

NMFS PROPOSED CHANGES TO FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND THE  
2011 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR AREA 2A

NMFS submitted proposed changes to the 2011 Pacific halibut Catching Sharing Plan (CSP) and the codified regulations at §300.63 at the September 2010 Council meeting. NMFS is submitting those same changes for final action.

The proposed changes to the catch sharing plan are as follows:

- 1) In section (e)(2), specify that closed areas that will apply to the non-Indian directed commercial fishery will be defined within groundfish regulations.

The proposed changes to the codified regulations at 50 CFR 300.63 are as follows:

- 1) In paragraph (e) replace the description of the groundfish RCA with specific reference to the closed areas and depth contours in groundfish regulations.
- 2) Remove paragraphs (f) and (g), these paragraphs simply list the coordinates for the 30-fm and 100-fm lines, this information will now all be found in the groundfish regulations. The halibut regulations will direct users to the groundfish regulations for this information.
- 3) Update all references to current groundfish regulations with updated references as a result of the groundfish regulation restructure occurring through the TIQ program.