

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR THE 2015 FISHERY

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) solicited public comment on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) approved proposals for changes to the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for fisheries in 2015. ODFW hosted a series of public meetings in Astoria (Oct. 6), Newport (Oct. 7), Brookings (Oct. 8), and Coos Bay (Oct. 9) and used an online survey to gather public input on the proposals. The Newport public meeting was also webcast, so that anglers who were unable to attend in person, could still hear the discussions and weigh in. Approximately 60 individuals attended the public meetings, and 183 took the online survey. This year, we also conferred with our Sport Advisory Committee¹ between the public meetings and survey and writing of this report.

Proposed Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan

Allocations

Increase allocation to the California Sport Fishery

	Status Quo	Alt 1	Alt 2				Alt 3		Alt 4		Alt 5	
			Option A		Option B		2A TAC	Portion of 2A TAC	2A TAC	Portion of 2A TAC	2A TAC	Portion of 2A TAC
			2A TAC ≤ 1 M. lb	2A TAC > 1 M. lb	2A TAC ≤ 1 M. lb	Portion of 2A TAC > 1 M. lb						
WA Sport:	36.60%	36.60%	36.60%	36.60%	36.60%	18.5-25.9%	35.93%	35.60%	35.60%	35.27%	35.27%	34.93%
OR Sport:	30.70%	30.70%	30.70%	30.70%	30.70%	15.5-21.7%	30.03%	29.70%	29.70%	29.37%	29.37%	29.03%
CA Sport:	1.00%	3.00%	3.00%	4.00%	3.00%	30-50%	3.00%	4.00%	4.00%	5.00%	5.00%	6.00%
Commercial:	31.70%	29.70%	29.70%	28.70%	29.70%	16-22.4%	31.03%	30.70%	30.70%	30.37%	30.37%	30.03%

This item generated the most discussion during the public meetings. The overwhelming majority supported shifting allocation to California to support their fishery, ONLY IF management measures were implemented to ensure that California stays within its given quota. The general consensus was that if allocation had to be shifted, it should come from all other sectors equally, rather than just one sector. Attendees felt that was the most equitable, and may be the least disruptive to the individual sectors (i.e. the decreases would be small enough that further restrictions, fewer open days, would not be expected). Many attendees expressed concern over reducing the allocations to already restricted sectors so that quota could be increased to a sector that exceeds its allocation, and has few restrictions.

ODFW recommends Alternative 3, increasing the California sport allocation by two percent, for a total California sport allocation of three percent when the Area 2A total allowable catch

¹ The Sport Advisory Committee (SAC) is a group of 13 individuals who represent private anglers, charter operators, and associated businesses. ODFW and SAC work together on issues dealing with the management of Oregon recreational groundfish and halibut fisheries. They also serve as a conduit for information between ODFW and the public.

(TAC) is less than 1 million pounds, by reducing the three major non-treaty group (commercial, Washington Sport, and Oregon sport) allocations equally. However, this recommendation is dependent on the implementation of management measures that are intended to not exceed the allocation.

Modify Oregon Sport Allocations

	Status Quo	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Columbia River	equal to WA contribution	75% of WA contribution	50% of WA contribution
Central Oregon	N/A	96%	96%
Spring All-Depth	61%	63%	63%
Summer All-Depth	25%	25%	25%
Nearshore	12%	12%	12%
Southern Oregon	2%	4%	4%

shaded cells are percentages of the Central Oregon Allocation

ODFW recommends Alternative 1, reducing the Oregon contribution to the Columbia River Subarea to a level equivalent to 75 percent of the Washington contribution, and increase the allocation to the Southern Oregon Subarea to four percent of the Oregon sport allocation minus any contribution to the Columbia River Subarea.

In recent years, there has been little catch or effort in the Columbia River Subarea after mid-July, leaving 2,500 to 3,500 pounds un-harvested annually. At the same time catch and effort in the Oregon portion of the former South of Humbug Subarea (now the Southern Oregon Subarea) began increasing. In 2014 the South of Humbug Subarea was separated creating the Southern Oregon Subarea (Humbug Mountain to the OR/CA Border) and the California Subarea, with the South of Humbug allocation going to the California Subarea. To accommodate the new subarea in Oregon, two percent of the Central Coast spring all-depth allocation was set-aside for the Southern Oregon Subarea. The small allocation to the Southern Oregon Subarea was seen as a first step, to get the season framework in place.

Input received during the public process indicated that many anglers were in favor of adjusting the Oregon sport allocations, for the best utilization of the overall Oregon sport allocation by the most anglers. Lowering the Oregon contribution to the Columbia River Subarea and modifying the allocation to the other subareas should allow that opportunity to more fully utilize the Oregon Sport allocation. The additional quota for the Southern Oregon Subarea will then partially come from the quota returned from the Columbia River, and partially from the overall Central Coast quota, instead of solely from the Central Coast spring all-depth quota (i.e. everyone contributes a little bit).

Additionally, under this year's Area 2A TAC, and how the Columbia River Subarea seasons progressed, the decrease in allocation would likely not have changed the seasons' lengths or

management decisions. However, the increase to the Southern Oregon Subarea would have allowed for a longer season, regardless of leftovers from other subareas that allowed it to continue this year.

Management Measures

Columbia River and Central Oregon Coast Subareas

Allow additional species onboard on all-depth halibut days

Status quo: only Pacific cod and sablefish are allowed.

Alternative 1: Revise the bottomfish restrictions such that all groundfish except rockfish and lingcod would be allowed when halibut are onboard.

Alternative 2: Revise the bottomfish restrictions such that other flatfish, in addition to Pacific cod and sablefish, would be allowed when halibut are onboard.

ODFW recommends Alternative 2, allow retention of other flatfish species when halibut are onboard. Current rules prohibit retention of groundfish species except for Pacific cod and Sablefish during all-depth halibut days for the Central Coast and Columbia River Subareas. The purpose of the rule is to reduce yelloweye rockfish discard mortality from the all-depth halibut fisheries. If halibut anglers were permitted to retain groundfish associated with deep reef habitats (e.g., lingcod and shelf rockfish species), some might intentionally target deep reefs in order to catch these groundfish species during their halibut trip, which would consequently increase yelloweye rockfish discard mortality.

Since the Oregon recreational fisheries currently catch at or near the entire harvest guideline for yelloweye rockfish each year, any additional mortality of yelloweye rockfish from the halibut fisheries would have to come at the expense of greater restrictions or closures elsewhere to the recreational halibut and groundfish fisheries. As such, ODFW has been extremely precautionary regarding take of non-halibut species during all-depth halibut days, limiting take to only species that are not associated with deep reef habitat (i.e., tuna, salmon, sablefish, and Pacific cod).

However, the current rule, which restricts take of all groundfish except sablefish and Pacific cod during all-depth fisheries, also excludes halibut anglers from retaining bycatch of groundfish species that have healthy populations and are not associated with deep reef habitat (e.g., flatfish species). Since the purpose of this rule is to dissuade targeting of deep reefs, modifying the current rule to allow flatfish species which are not associated with deep reef habitats should increase harvest opportunities, with little risk of increasing yelloweye rockfish discard mortality.

Columbia River Subarea

At the public meetings, ODFW did not hear from anyone that participates in the Columbia River Subarea. Additionally, the online survey results were not definitive though tended more towards neutral or being somewhat in favor of the proposed changes.

Nearshore Allocation

Status Quo: 10 percent up to 1,500 pounds of the subarea allocation reserved for a nearshore fishery.

Alternative 1: Reduce the set-aside for the nearshore fishery to 500 pounds.

ODFW recommends Alternative 1, reducing the nearshore fishery set-aside from 10 percent to 500 pounds. In 2014, there were five halibut totaling less than 150 pounds landed in the nearshore fishery. Reducing the set-aside should allow for current effort and harvest levels, and some growth, without leaving pounds un-harvested that would otherwise be available to the all-depth season.

All Depth Seasons Allocation

Status Quo: the spring all-depth season is allocated 80 percent and the summer all-depth season 20 percent of the subarea allocation.

Alternative 1: combine the spring and summer allocations into one continuous all-depth season

ODFW recommends alternative 1, combining the spring and summer allocations into one all-depth season. Since 2008, there has been little effort or catch after mid-July in the Columbia River Subarea. Managing as one continuous season will prevent closing the spring season early, and then leaving poundage un-harvested from the summer season. Managing to one season beginning in May should ensure that quota is available during the peak halibut fishing months, and continue uninterrupted. It should also allow for more complete utilization of the subarea allocation.

Nearshore Fishery Open Days of the Week

Status quo: the nearshore fishery is open on days not open for the all-depth fishery, currently Monday-Wednesday

Alternative 1: Increase the days of the week open to Monday –Friday, which includes overlap on Thursday and Friday with the all-depth fishery.

ODFW recommends keeping the status quo days open. There is concern about complication of regulations, angler confusion, and enforcement issues if the nearshore and all-depth fisheries are open on the same days. ODFW appreciates the intent of allowing for more opportunity for the nearshore fishery. However there is not a demonstrated need for this action and ODFW wonders whether the increased opportunity is worth the added levels of complexity for anglers, enforcement, and inseason tracking.

Regardless of the decision the Council makes, **ODFW recommends that the regulations (days of the week open) be the same for anglers fishing out of/landing into both states.** Having different regulations in Washington and Oregon will add another layer of potential angler confusion and enforcement issues.

Central Coast Subarea

All-depth Seasons

Status Quo: Separate spring and summer all-depth seasons and quota

Alternative 1: Create one combined all-depth season, open 2 days per week (Friday and Saturday) every other week, beginning the first Friday in May, until the quota is attained.

Alternative 2: the same as Alternative 1, except the openings are on the weeks opposite the large morning negative tides (greater than -1.0 feet).

ODFW recommends maintaining the status quo season structure; separate spring and summer all-depth seasons and quota. During the public meetings, ODFW did not receive strong support for either of the alternatives. The online survey results were strongly for maintaining status quo. The survey results for the two alternatives did not show anglers being strongly for or against either alternative.

The Central Oregon Coast Subarea all-depth fishery is currently broken into a spring and a summer season. During the August public meeting process, a proposal was received to combine the spring and summer quotas into one all-depth quota that would open the first Friday in May and run Friday and Saturday every other week until the entire all-depth quota is attained. A minor change to that proposal was also suggested, rather than beginning the season on the first Friday in May, beginning it on the first Friday in May that avoids coincidence of open days with large negative tides.

As the halibut fishery developed, season lengths became shorter, with few halibut fishing opportunities later in the summer (i.e., August). The all-depth season was separated into Spring and Summer seasons to ensure quota and open days were available later in the summer (August). Anglers requested the summer season due to generally better weather conditions later in the summer and because school is out and more families take vacations in August than in May. The intended goal of the alternatives is to continue to spread the halibut opportunities out, as well as provide some consistency for planning. By reducing the number of days open in the early part of the season, it is thought that the quota will extend longer into July, or later.

During 2013 and 2014, during spring all-depth openings, approximately 25 percent of the total effort occurred on Thursdays, 32 percent on Fridays, and 43 percent on Saturdays. Eliminating Thursdays as open days will shift some of that effort to Friday and/or Saturday, but some of that effort will not occur. The reduction in effort (boat or angler trips) each opening is intended to allow for more openings spread out through the season.

The albacore tuna sport fishery off of Oregon has exploded in popularity since 2007. Tuna often become available off of Oregon sometime in July, and anglers turn their attention to tuna. Additionally in good salmon years, such as 2014, anglers also turn their attention to coho salmon fishing in July. Therefore some anglers have expressed the desire to have halibut opportunities prior to salmon and tuna. However, prior to this year (a very good salmon year and a decent tuna year), ODFW had been hearing that many anglers had wanted more quota moved to the summer all-depth season to allow for more fishing in the late summer, which was not raised this year.

Since there was not strong support to make changes to the season structure, ODFW recommends keeping the status quo seasons and quotas.

Southern Oregon Subarea

Modify the opening date

Status Quo: May 1

Alternative 1: June 1

Alternative 2: July 1

ODFW recommends maintaining the current May 1 opening. The Southern Oregon Subarea became a separate area with its own allocation (~3,700 pounds) in 2014. During the initial round of public input, prior to discussions about increasing the allocation to this subarea, there was some discussion about moving the start date to later in the year.

The Southern Oregon Subarea season currently opens May 1 until October 31, or until the quota is attained. If effort and catches are high early in the season, which is highly dependent on salmon opportunities and local current conditions, the quota could be caught by mid-summer. The Southern Oregon Subarea is somewhat opposite of the other Oregon subareas in that salmon opportunities are more available in the late spring and early summer, with little in the late summer. Changing the starting date was intended to ensure a greater chance of having halibut fishing opportunities later in the summer (August), when salmon fishing dies off. This year, the allocation was reached in mid-August, however due to unused allocation in other Oregon subareas, was allowed to remain open. Through September, the total harvest in this subarea was 6,108 pounds. Little effort or catch is anticipated during the month of October.

Above, ODFW recommends increasing the allocation to the Southern Oregon Subarea from two to four percent of the Oregon sport allocation minus what is contributed to the Columbia River Subarea. Under this year's Area 2A TAC, that would result in the Southern Oregon Subarea allocation being approximately 7,500 pounds. Based on how this season progressed, and assuming the increase in allocation to this subarea, many anglers who provided input favored keeping the current May 1 season start date. The survey results were neutral on the status quo and both alternatives. Therefore, ODFW is recommending keeping the status quo start date of May 1.

Proposed Language Modifications for the CSP are as follows:

2015-2014 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN FOR AREA 2A

(a) FRAMEWORK

This Plan constitutes a framework that shall be applied to the annual Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) approved by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) each January.

The framework shall be implemented in both IPHC regulations and domestic regulations (implemented by NMFS) as published in the *Federal Register*.

(b) ALLOCATIONS

This Plan allocates 35 percent of the Area 2A TAC to U.S. treaty Indian tribes in the State of Washington in subarea 2A-1, and 65 percent to non-Indian fisheries in Area 2A. The allocation to non-Indian fisheries is divided into four shares, with the Washington sport fishery (north of the Columbia River) receiving 35.93 ~~36.6~~ percent, the Oregon sport fishery receiving 30.03 ~~30.7~~ percent, the California sport fishery receiving 3.0 ~~4.0~~ percent, and the commercial fishery receiving 31.03 ~~31.7~~ percent. Allocations within the non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries are described in sections (e) and (f) of this Plan. These allocations may be changed if new information becomes available that indicates a change is necessary and/or the Pacific Fishery Management Council takes action to reconsider its allocation recommendations. Such changes will be made after appropriate rulemaking is completed and published in the *Federal Register*.

(e) NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The non-Indian commercial fishery is allocated 31.03 ~~31.7~~ percent of the non-Indian share of the Area 2A TAC for a directed halibut fishery and an incidental catch fishery during the salmon troll fishery. The non-Indian commercial allocation is approximately 20.2 ~~20.6~~ percent of the Area 2A TAC. Incidental catch of halibut in the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA will be authorized if the Washington sport allocation exceeds 224,110 lb (101.7 mt) as described in section (e)(3) of this Plan. The structuring and management of these three fisheries is as follows.

(f) SPORT FISHERIES

The non-Indian sport fisheries are allocated 68.9 ~~68.3~~ percent of the non-Indian share, which is approximately 44.8 ~~44.4~~ percent of the Area 2A TAC. The allocation is further divided as subquotas among seven geographic subareas.

(iv) Columbia River subarea.

This sport fishery subarea is allocated 2.0 percent of the first 130,845 lb (59.4 mt) allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 4.0 percent of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 lb (59.4 mt) and 224,110 lb (101.7 mt) (except as provided in section (e)(3) of this Plan). This subarea is also allocated an amount equal to **75 percent of** the contribution from the Washington sport allocation from the Oregon sport allocation. 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.). The Columbia River subarea seasons are as follows:

- A. A nearshore fishery is allocated **10 percent or 1,500 500** pounds of the Columbia River subarea allocation, **whichever is less**, to allow incidental halibut retention on groundfish trips in the area shoreward of the boundary line approximating the 30 fathom (55 m) depth contour extending from Leadbetter Point, WA (46°38.17' N. lat., 124°15.88' W. long.) to the Washington-Oregon border (46°16.00' N. lat., 124°15.88' W. long.) and from there, connecting to the boundary line approximating the 40 fathom (73 m) depth contour in Oregon. Coordinates will be specifically defined at 50 CFR 660.71 through 660.74. The nearshore fishery will be open Monday through Wednesday following the opening of the **early season** all-depth fishery, until the nearshore allocation is taken or September 30, whichever is earlier. Taking, retaining, possessing or landing halibut on groundfish trips is only allowed in the nearshore area on days not open to all-depth Pacific halibut fisheries. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit.
- B. The remaining Columbia River subarea allocation will be allocated **such that 80 percent is reserved** for an **early season** all-depth fishery beginning in May **and 20 percent reserved for a late season all depth fishery beginning in August.** The **early season** all-depth fishery will open on the first Thursday in May or May 1 if it is a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, 4 days per week, Thursday through Sunday until the **early season portion of the** subarea allocation is taken. **The fishery will reopen for the late season all depth fishery on the first Thursday in August and continue 4 days per week, Thursday-Sunday until the remainder of the subarea quota has been taken,** or until September 30, whichever is earlier. **The early and late seasons will run continuously, unless closed due to quota attainment. Any remaining early season all depth quota will automatically be available to the late season all depth fishery.** Subsequent to the closure, if there is insufficient quota remaining in the Columbia River subarea for another fishing day, then any remaining quota may be transferred inseason to another Washington and/or Oregon subarea by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. Any remaining quota would be transferred to each state in proportion to its contribution. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit. No groundfish may be taken and retained, possessed or landed, except sablefish, **and** Pacific cod, **and other flatfish species** when allowed by groundfish regulations, if halibut are on board the vessel.

(v) Oregon central coast subarea.

This subarea extends from Cape Falcon (45°46.00' N. lat.) to Humbug Mountain, Oregon (42°40.50' N. lat.) and is allocated the Oregon sport allocation minus any amount of pounds needed to contribute to the Oregon portion of the Columbia River subarea quota.

If the overall 2A TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater, the structuring objectives for this subarea are to provide two periods of fishing opportunity in Spring and in Summer in productive deeper water areas along the coast, and provide a period of fishing opportunity in the summer for nearshore waters. If the overall 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt), the structuring objectives for this subarea are to provide a period of fishing opportunity beginning in Spring in productive deeper water areas along the coast, and provide a period of fishing opportunity in nearshore waters. Any poundage remaining unharvested in the Spring all-depth subquota will be added to either the Summer all-depth sub-quota or the nearshore subquota based on need, determined via joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS and ODFW. If the 2A TAC exceeds 700,000 pounds, any poundage that is not needed to extend the inside 40-fathom (73 m) fishery through October 31 will be added to the Summer all-depth season if it can be used, and any poundage remaining unharvested from the Summer all-depth fishery will be added to the inside 40-fathom (73 m) fishery subquota, if it can be used. If inseason it is determined via joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS and ODFW, that the combined all-depth and inside 40-fathom (73 m) fisheries will not harvest the entire quota to the subarea, quota may be transferred inseason to another subarea south of Leadbetter Point, WA by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, unless otherwise specified, with no size limit. During days open to all-depth halibut fishing, no groundfish may be taken and retained, possessed or landed, except sablefish, **and** Pacific cod **and other flatfish species** when allowed by groundfish regulations, if halibut are on board the vessel.

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 (f) and will be described annually in federal halibut regulations published in the *Federal Register*.

ODFW will sponsor a public input process shortly after the IPHC annual meeting to develop recommendations to NMFS on the open dates for each season each year. The three seasons for this subarea are as follows.

- A. The first season (nearshore fishery) opens July 1, 7 days per week, only in waters inside the 40-fathom (73 m) curve. The fishery continues until the subquota is taken, or until October 31, whichever is earlier and is allocated 12 percent of the subarea quota if the 2A TAC is above 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater or 25 percent of the subarea quota if the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt). Any overage in the all-depth fisheries would not affect achievement of allocation set aside for the inside 40-fathom (73 m) curve fishery.

B. The second season (Spring fishery) is an all-depth fishery with two potential openings and is allocated 63 percent of the subarea quota if the TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater, or 75 percent of the subarea quota if the subarea if the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt). ~~Two percent of the Central Oregon Coast spring all-depth fishery allocation is allocated to the Southern Oregon Subarea under either scenario.~~ Fixed season dates will be established pre-season for the first Spring opening and will not be modified in-season except if the combined Oregon all-depth Spring and Summer season total quotas are estimated to be achieved. Recent year catch rates will be used as a guideline for estimating the catch rate for the Spring fishery each year. The number of fixed season days established will be based on the projected catch per day with the intent of not exceeding the subarea subquota for this season. The first opening will be structured for 2 days per week (Friday and Saturday) if the season is for 4 or fewer fishing days. The fishery will be structured for 3 days per week (Thursday through Saturday) if the season is for 5 or more fishing days. The fixed season dates will occur in consecutive weeks starting the second Thursday in May (if the season is 5 or more fishing days) or second Friday in May (if the season is 4 or fewer fishing days), with possible exceptions to avoid adverse tidal conditions. If, following the “fixed” dates, quota for this season remains unharvested, a second opening will be held. If it is determined appropriate through joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS and ODFW, fishing may be allowed on one or more additional days. Notice of the opening(s) will be announced by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. The fishery will be open every other week on Thursday through Saturday except that week(s) may be skipped to avoid adverse tidal conditions. The potential open Thursdays through Saturdays will be identified pre-season. The fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota for an additional day of fishing or July 31, whichever is earlier if the 2A TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater. If the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) the fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota for an additional day of fishing or October 31, whichever is earlier.

C. The last season (summer fishery) is an all-depth fishery that begins on the first Friday in August and is allocated 25 percent of the subarea quota if the 2A TAC is 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) or greater. If the 2A TAC is less than 700,000 pounds (317.5 mt) then 0 percent of the subarea quota will be allocated to this season.

The fishery will be structured to be open every other week on Friday and Saturday except that week(s) may be skipped to avoid adverse tidal conditions.

The fishery will continue until there is insufficient quota remaining to reopen for another fishing day or October 31, whichever is earlier. The potential open Fridays and Saturdays will be identified pre-season. If after the first scheduled open period, the remaining Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain entire season quota (combined all-depth and inside 40-fathom (73 m) quotas) is 60,000 lb (27.2 mt) or more, the fishery will re-open on every Friday and Saturday (versus every other Friday and Saturday), if determined to be appropriate through joint consultation

between IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW. The inseason action will be announced by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline. If after the Labor Day weekend, the remaining Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain entire season quota (combined all-depth and inside 40-fathom (73 m) quotas) is 30,000 lb (13.6 mt) or more and the fishery is not already open every Friday and Saturday, the fishery will re-open on every Friday and Saturday (versus every other Friday and Saturday), if determined to be appropriate through joint consultation between IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW. After the Labor Day weekend, the IPHC, NMFS, and ODFW will consult to determine whether increasing the Oregon Central Coast bag limit to two fish is warranted with the intent that the quota for the subarea is taken by September 30. If the quota is not taken by September 30, the season will remain open, maintaining the bag limit in effect at that time, through October 31 or quota attainment, whichever is earlier. The inseason action will be announced by NMFS via an update to the recreational halibut hotline.

(vi) Southern Oregon Subarea

This sport fishery is allocated ~~2.0~~ **4.0** percent of the Oregon ~~Central Coast Subarea~~ **spring all-depth sport** allocation minus any amount of pounds needed to contribute to the Oregon portion of the Columbia River subarea quota. This area is defined as the area south of Humbug Mountain, OR (42° 40.50' N. lat.) to the Oregon/California Border (42° 00.00' N. lat.). This fishery will open May 1, seven days per week until the subquota is taken or October 31, whichever is earlier. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person with no size limit.

(vii) California subarea

This sport fishery subarea is allocated ~~3.0~~ **1.0** percent of the non-Indian allocation. This area is defined as the area south of the Oregon/California Border (42° 00.00' N. lat.), including all California waters. The structuring objective for this subarea is to provide anglers the opportunity to fish in a fixed season that is open from May 1 through July 31 and September 1 through October 31. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit. Due to inability to monitor the catch in this area inseason, a fixed season will be established pre-season by NMFS based on projected seasonal catch; no inseason adjustments will be made, and estimates of actual catch will be made post season.