

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
2011 PACIFIC HALIBUT REGULATIONS

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered proposed changes to the Pacific halibut catch sharing plan and 2011 regulations affecting the Oregon recreational sector of the halibut fishery in International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) area 2A contained in Agenda Item G.1.b, ODFW Report.

A presentation was given by Lynn Mattes of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Three changes were proposed: 1) a change in the number of consecutive open days for the spring all depth fishery, 2) a shift of quota from the spring all depth to the summer all depth fishery, and 3) a change in the number of weekly open days with a trigger for the nearshore fishery.

GAP recommendations:

1) The GAP supports status quo of three consecutive open days instead of two for the spring all-depth fishery. Possible economic impacts are the rationale for this opinion. Three days allows for greater flexibility with charter bookings and private angler travel plans. Due to possible weather constraints, three consecutive days would provide a higher probability that at least one fishing day could be realized during any given open period.

2) The GAP supports moving 2 percent of the spring to the summer all-depth quota. This would increase the probability that another full fishing day could be realized when prosecuting this summer fishery.

3) The GAP supports the concept of reducing the number of open days per week if necessary regarding the nearshore fishery. The GAP recommendation to the Council is to reverse what is proposed by ODFW. The nearshore fishery would start with seven days per week opening and thereafter be subject to reductions in number of days per week inseason. The reductions would be made based on catch rate and projected catch exceeding quota. The number of days and the timing of constraints would be at the discretion of ODFW in consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and IPHC. The GAP would like to see at least another year of history with the catch in the nearshore fishery before instituting constraints at the beginning of a season.