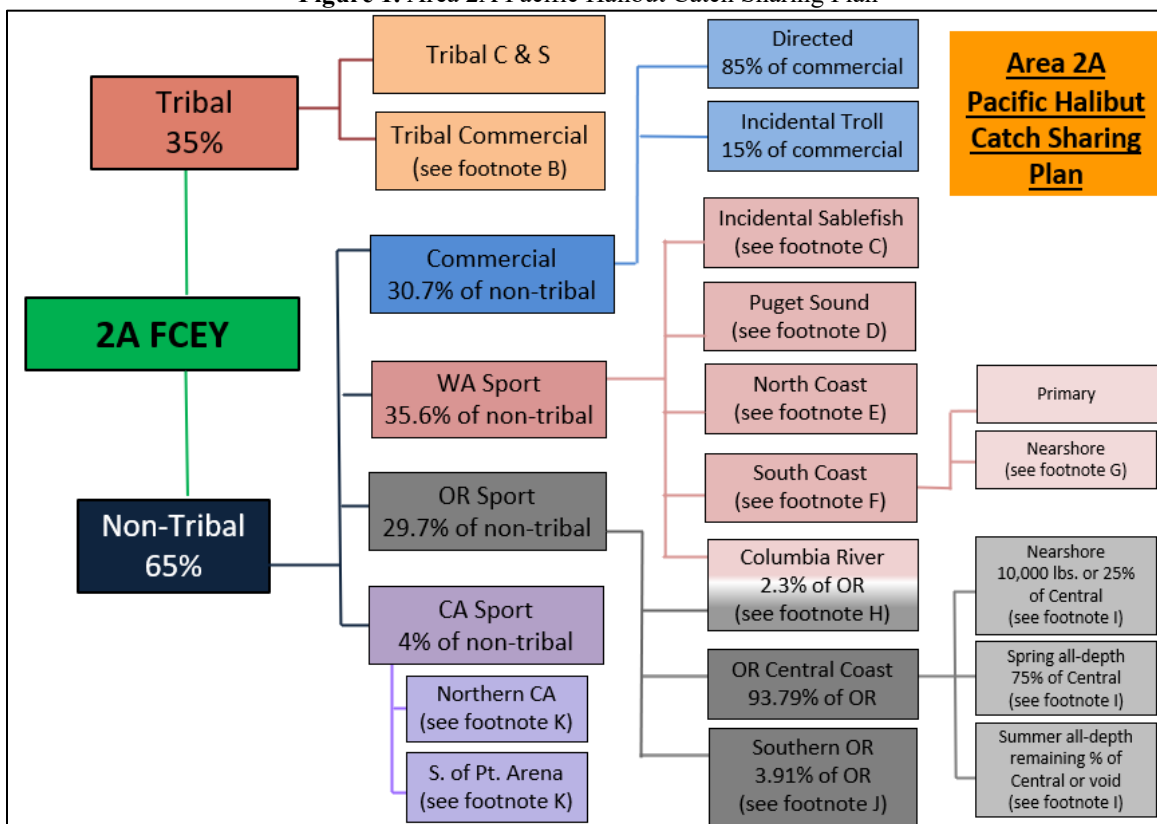
This Plan allocates 35 percent of the Area 2A FCEY to U.S. treaty Indian tribes in the State of Washington in subarea 2A-1, and 65 percent to non-tribal fisheries in Area 2A. The allocation to non-tribal fisheries is divided into four shares, with the Washington sport fishery (north of the Columbia River) receiving 35.6 percent, the Oregon sport fishery receiving 29.7 percent, the California sport fishery receiving 4.0 percent, and the commercial fishery receiving 30.7 percent. Allocations within the non-tribal commercial and sport fisheries are described in sections 5 and 6 of this Plan.

These allocations may be changed if new information becomes available that indicates a change is necessary and/or the Council takes action to reconsider its allocation recommendations. Such changes will be made after appropriate rulemaking is completed and published in the *Federal Register*. All allocations and subquotas are described in net weight, consistent with the IPHC's description of the FCEY.

2.1 Subquotas

The allocations in this Plan are distributed as subquotas to ensure that any overage or underage by any one group will not affect achievement of an allocation set aside for another group. The specific allocative measures in the tribal, non-tribal commercial, and non-tribal sport fisheries in Area 2A are described in sections 4 through 6.

¹ The weight of a fish with head and internal organs removed.

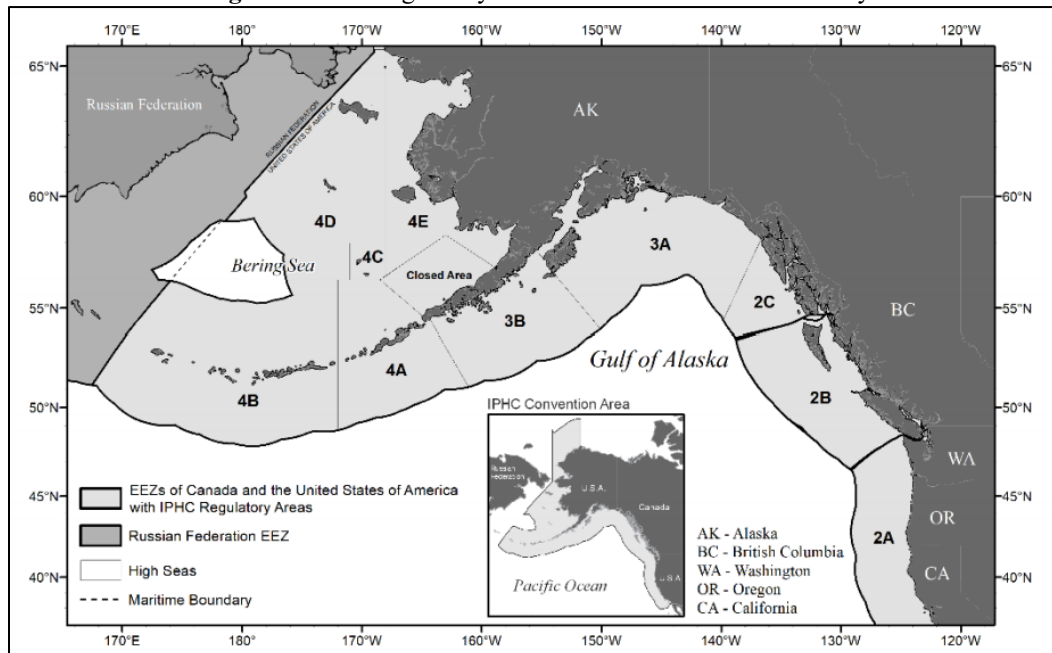
Figure 1. Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan**Footnotes**

- A. Previous year's catch estimate, when reported.
- B. Tribal allocation minus the Ceremonial and Subsistence (C & S) estimate.
- C. Incidental halibut in the sablefish fishery: The primary sablefish fishery N. of Pt. Chehalis will be allocated the WA sport allocation that is in excess of 214,110 lbs. up to 50,000 lbs provided a min. of 10,000 lbs is available. If the 2A FCEY is 1.5 million lbs or more, the maximum allocation will increase to 70,000 lbs. If the amount above 214,110 is <10,000 or greater than 50,000 (or 70,000 lbs), the excess will be allocated back to the WA sport areas.
- D. **WA-Puget Sound:** 23.5% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to WA sport plus, 32% of the WA sport allocation above 130,845.
- E. **WA-North Coast:** 62.2% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to WA sport plus, 32% of the WA sport allocation above 130,845.
- F. **WA-South Coast:** 12.3% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to WA sport plus, 32% of the WA sport allocation above 130,845.
- G. Open after the primary (all-depth) fishery closes if sufficient quota remains.
- H. **Columbia River:** 2% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to WA sport, plus 4% of the WA sport allocation above 130,845, plus anything over 8,000 lbs from the Southern Oregon subarea.
- I. **Oregon Central Coast:** (1) If the 2A FCEY is 700,000 lbs or greater; the nearshore is allocated 10,000 lbs, the spring all-depth season is allocated 75% of the Oregon Central Coast subarea quota and the summer all-depth season is allocated the remaining subarea quota. (2) If the FCEY is less than 700,000 lbs; the nearshore is allocated 25% and the spring all-depth season is allocated 75% of the Oregon Central Coast subarea quota.
- J. **Southern Oregon:** 3.91% of the Oregon sport allocation up to 8,000 lbs. Any poundage over 8,000 lbs gets transferred to the Columbia River Subarea.
- K. **California subareas:** 500 lbs is reserved for the South of Pt Arena subarea, the remainder to the Northern California subarea.

3.0 AREA OF APPLICATION

This Plan applies only to IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, which includes all waters of the states of Washington, Oregon, and California.

Figure 2. IPHC regulatory areas for the Pacific halibut fishery



4.0 TRIBAL FISHERIES

4.1 Allocation

Thirty-five percent of the Area 2A FCEY is allocated to 13 treaty tribes in subarea 2A-1.

4.2 Geographic area

Subarea 2A-1 includes the usual and accustomed fishing areas for Pacific Coast treaty tribes off the coast of Washington and all inland marine waters of Washington north of Point Chehalis (46° 53.30' N lat.), including Puget Sound. Boundaries of a tribe's fishing area may be revised as ordered by a Federal court.

4.3 Participants

U.S. treaty tribes in the State of Washington, with treaty-reserved rights to harvest halibut.

4.4 General fishery description

The treaty allocation is to provide for a tribal commercial fishery and a ceremonial and subsistence fishery. These two fisheries are managed separately; any overages in the commercial fishery do not affect the ceremonial and subsistence fishery. The commercial fishery is managed to achieve an established subquota, while the ceremonial and subsistence fishery is managed for a year-round season. The tribes will estimate the ceremonial and subsistence harvest expectations in January of each year, and the remainder of the allocation will be for the tribal commercial fishery.

4.5 Ceremonial and Subsistence

Ceremonial fisheries shall be managed by tribal regulations promulgated in season to meet the needs of specific ceremonial events. Halibut taken for ceremonial and subsistence purposes may not be offered for sale or sold.

4.5.1 Sub allocation

Estimated by the tribes in January of each year.

4.5.2 Season structure

Begins on January 1 and continues through December 31.

4.5.3 Landing restrictions

No size or bag limits, except that when the tribal commercial fishery is closed, tribal members may take and retain not more than two halibut per day per person for subsistence purposes.

4.6 Tribal Commercial

4.6.1 Sub allocation

Balance of quota after ceremonial and subsistence subquota determined, which is estimated by the tribes in January of each year.

4.6.2 Season structure

Tribal commercial fishery season dates will be set within the season dates determined by the IPHC and implemented in IPHC regulations. The tribal commercial fishery will close when the subquota is taken.

4.6.3 Landing restrictions

Size limit: Consistent with IPHC regulations on size limits for the non-tribal fishery.

Landing limit: None unless specified.

5.0 NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

5.1 Allocation

The non-tribal commercial fishery is allocated 30.7 percent of the non-tribal share of the Area 2A FCEY, which is approximately 19.9 percent of the total Area 2A FCEY. In addition, a portion of the Washington sport allocation may be used for the incidental catch of halibut in the commercial sablefish primary fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA, if the Washington sport allocation exceeds a specific level as described in section 5.8.

5.2 Area description

Within the waters of Area 2A but may be restricted due to fishery boundaries and conservation areas.

5.3 General fishery description

Halibut may be retained from three commercial fishery structures: (1) directed halibut fishery, (2) incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery, and (3) incidental halibut catch in the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA.

5.4 Participants

Commercial fishers must choose either (1) to operate in the directed commercial fishery in Area 2A and/or retain halibut caught incidentally in the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA; or (2) to retain halibut caught incidentally during the salmon troll fishery.

Commercial fishers wishing to operate in both the directed commercial fishery in Area 2A and/or retain halibut caught incidentally in the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA, may not obtain a vessel permit to retain halibut caught incidentally during the salmon troll season.

A salmon troller may retain halibut caught incidentally during the salmon troll fishery or participate in the directed commercial fishery targeting halibut but not in both.

5.5 Commercial permit restrictions/declarations.

Commercial fishers must obtain an individual vessel permit online: (1) to operate in the directed commercial fishery in Area 2A; or (2) to retain halibut caught incidentally in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA; or (3) to retain halibut caught incidentally during the salmon troll fishery.

The deadline to submit a permit application to NMFS for any of the three aforementioned non-tribal commercial fisheries is March 15 (see [NMFS website](#)).

Fishing vessels permitted to fish commercially in Area 2A are prohibited from operating in the sport fisheries in Area 2A.

5.6 Directed Halibut Fishery

5.6.1 Sub allocation

Eighty-five percent of the non-tribal commercial fishery allocation is allocated to the directed fishery targeting halibut (e.g., longline fishery). The sub-allocation for this directed fishery is approximately 17.0 percent of the Area 2A FCEY.

5.6.2 Geographic area

Confined to the area south of subarea 2A-1 (south of Point Chehalis, WA; 46° 53.30' N. lat.), to include southern Washington, Oregon, and California.

5.6.3 Management objective

Opening date(s), duration, and vessel trip limits will be determined by NMFS and published in the Federal Register as necessary to ensure that the quota for the non-tribal commercial fisheries is not exceeded.

5.6.4 Season structure

This fishery typically opens in June with vessel trip limits based on vessel size to moderate catch. In recent years, the season structure has been a series of 3-day openings (58-hours), beginning at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday in June and ending at 6 p.m. on the Thursday of that week. NMFS will announce in the *Federal Register* the dates for the first three open periods, and additional openings may be set through inseason action if enough of the subquota remains. Intervals between open periods are anticipated to be two to three weeks. The second opener would be two weeks after the first opener and the third opening would aim to be two weeks after the second opener but no later than three weeks after the second opener.

5.6.5 Landing restrictions

Determined annually by NMFS; typically expressed as a vessel trip limit.

5.6.6 Inseason adjustments

If NMFS determines that after the conclusion of the initial fishing period(s) a sufficient amount of the subquota remains, then NMFS may set additional 3-day (58-hour) fishing periods. Any subsequent fishing periods would occur as soon as possible, Tuesday through Thursday, until the subquota is attained.

If NMFS determines that the remaining subquota for the directed fishery is insufficient to allow for an additional 58-hour fishing period, then the remaining halibut will be made available for incidental catch of halibut to the salmon troll fishery (independent of the incidental harvest allocation) as needed to conduct the incidental fishery through the planned season end date.

5.6.7 Groundfish regulations

None specified in this document.

5.6.8 Closed areas

This fishery may also be managed with closed areas designed to protect overfished groundfish species. Any such closed areas will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register* and the coordinates will be specifically defined at 50 CFR 660.71 through 660.74.

5.7 Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery

5.7.1 Sub allocation

Fifteen percent of the non-tribal commercial fishery allocation is allocated to the salmon troll fishery in Area 2A as an incidental catch during salmon fisheries. The quota for this incidental catch fishery is approximately 2.9 percent of the Area 2A FCEY.

5.7.2 Management objectives

The primary management objective for this fishery is to harvest the subquota as an incidental catch during the April-June salmon troll fishery. The secondary management objective is to harvest the remaining troll quota as an incidental catch during the remainder of the salmon troll fishery. These management objectives will be achieved through landing restrictions (see section 5.7.4).

The landing restrictions are meant to assure that the incidental harvest rate is appropriate for salmon and halibut availability, does not encourage target fishing on halibut, ensure an equitable sharing of the halibut landings among the fishers and does not increase the likelihood of exceeding the quota for this fishery.

5.7.3 Season structure

The Council will recommend landing restrictions at its spring public meetings each year to control the amount of halibut caught incidentally in the troll fishery, so that it remains within its subquota. The commercial ocean salmon fisheries typically begin in April and continue into September, and sometimes October.

5.7.4 Landing restrictions

Determined preseason, typically on a “per-trip” basis. The landing restrictions will be based on the number of incidental harvest permit applications submitted, halibut catch rates, the amount of allocation, and other pertinent factors, and may include catch or landing ratios, landing limits, or other means to control the rate of halibut harvest. NMFS will publish the landing restrictions annually in the *Federal Register*, along with the salmon management measures. This fishery may be subject to inseason adjustment.

5.7.5 Inseason adjustments

a. NMFS may make inseason adjustments to the landing restrictions, if requested by the Council Chair, as necessary to assure that the incidental harvest rate is appropriate for salmon and halibut availability, does not encourage target fishing on halibut, and does not increase the likelihood of exceeding the quota for this fishery. In determining whether to make such inseason adjustments, NMFS will consult with the applicable state representative(s), a representative of the Council’s Salmon Advisory Subpanel, and Council staff.

b. Extension of fishery: If the subquota for this fishery has not been harvested during the April-June portion of the salmon troll fishery, then incidental halibut harvest will be allowed in July and continue until the amount of halibut that was initially available as quota for the troll fishery is taken or until the end of the season date for commercial halibut fishing is determined by NMFS and implemented in the Federal Register (typically early October).

5.7.6 Groundfish regulations

Under the Pacific Coast groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.330, fishing with salmon troll gear is prohibited within the Salmon Troll Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA).

5.7.7 Closed conservation areas

The Salmon Troll YRCA is an area off the northern Washington coast and is defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates. Coordinates for the Salmon Troll YRCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70(c) and in salmon regulations at 50 CFR 660.405(c).

5.8 Incidental halibut catch in the primary directed sablefish fishery

5.8.1 Sub allocation

Dependent on the Area 2A FCEY, the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis will be allocated the Washington sport allocation that is in excess of 214,110 lbs provided a minimum of 10,000 lbs is available (i.e., the Washington sport allocation is 224,110 lbs or greater). If the amount above 214,110 lbs is less than 10,000 lbs, then the excess will be allocated to the Washington sport subareas according to section 6.9. The halibut allocated to the sablefish fishery will be shared as follows: up to 50,000 lbs of halibut to the primary sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, unless the Area 2A FCEY is 1,500,000 lbs or more, then the maximum allocation is 70,000 lbs. Any remaining allocation will be distributed to the Washington sport fishery among the four subareas according to the sharing described in section 6.9.

5.8.2 Management Objectives

The management objective is to accommodate incidental halibut harvest through the duration of the primary directed sablefish fishery season consistent with IPHC halibut fishery season provisions. This objective will be achieved through landing restrictions. (see section 5.8.3).

The landing restrictions are meant to assure that the incidental harvest rate is appropriate for sablefish and halibut availability, does not encourage target fishing on halibut, ensure an equitable sharing of the halibut landings among the fishers and does not increase the likelihood of exceeding the quota for this fishery.

5.8.3 Season Structure

The primary sablefish fishery typically occurs annually during April 1 – December 31. The IPHC commercial fishery season dates are determined at the annual IPHC meeting.

5.8.4 Landing restrictions

The Council will recommend landing restrictions at its spring public meetings each year to control the amount of halibut caught incidentally in this fishery. The landing restrictions will be based on the amount of the allocation and other pertinent factors, and may include catch or landing ratios, landing limits, or other means to control the rate of halibut landings. NMFS will publish the landing restrictions annually in the *Federal Register*.

The objectives for the annual landing restrictions are to attain the halibut allocation at about the same time the IPHC ceases commercial retention for the year, and to ensure an equitable sharing of the halibut landings among the fishers. In past years, the Council has successfully used landing restrictions to maintain the harvest within the allocation.

5.8.5 Inseason adjustments

None specified in this document.

5.8.6 Groundfish regulations

Under Pacific Coast groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.230, fishing with limited entry fixed gear is prohibited within the North Coast Commercial Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) and the Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA).

364 5.8.7 *Closed conservation areas*

365 The North Coast Commercial YRCA and the non-trawl RCA occur off the Washington coast.
366 These closed areas are defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates
367 specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70(b) and 50 CFR 660.73, respectively.

368 **6.0 SPORT FISHERIES**

369 **6.1 Allocation**

370 Sport fisheries (including incidental sablefish) are allocated approximately 69 percent of the non-
371 tribal share, which is approximately 45 percent of the Area 2A FCEY. The allocation is further
372 divided as subquotas among eight geographic subareas.

373 **6.2 Area description**

374 Within the waters of Area 2A but may be restricted due to fishery boundaries and conservation
375 areas.

376 **6.3 General fishery description**

377 Sport fisheries generally occur May through October annually, but seasons vary by geographic
378 subarea.

379 **6.4 Port of landing management**

380 All sport fishing in Area 2A will be managed on a "port of landing" basis, whereby any halibut
381 landed into a port will count toward the quota for the subarea in which that port is located, and the
382 regulations governing the subarea of landing apply, regardless of the specific area of catch.

383 **6.5 Vessel participation**

384 Vessels operating in the sport fishery for halibut in Area 2A are prohibited from operating in the
385 commercial halibut fishery in Area 2A during the same calendar year. Sport fishers and charter
386 boat operators must determine, prior to March 15 of each year, whether they will operate in the
387 commercial halibut fisheries in Area 2A which requires a commercial fishing permit from NMFS.
388 Sport fishing for halibut in Area 2A is prohibited from a vessel permitted to fish commercially for
389 halibut in Area 2A. Charter vessels (or for-hire vessels) retaining halibut must be permitted by
390 NMFS.

391 **6.6 Sport fishery closure provisions**

392 NMFS will determine and announce closing dates to the public for any subarea in which a subquota
393 is estimated to have been taken. Closures are determined after consultation with Regional
394 Administrator, NMFS West Coast Region, Chair of the Council, the IPHC Executive Director, and
395 the Fisheries Director(s) of the affected state(s), or their designees. Once NMFS has announced a
396 date on which the season will close, no person shall sport fish for halibut in that area after that date
397 for the rest of the year, unless a reopening of that area for sport halibut fishing is scheduled by
398 NMFS as an inseason action or announced by the IPHC.

399 **6.7 Possession limits**

400 Sport possession limits:

- Washington has a 2-fish daily bag limit, regardless of condition on land, but only a 1-fish daily bag limit may be possessed on the vessel.
- Oregon has a 3-fish daily bag limits on land, regardless of condition, but only a 1-fish daily bag limit may be possessed on the vessel.
- California on land and on the vessel is one daily bag limit, regardless of condition.

6.8 Flexible inseason management provisions

6.8.1 Protocol for inseason modifications

The Regional Administrator, NMFS West Coast Region, after consultation with the Chair of the Council, the IPHC Executive Director, and the Fisheries Director(s) of the affected state(s), or their designees, is authorized to modify regulations during the season after making the following determinations:

- a. The action is necessary to allow access to the allocation objectives and/or allow the management objectives to be met.
- b. The action will not result in exceeding the Area 2A non-tribal allocation.
- c. If any of the sport fishery subareas north of Cape Falcon, OR are not projected to utilize their respective quotas, NMFS may take inseason action to transfer any projected unused quota to another Washington sport subarea.
- d. If any of the sport fishery subareas between Leadbetter Point, WA and the OR/CA border (42° N. lat.) are projected to not utilize their respective quotas by their season ending dates, NMFS may take inseason action to transfer any projected unused quota to another Oregon sport subarea.
- e. Notwithstanding 6.8.1.a, if the total estimated yelloweye rockfish bycatch mortality from sport halibut trips in all Oregon subareas is projected to exceed 22 percent of the annual Oregon recreational yelloweye rockfish harvest guideline, NMFS may take inseason action to reduce yelloweye rockfish bycatch mortality in the halibut fishery while allowing halibut allocation objectives to be met to the extent possible.
- f. If the Northern California recreational (sport) subarea is not projected to utilize its respective allocation prior to or by the season ending date, NMFS may take inseason action to transfer any projected unused allocation to the South of Point Arena subarea.
- g. At the earliest time possible a state can notify NMFS of the amount of halibut (in pounds [lbs] of halibut, net weight¹) of their sport allocation that is projected to be unused after accounting for state management objectives. This projected amount could be made available to the other state(s) for the remainder of the calendar year. NMFS would reapportion the amount of net pounds available equally to each of the two states receiving the additional pounds. If a state eligible to receive the additional pounds declines all or part of the additional pounds, the remainder would go to the other state. NMFS will announce any such reapportionment as soon as possible in the *Federal Register* and concurrent publication on the hotline, consistent with language described in this section (Section 6.8).

On or around August 15, Council staff will facilitate a discussion between the three states and NMFS to share catch updates and inseason fishery information which could provide insight to any excess that could potentially be available for the remainder of current season.

6.8.2 *Notice procedures*

Inseason actions taken by NMFS will be published in the *Federal Register*. Notice of inseason management actions will be provided by a telephone hotline (206-526-6667 or 800-662-9825) and emailed fishery bulletins administered by the West Coast Region, NMFS. Since provisions of these regulations may be altered by inseason actions, sport fishermen should monitor the telephone hotline and subscribe to receive fishery bulletin emails (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/west-coast>) for current information for the area in which they are fishing.

6.8.3 *Effective dates*

- a. Inseason actions will be effective on the date specified in the *Federal Register* notice or at the time that the action is filed for public inspection with the Office of the Federal Register, whichever is later.
- b. If time allows, NMFS will invite public comment prior to the effective date of any inseason action filed with the *Federal Register*. If the West Coast Regional Administrator determines, for good cause, that an inseason action must be filed without affording a prior opportunity for public comment, public comments will be received for a period of 15 days after of the action in the *Federal Register*.
- c. Inseason actions will remain in effect until the stated expiration date or until rescinded, modified, or superseded. However, no inseason action has any effect beyond the end of the calendar year in which it is issued.

6.8.4 *Availability of data*

The West Coast Administrator will compile, in aggregate form, all data and other information relevant to the action being taken and will make them available for public review during normal office hours at the West Coast Regional Office, NMFS, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA.

6.8.5 *Flexible inseason management provisions*

Includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Modification of sport fishing periods,
- b. Modification of sport fishing daily bag limits,
- c. Modification of sport fishing size limits,
- d. Modification of sport fishing days per calendar week,
- e. Modification of state sport allocations;
- f. Modification of subarea quotas; and
- g. Modification of Stonewall Bank YRCA restrictions off Oregon.

6.9 Washington Coast subareas

Washington sport fisheries are allocated 35.6 percent of the total non-tribal FCEY. This allocation is divided among three subareas within the State—Puget Sound, North Coast, and South Coast—and also to the Columbia River subarea, which is shared with the Oregon sport fishery.

Management objectives for the Washington sport fisheries are to establish season structures for each subarea that maximize fishing opportunity and achieve but not exceed subarea quotas during the traditional spring fishing season. Flexibility through timely inseason action(s), such as opening additional fishing days or shifting quotas between subareas, may be necessary to achieve the overall Washington sport allocation and fishery objectives. The allocation scheme was developed to provide anglers in each subarea the opportunity to fish during this time period. Since the pandemic, fishing patterns have changed and quotas have not been fully utilized in the spring. This has allowed for openings in August and September, and catch rates during this time have varied among subareas from year to year. To address this variability, in years when fishing is open in August and September, the remaining quota may be pooled among the subareas if catch overall is likely to remain below the aggregate quota made available to the four subareas through the initial allocation or flexible inseason management process.

In addition, if certain conditions are met (as described in section 5.8.1) a portion of the Washington sport fishery allocation will be distributed to the commercial primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA. The formula for distributing the Washington sport fishery allocation to the four subareas remains unchanged regardless of any distribution to the sablefish fishery.

6.9.1 Puget Sound subarea

a. Subarea allocation

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 23.5 percent of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32 percent of the Washington sport allocation above 130,845 lbs, except as provided in section 5.8.1.

b. Geographic location

This subarea is defined as all U.S. waters east of the mouth of the Sekiu River, as defined by a line extending north from 48° 17.30' N. lat., 124° 23.70' W. long. to 48° 24.10' N. lat., 124° 23.70' W. long., including Puget Sound.

c. Management objectives

None identified in this document.

d. Season structure

Season dates will be developed by the end of November each year for the following year. Seasons will open in early May. Flexibility to open in April is allowed. During April, May, and June, season structure may include periodic closures to assess the remaining quota for the subarea. The seasons may be open up to seven days per week in April, May and June if the Area 2A FCEY is at least 1.3 million pounds, and if the Area 2A FCEY is less than 1.3 million pounds, then seasons may be open up to five days per week in April, May, and June.

If sufficient quota remains after the final open day in June, additional openings may be implemented in August and September up to seven days per week. The determination of whether sufficient quota remains may take into account the available quota across all subareas and the likelihood that it will be caught in full by the end of the season.

The fishery will continue until the quota is projected to be taken, or September 30, whichever is earlier.

- e. Landing restrictions
The daily bag limit is one fish per person, with no size limit.
- f. Inseason adjustments
Consistent with section 6.8.
If the Puget Sound subarea season is closed prior to September 30, and there is insufficient quota for an additional fishing day, then any remaining Puget Sound subarea quota may be transferred inseason to another Washington coastal subarea by NMFS. Inseason transfers may be limited to situations where they are necessary to keep catch across all subareas below the quota available to the Washington subareas in total. See section 6.8.2 for Notice Procedures. The daily bag limit in all fisheries is one halibut per person with no size limit.
- g. Groundfish regulations
None specified in this document.
- h. Closed Conservation Areas
None specified in this document.

6.9.2 North Coast subarea

- a. Subarea allocation
This sport fishery subarea is allocated 62.2 percent of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32 percent of the Washington sport allocation above 130,845 lbs, except as provided in section 5.8.1.
- b. Geographic location
This subarea is defined as all U.S. waters west of the mouth of the Sekiu River, as defined above in section 6.9.1.b, and north of the Queets River (47° 31.70' N. lat.).
- c. Management objectives
None specified in this document.
- d. Season structure
Season dates will be developed by the end of November each year for the following year. Seasons will open in early May, with the flexibility to open on April 30 in years when April 30 falls on a Thursday. The season may be open up to three days per week (Thursday through Saturday) in May if the Area 2A FCEY is at least 1.3 million pounds and if the Area 2A FCEY is less than 1.3 million pounds, then the season may be open in May up to two days per week (Thursday and Saturday) except Memorial Day weekend, which may be open Friday and Sunday. The season in June may be open up to four days per week (Thursday through Sunday).

Season structure may include periodic closures to assess the remaining quota for the subarea. If sufficient quota remains after the final open day in June, additional openings may be implemented in August and September up to seven days per week. The fishery will continue until the quota is projected to be taken, or September 30, whichever is earlier.
- e. Landing restrictions
The daily bag limit is one fish per person, with no size limit.
- f. Inseason adjustments
Consistent with section 6.8.

If the fishery is closed prior to September 30, and there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen for another fishing day, then any remaining quota may be transferred inseason to another Washington coastal subarea by NMFS. Inseason transfers may be limited to situations where they are necessary to keep catch across all subareas below the quota available to the Washington subareas in total. See section 6.8.2 for Notice Procedures. The daily bag limit in all fisheries is one halibut per person with no size limit.

g. Groundfish regulations

Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within the North Coast Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA).

h. Closed conservation areas

Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within the North Coast Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA). The North Coast Recreational YRCA is a C-shaped area off the northern Washington coast and is defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates. Coordinates for the North Coast Recreational YRCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70(b) and will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register*.

6.9.3 *South Coast subarea.*

a. Subarea allocation

This sport fishery is allocated 12.3 percent of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32 percent of the Washington sport allocation above 130,845 lbs, except as provided in section 5.8.

b. Geographic location

This subarea is defined as waters south of the Queets River (47° 31.70' N. lat.) and north of Leadbetter Point (46° 38.17' N. lat.).

The nearshore fishery takes place in the area from 47°31.70' N. lat. south to 46°58.00' N. lat. and east of a boundary line approximating the 30-fathom depth contour as defined by the following coordinates:

47° 31.70' N. lat., 124° 37.03' W. long.;
47° 25.67' N. lat., 124° 34.79' W. long.;
47° 12.82' N. lat., 124° 29.12' W. long.; and
46° 58.00' N. lat., 124° 24.24' W. long.

c. Management objectives

The season will be structured with the primary goal of utilizing the subarea quota during the months of May and June and to use any remaining quota in August and September if that goal is not achieved. The south coast subarea quota will be allocated to the all-depth (primary) fishery; a nearshore fishery may be opened based on the considerations described below.

d. Season structure

Season dates for the primary fishery will be developed by the end of November each year for the following year. The primary fishery season will open in early May, with the flexibility to open on April 30 in years when April 30 falls on a Thursday. During May the

season may be open up to four days per week (Thursday, Friday, Sunday, and Tuesday), and three days per week (Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday) in June if sufficient quota remains.

Season structure may include periodic closures to assess the remaining quota for the subarea. If sufficient quota remains after the final open day in June, additional openings may be implemented in August and September up to seven days per week.

If there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen the primary fishery for another fishing day, the remaining primary fishery quota will be used to open a nearshore fishery.

WDFW will make a recommendation to NMFS on the decision to reopen the all-depth or nearshore fishery after consultation with the public.

e. Landing restrictions

The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit.

f. Inseason adjustments

Consistent with section 6.8.

If quota remains but is insufficient to open the primary fishery for one day, then the nearshore fishery may open the first Saturday subsequent to the closure of the primary fishery and will be open seven days per week until the remaining quota is projected to be taken.

If the fishery is closed prior to September 30, and there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen the nearshore area for another fishing day, then any remaining quota may be transferred inseason to another Washington coastal subarea by NMFS. Inseason transfers may be limited to situations where they are necessary to keep catch across all subareas below the quota available to the Washington subareas in total. See section 6.8.2 for Notice Procedures

g. Groundfish regulations

During days open to the primary fishery and seaward of the 30-fathom line, and seaward of the deepwater lingcod closure area, lingcod may be taken, retained, and possessed when allowed by groundfish regulations.

h. Closed conservation areas

None identified in this document.

6.10 Columbia River subarea

a. Subarea allocation

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 2.0 percent of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 4.0 percent of the Washington sport allocation above 130,845 lbs, except as provided in section 5.8. This subarea is also allocated 2.3 percent of the Oregon sport allocation, and any quota over 8,000 lbs from the Southern Oregon Subarea.

b. Geographic location

This subarea is defined as waters south of Leadbetter Point, WA (46° 38.17' N. lat.) and north of Cape Falcon, OR (45° 46.00' N. lat.).

642 c. Management objectives

643 This subarea includes a primary all-depth fishery and a secondary all-depth fishery,
644 depending on projected attainment of quota through June 30 (see 6.10.d). The overall
645 management objective is to maximize fishing opportunity while achieving but not
646 exceeding the subarea quota.

647 d. Season structure

648 The all-depth fishery will begin in May, with the flexibility to open on April 30 in years
649 when April 30 falls on a Thursday. Open dates will be determined after consultation
650 between Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife, and in time for
651 Council final action at the November meeting.

652 If the Area 2A FCEY is at least 1.3 million pounds, during May, the all-depth fishery may
653 be open up to three days per week, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, and during June up to
654 three days per week, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday as fixed dates, with two days per week,
655 Monday and Tuesday, as back-up dates to be opened if sufficient quota remains, except the
656 fishery would not open the last Monday or Tuesday in June to reduce interactions with the
657 commercial directed halibut fishery. This determination of whether quota is sufficient to
658 open the back-up dates may be based on a projection using data through the third statistical
659 week in May. The reference threshold for opening the back-up days is 55 percent or greater
660 of the subarea quota remaining through the fourth statistical week of May but the
661 determination may consider other factors such as catch across all subareas and the overall
662 likelihood of the subareas reopening in August or September.

663 If the Area 2A FCEY is less than 1.3 million pounds, the all-depth fishery may be open up
664 to three days per week, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, during the months of May and June.

665 If sufficient quota remains after the final open day in June, then additional openings may
666 be implemented in August and September up to seven days per week until September 30.
667 The determination of whether sufficient quota remains may take into account the available
668 quota across all subareas and the likelihood that it will be caught in full by the end of the
669 season.

670 e. Landing restrictions

671 The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit.

672 f. Inseason adjustments

673 Consistent with section 6.8.

674
675 Subsequent to the primary fishery closure, if there is insufficient quota remaining in the
676 Columbia River subarea for another fishing day, then any remaining quota may be
677 transferred inseason to another Washington and/or Oregon subarea by NMFS. See section
678 6.8.2 for Notice Procedures.

679 Any remaining quota would be transferred to each state in proportion to its contribution.

680 g. Groundfish regulations

681 Anglers with halibut onboard the vessel may retain, possess, or land only the following
682 species unless otherwise prohibited by state for federal groundfish regulations:

North of the Washington-Oregon border (46° 16.00' N. lat.):

- When fishing in the all-depth fishery:
 - sablefish, Pacific cod, flatfish species, lingcod, yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstriped rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, and blue/deacon rockfish.

South of the Washington-Oregon border (46° 16.00' N. lat.):

- When the all-depth fishery is open;
 - and the groundfish fishery is **restricted by depth**;
 - sablefish, Pacific cod and flatfish species; and
 - if fishing with long-leader gear (as defined at § 660.351): yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstriped rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue rockfish, and deacon rockfish.
 - and when the groundfish fishery is **open to all depths**:
 - any groundfish species permitted under the groundfish regulations.

- h. Closed conservation areas
None identified in this document.

6.11 Oregon Coast subarea

Oregon sport fisheries are allocated 29.7 percent of the total non-tribal FCEY. This allocation is distributed to two subareas within the state, plus the Columbia River subarea (section 6.10 above).

Management objectives for the Oregon sport fisheries are to establish season structures for each subarea that maximize fishing opportunity and achieve but not exceed subarea allocations. Flexibility through timely inseason action, such as opening additional fishing days or shifting allocation between subareas, may be necessary to achieve the overall Oregon sport allocation and fishery objectives.

6.11.1 Oregon Central Coast subarea

a. Subarea allocation

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 93.79 percent of the Oregon sport allocation. Portions (subquotas) of this subarea allocation are distributed to certain fisheries within this subarea based on the amount of the overall Area 2A FCEY as described in sections 6.11.1.c and 6.11.1.d.

b. Geographic location

This subarea extends from Cape Falcon (45° 46.00' N. lat.) to Humbug Mountain, Oregon (42° 40.50' N. lat.).

The nearshore area is described as the area shoreward of the regulatory line approximating the 40-fathom (73 m) depth contour in Oregon. Coordinates will be specifically defined at 50 CFR 660.71 through 660.74.

c. Management objectives

If the overall 2A FCEY is 700,000 lbs or greater, the structuring objectives for this subarea are to provide two seasons of all-depth halibut fishing; one in the spring and another in the summer, along with nearshore fishing opportunities during days closed to all-depth halibut.

If the overall 2A FCEY is less than 700,000 lbs, the structuring objectives for this subarea are to provide a period of all-depth halibut fishing beginning in spring, along with nearshore fishing opportunities to extend halibut fishing into summer months.

The overall management objective is to maximize fishing opportunity while achieving but not exceeding the subarea quota. Any amount of subquota that is not needed to extend the nearshore season through October 31 will be added to either the spring or summer all-depth season subquota if it can be used, and any amount remaining unharvested from the summer all-depth season subquota will be added to the nearshore season subquota, if it can be used. If the Oregon Central Coast subarea allocation (all-depth and nearshore combined) is 200,000 pounds or greater, the daily bag limit may be increased to two fish per day, based on consultation between ODFW, NMFS, IPHC, and PFMC with the intent of taking the entire subarea allocation by October 31. Following the IPHC Annual Meeting, ODFW will arrange a public input process to develop recommendations to NMFS on the daily bag limit.

d. Season structure

There are three general seasons for this subarea - nearshore, spring all-depth and summer all-depth.

i. Nearshore

The nearshore fishery is allocated 10,000 lbs of the Oregon Central Coast subarea quota if the Area 2A FCEY is 700,000 lbs or greater, or 25 percent if the Area 2A FCEY is less than 700,000 lbs.

The nearshore season opens May 1, seven days per week, only in waters shoreward of the 40-fathom (73 m) regulatory line unless the Area 2A FCEY is less than 1.2M lbs, then it may be postponed and open on June 1. The fishery continues until the subquota is taken, or until October 31, whichever is earlier. This fishery is superseded by the all-depth fisheries when both are open.

ii. Spring all-depth

The spring season subquota is 75 percent of the Oregon Central Coast subarea quota.

The spring season is an all-depth fishery that may begin as early as May 1, up to seven days per week, with two distinct opening types ("Fixed" and "Back-up").

Fixed dates will be established preseason prior to the first spring opener and will not be modified inseason except if the combined Oregon all-depth spring and summer season total quotas are estimated to be achieved, then any remaining Fixed dates will be closed. The number of Fixed dates will be based on the projected harvest per day with the intent of not exceeding the subarea subquota for the season. Recent year catch rates and harvest weights will be used as a guideline for setting up the spring season each year. Additionally, ODFW will arrange a public input

process shortly after the IPHC annual meeting to develop recommendations to NMFS on the open dates for the Fixed and Back-up dates each year.

If current year trends and projections indicate that the subquota for the spring all-depth season will remain unharvested following the Fixed dates, additional openings may occur. ODFW will consult with IPHC, NMFS, and PFMC to determine if any (and how many) Back-up dates will open. Available Back-up dates will be identified preseason, though announced inseason.

If the Area 2A FCEY is 700,000 lbs. or greater, then the fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota available for an additional day of fishing or July 31, whichever is earlier. The summer all-depth season will then open in August (6.11.1.d.iii). If the Area 2A FCEY is less than 700,000 lbs, then the fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota available for an additional day of fishing or October 31, whichever is earlier.

iii. Summer all-depth

The summer season subquota is 25 percent of the Oregon Central Coast subarea quota minus the 10,000 lbs allocated to the nearshore fishery if the Area 2A FCEY is 700,000 lbs or greater. If the Area 2A FCEY is less than 700,000 lbs, the summer all-depth season is void. If a subquota is allocated to this season, the season will begin on August 1 and continue until there is insufficient quota available for an additional day of fishing or October 31, whichever is earlier.

If the entire Oregon Central Coast subarea remaining allocation is greater than (or projected to be greater than) 50,000 lbs upon the completion of the spring all-depth season (July 31), the summer all-depth season will be open seven days per week, every week, beginning August 1. If the remaining subarea quota is less than (or projected to be less than) 50,000 lbs, the summer all-depth season will open every other week, with the first opener beginning on August 1 through the first Sunday of August and closed for the following full week in August (Monday through Sunday). The season will continue (either every week or every other week) until there is insufficient quota available for an additional day of fishing or October 31, whichever is earlier.

If after the Labor Day weekend the entire remaining quota for the Oregon Central Coast subarea (combined all-depth and nearshore subquotas) is 30,000 lbs or more and the fishery is not already open every week, the fishery will then be opened every week if determined to be appropriate through joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS, PFMC, and ODFW.

All inseason actions will be announced by NMFS. See section 6.8.2 for Notice Procedures.

e. Landing restrictions

The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, unless otherwise specified, with no size limit. During years of higher quotas, the daily bag limit may be increased to two halibut per person, see management objectives section 6.11.1.c.

f. Inseason adjustments

Consistent with sections 6.8, 6.11.1.c, and 6.11.1.d.

If inseason it is determined via joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS, PFMC, and ODFW, that the combined all-depth and nearshore seasons will not harvest the entire quota allocated to the Oregon Central Coast subarea, quota may be transferred inseason to another subarea between Leadbetter Point, WA and the OR/CA border by NMFS. See section 6.8.2 for Notice Procedures.

g. Groundfish regulations

During the recreational halibut all-depth fishery, when the groundfish fishery is restricted by depth and halibut are onboard the vessel, sablefish, Pacific cod, and flatfish species may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed, and yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstriped rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue rockfish, and deacon rockfish may be retained, possessed, or landed when caught with long-leader gear (as defined at § 660.351).

During days open to all-depth halibut fishing when the groundfish fishery is open to all depths, any groundfish species permitted under the groundfish regulations may be retained, possessed, or landed regardless of whether halibut are onboard the vessel.

During days only open to nearshore halibut fishing (all-depth halibut fishing is closed), flatfish species may NOT be taken and retained seaward of the 40-fathom regulatory line if halibut are onboard the vessel.

h. Closed conservation areas

Recreational fishing for groundfish and halibut is prohibited within the Stonewall Bank YRCA. The Stonewall Bank YRCA is an area off central Oregon, near Stonewall Bank, and is defined by straight lines connecting latitude and longitude coordinates. Coordinates for the Stonewall Bank YRCA are specified in groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70 (h) and will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register*.

6.11.2 Southern Oregon subarea

a. Subarea allocation

This sport fishery is allocated 3.91 percent of the Oregon sport allocation, up to a maximum of 8,000 lbs. Any allocation over that amount will be re-allocated to the Columbia River subarea.

b. Geographic location

This area is defined as the area south of Humbug Mountain, OR (42° 40.50' N. lat.) to the OR/CA Border (42° 00.00' N. lat.).

c. Management objectives

Provide the opportunity to maximize fishing opportunity and achieve but not exceed the subarea quota.

d. Season structure

This fishery will open May 1, seven days per week until the Southern Oregon subarea quota is taken or October 31, whichever is earlier.

e. Landing restrictions

The daily bag limit is one halibut per person with no size limit, unless the Oregon Central Coast subarea bag limit is increased to two halibut, then the Southern Oregon subarea will increase to two halibut at the same time.

f. Inseason adjustments

Consistent with section 6.8.

g. Groundfish regulations

When the groundfish fishery is restricted by depth and halibut are onboard the vessel, sablefish, Pacific cod, and flatfish species may be taken and retained, possessed, or landed, and yellowtail rockfish, widow rockfish, canary rockfish, redstriped rockfish, greenstriped rockfish, silvergray rockfish, chilipepper, bocaccio, blue rockfish, and deacon rockfish may be retained, possessed, or landed when caught with long-leader gear (as defined at § 660.351).

When the groundfish fishery is open to all depths, any groundfish species permitted under the groundfish regulations may be retained, possessed, or landed regardless of whether halibut are onboard the vessel.

h. Closed conservation areas

None identified in this document.

6.12 California Coast subareas

California sport fisheries are allocated 4.0 percent of the total non-tribal FCEY. This allocation is shared between two subareas within the State divided at Pt. Arena (38°57.5' N. lat.),

6.12.1 Northern California subarea

a. Subarea allocation

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 4.0 percent of the non-tribal allocation, except 500 pounds will be subtracted and assigned to the South of Pt. Arena subarea.

b. Geographic location

This area is defined as the area south of the OR/CA Border (42° 00.00' N. lat.) to Point Arena (38°57.5' N. lat.)

c. Management objectives

Maximize fishing opportunity and achieve but not exceed the subquota. Flexibility through timely inseason action may be necessary to achieve but not exceed the Area 2A FCEY.

d. Season structure

The fishery will be structured to provide recreational fishing opportunity seven days per week, from **May 1 / April 1** [*to be determined pending the November 2025 Council meeting decision*] until November 15 or until the quota is projected to be taken, whichever is earlier. Additional closed periods during this season, such as closed weeks or months and including a later opening date, may be established preseason by NMFS based on the subarea quota and projected catch.

e. Landing restrictions

The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit.

f. Inseason adjustments

Consistent with section 6.8.

If inseason, it is determined via joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS, PFMC, and CDFW, that the Northern California subarea will not harvest the entire quota allocated to that area, quota may be transferred inseason to the South of Point Arena subarea by NMFS.

Closure of the fishery or other inseason adjustments will be made by NMFS. See section 6.8.2 for Notice Procedures.

g. Groundfish regulations
None identified in this document.

h. Closed conservation areas
None identified in this document.

6.12.2 South of Point Arena subarea

a. Subarea allocation
This sport fishery subarea is assigned 500 pounds of the California sport allocation.

b. Geographic location
This area is defined as Pt Arena (38°57.5' N. lat.) south to the US/Mexico border.

c. Management objectives
Maximize fishing opportunity and achieve but not exceed the subquota. Flexibility through timely inseason action may be necessary to achieve but not exceed the Area 2A FCEY.

d. Season structure
Season may be open **May 1 / April 1** [*to be determined pending the November 2025 Council meeting decision*] through December 31, or until subarea limit is met.

e. Landing restrictions
The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit.

f. Inseason adjustments
Consistent with section 6.8.
Closure of the fishery or other inseason adjustments will be made by NMFS. See section 6.8.2 for Notice Procedures.

g. Groundfish regulations
None identified in this document.

h. Closed conservation areas
None identified in this document.

7.0 PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Each year, NMFS will publish a proposed rule with any regulatory modifications necessary to implement the Plan for the following year, with a request for public comments. The comment period will extend until after the IPHC annual meeting, so that the public will have the opportunity to consider the final Area 2A FCEY before submitting comments. After the Area 2A FCEY is known, and after NMFS reviews public comments, NMFS will implement final rules governing the Area 2A sport fisheries and the non-tribal directed commercial fishery. The final ratio of halibut

927 to Chinook to be allowed as incidental catch in the salmon troll fishery will be published with the
928 annual salmon management measures.

929 Sources:

<u>90 FR 13293</u> (March 21, 2025)	74 FR 11681 (March 19, 2009)
<u>89 FR 46824</u> (May 30, 2024)	73 FR 12280 (March 7, 2008)
<u>89 FR 22966</u> (April 3, 2024)	72 FR 11792 (March 14, 2007)
<u>88 FR 21503</u> (April 11, 2023)	71 FR 10850 (March 3, 2006)
<u>87 FR 19007</u> (March 31, 2022)	70 FR 20304 (April 19, 2005)
<u>86 FR 20638</u> (April 20, 2021)	69 FR 24524 (May 4, 2004)
85 FR 25317 (May 1, 2020)	68 FR 10989 (March 7, 2003)
84 FR 17960 (April 29, 2019)	67 FR 12885 (March 20, 2002)
83 FR 13090 (March 26, 2018)	66 FR 15801 (March 21, 2001)
82 FR 18581 (April 20, 2017)	65 FR 14909 (March 20, 2000)
81 FR 18789 (April 1, 2016)	64 FR 13519 (March 19, 1999)
80 FR 17344 (April 1, 2015)	63 FR 13000 (March 17, 1998)
79 FR 18827 (April 4, 2014)	62 FR 12759 (March 18, 1997)
78 FR 16423 (March 15, 2013)	61 FR 11337 (March 20, 1996)
77 FR 16740 (March 22, 2012)	60 FR 14651 (March 20, 1995)
76 FR 14300 (March 16, 2011)	59 FR 22522 (May 2, 1994)
75 FR 13024 (March 18, 2010)	58 FR 17791 (April 6, 1993)

930