

FALL 2010 NEWSLETTER EXCERPT

Proposed Changes to Halibut Catch Sharing Plan

Each September, the Council considers proposed changes to the halibut regulations in order to adjust regulations (primarily for the recreational fishery) for the Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan (CSP). The Council may also make changes in catch allocation among areas or gear groups.

Both Washington's and Oregon's Departments of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW and ODFW, respectively) held public meetings in August to solicit proposed changes to the CSP. Recommendations resulting from the ODFW meeting were presented for review at the September Council meeting. There were no recommendations following the WDFW meeting.

The Council adopted the following proposed changes to the Catch Sharing Plan and 2011 regulations for public review. The Council will take final action on this matter at its November meeting:

- Specify that closed areas that will apply to the non-Indian directed commercial fishery will be defined within groundfish regulations at 50 CFR 660.70.

Oregon Central Coast Subarea:

- Adjust the number of open days per week in the spring all-depth fishery from three to two days, if the number of fixed days will be nine days or less, otherwise remain at three days per week.
- Adjust the number of open days per week in the nearshore (inside 40 fathoms) fishery from seven days per week to less than seven days per week. If, after some point mid-season, effort and harvest are tracking slowly, the nearshore fishery could then be expanded to seven days per week to more fully utilize the allocation.
- Adjust the allocation to the three central coast subarea seasons (spring all-depth, summer all-depth, and nearshore). The following alternatives have been suggested:
 - Maintain status quo with 69% to the spring all-depth, 23% to the summer all-depth, and 8% to the nearshore.
 - Maintain 8% to the nearshore, then divide the remainder equally between the spring and summer all-depth seasons.
 - Maintain 8% to the nearshore, then divide the remainder 60% to the spring and 40% to the summer all-depth seasons.
 - Change the allocations to 45% to the spring all-depth, 45% to the summer all-depth, and 10% to the nearshore.

PFMC
10/18/10