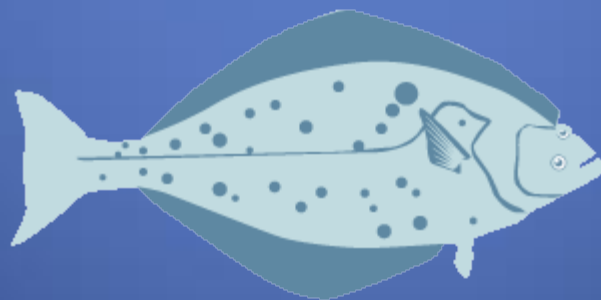




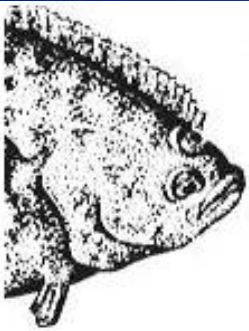
Public Meetings to Discuss the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2016





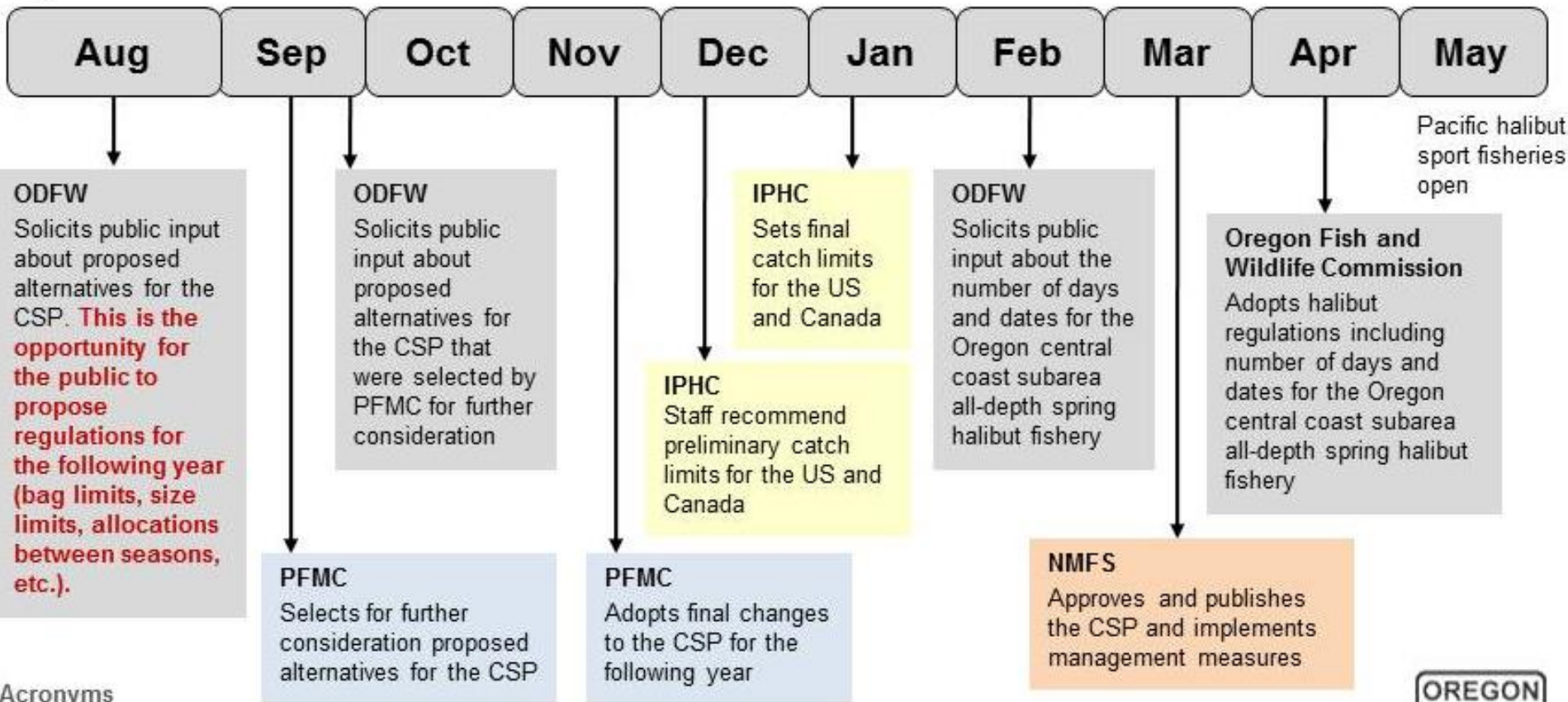
Meeting Outline

- Catch sharing plan timeline
- Recent changes
- Recent suggestions, not implemented
- Discussion/suggestions for 2016



Timeline for Setting Pacific Halibut Sport Fishing Regulations in Oregon

- Numerous agencies and steps are involved in setting up Oregon's Pacific halibut sport fishery each year.
- The process begins in August when alternatives are proposed for the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP).
- The CSP indicates how Pacific halibut are allocated between user groups in Oregon, Washington and California, and it spells out how Pacific halibut will be managed during the year.



Acronyms

CSP	Catch Sharing Plan
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council





Procedure to Make Changes to the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP)

- Process to implement changes for 2016 fishery:
 - **Early August: ODFW solicits public input**
 - September 11-16, 2015: PFMC preliminarily adopts changes for 2016 for further public comment (Sacramento, CA) www.pcouncil.org
 - Late Sept-Early Oct: ODFW solicits public input on specific proposals forwarded by PFMC
 - November 14-19, 2015 : PFMC adopts final changes for 2015 fishery (Garden Grove, CA) www.pcouncil.org
 - January 25-29, 2016: IPHC Annual Meeting, TAC set (Juneau, AK) www.iphc.int



Recent Changes



Allow Other Species on All-Depth Halibut Days

- Pacific cod and sablefish have been allowed for several years
- New for 2015 in Columbia River and Central Coast Subareas– allow other flatfish species
 - Allows for some additional retention, with very low chance of impacting yelloweye rockfish



Extend the Central Coast Nearshore Fishery later into the Summer

- In 2012—allocation increased from 8% of the Central Coast Subarea allocation to 12%
- In 2013- reduced the days open per week to 3
 - Did not work, shortest season
- In 2014– back to 7 days per week, open July 1



Columbia River Subarea

- Combined all-depth into one continuous season
- Created nearshore fishery
 - In 2014 had 10% of subarea allocation (~1,100 lbs)
 - Total landings < 250 lbs.
 - Reduced to 500 lbs in 2015 to avoid stranding fish



Southern Oregon Subarea

- In 2014 separated South of Humbug Area into Southern Oregon and California Subareas, each with own quota
 - Allows each state to manage independently
 - OR has capability to track and manage inseason
 - CA does not have same capabilities



Recent Suggestions, not Implemented



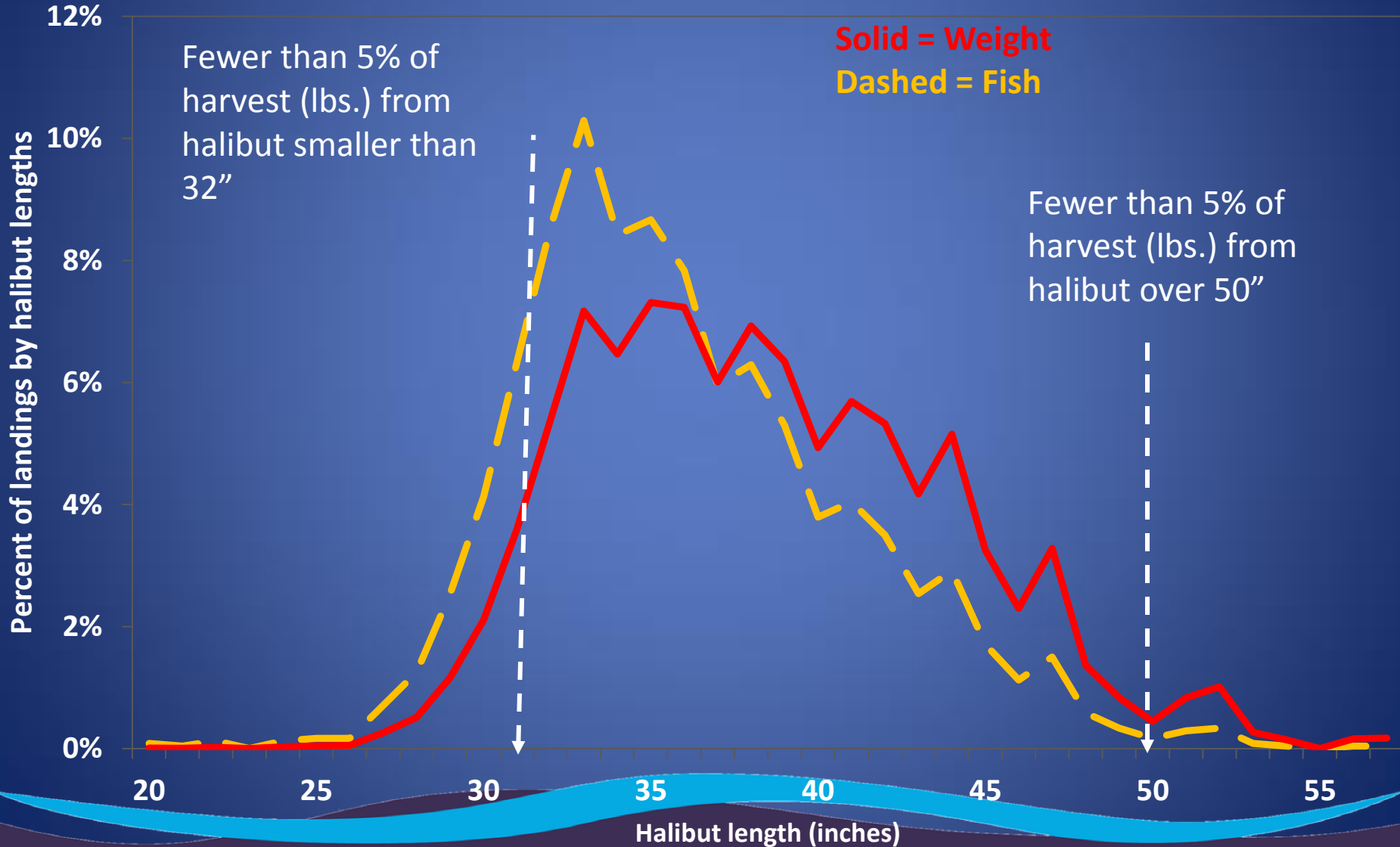
Return to 32 inch minimum size limit

- Size at age of halibut is currently much smaller than it was 20 years ago
- What is driving the decline in size at age?
 - Density dependence (competition with other halibut and other fish, especially arrowtooth flounder)
 - Environmental changes
 - Other unidentified processes
 - Combination of factors
- *Information from IPHC stock assessment*



Size Limits?

IMPACT: Maximum or minimum size limits would have little influence on harvests



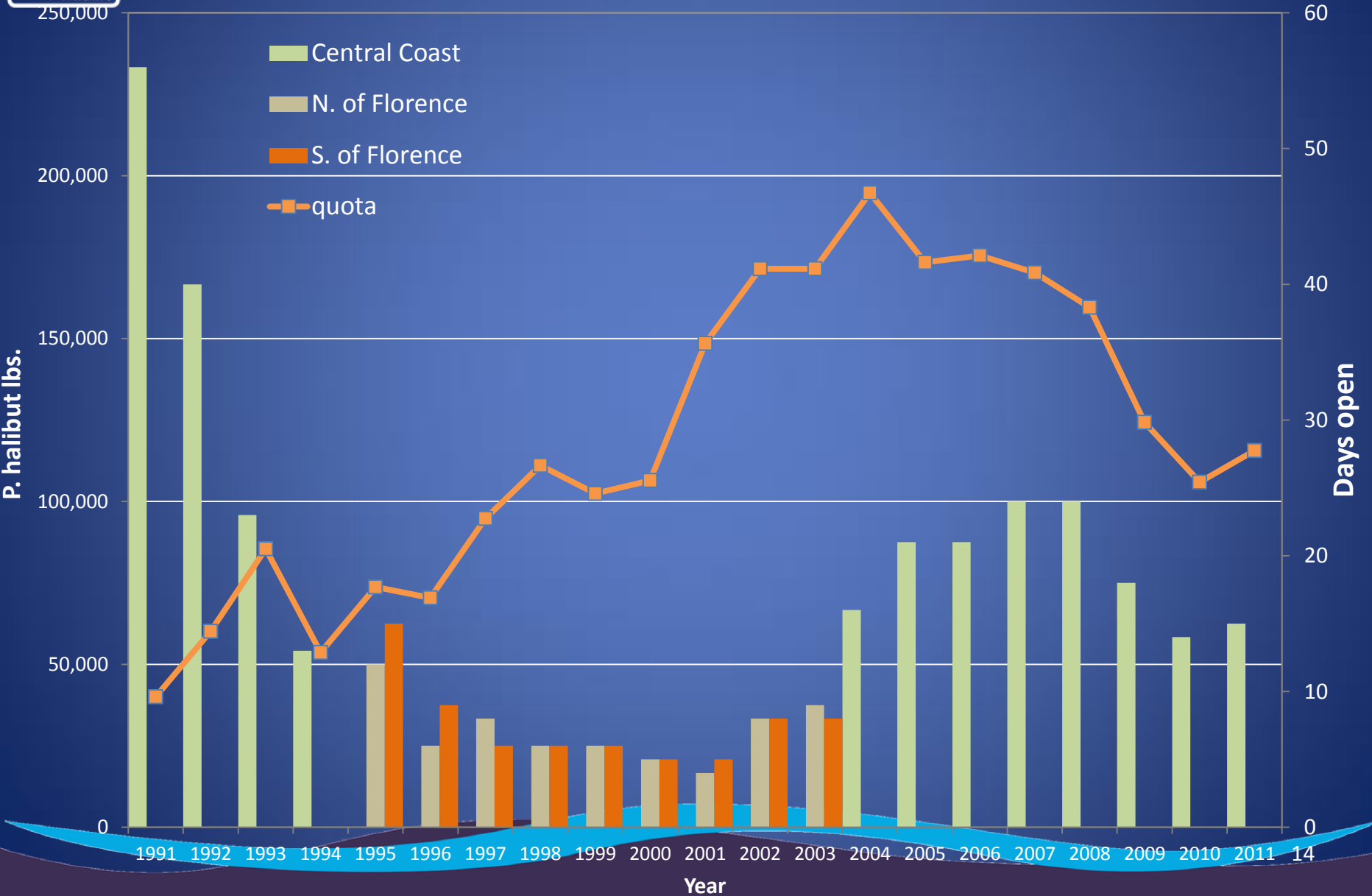


Split the Central Coast into smaller areas

- All-Depth, Nearshore, or both?
- Where to make the split(s)?
 - North Florence Jetty, as from 1995-2004
 - Florence, Charleston, Bandon, Port Orford to the south
 - Cascade Head
 - Garibaldi, Pacific City to the north
 - Both?
- How do we make the allocation split(s)?
 - IPHC survey data
 - Harvest data
 - Effort data



Spring All-Depth Fishery Quota and Days Open by Area, 1991-2011

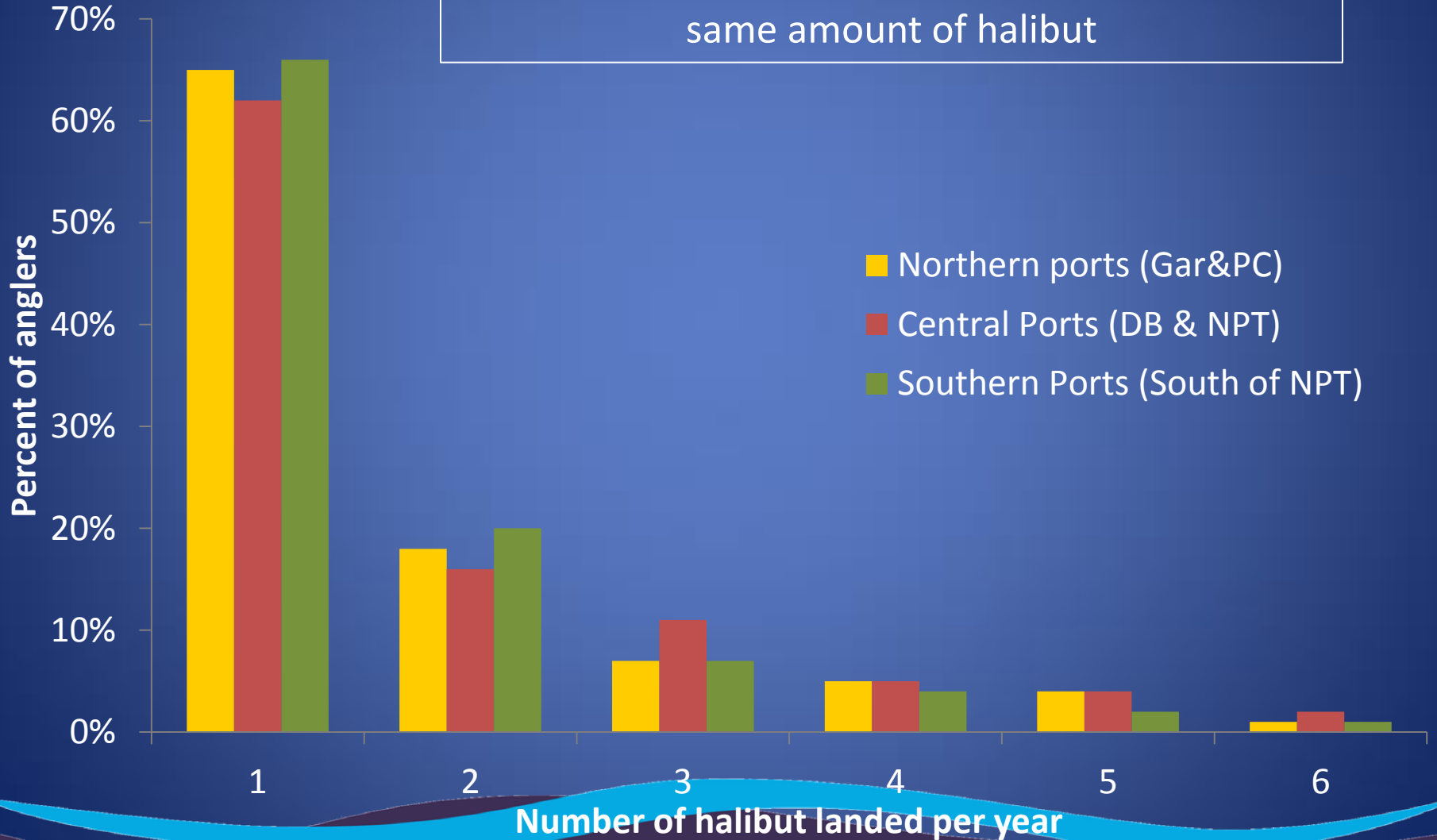




Split the Central Coast?

because "Newport catches the majority of fish"

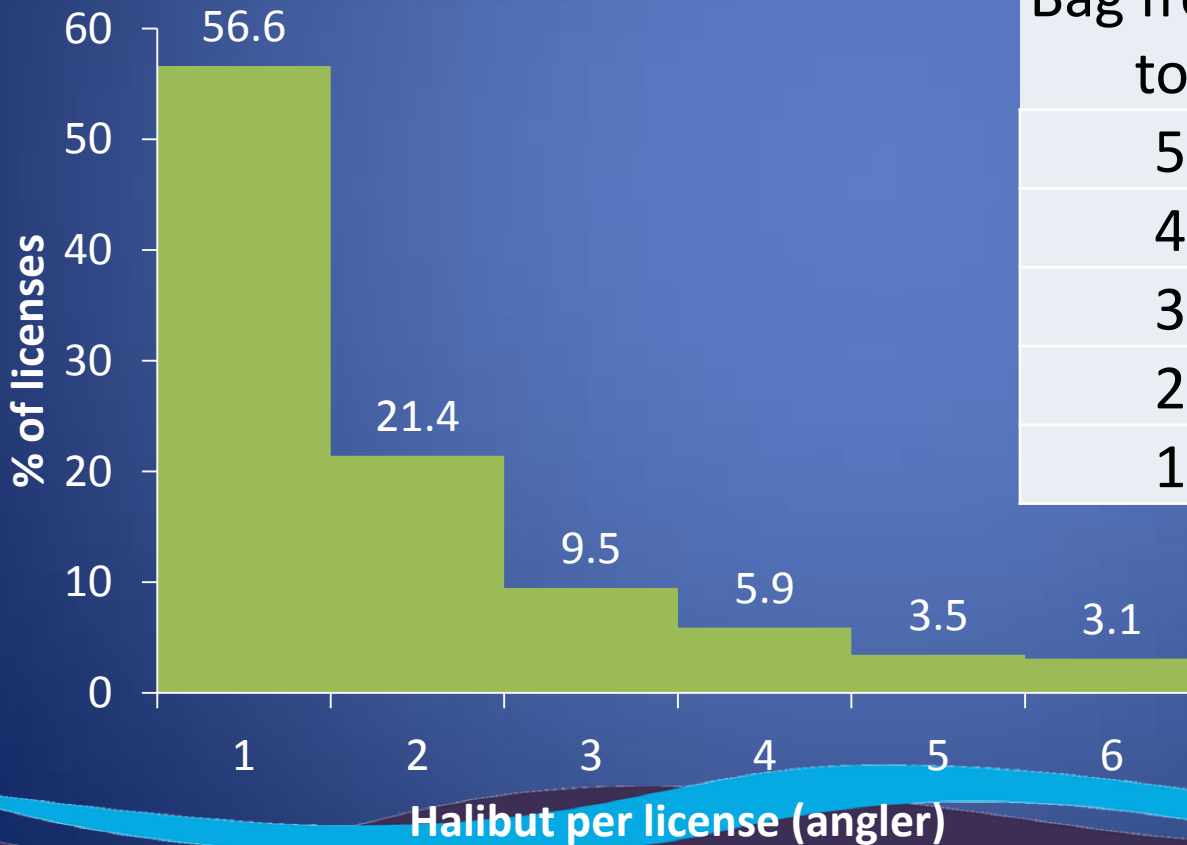
Anglers throughout the coast are catching the same amount of halibut





Reduce the Annual Bag Limit

- Majority of anglers (78%) only catch 1 or 2 halibut a year

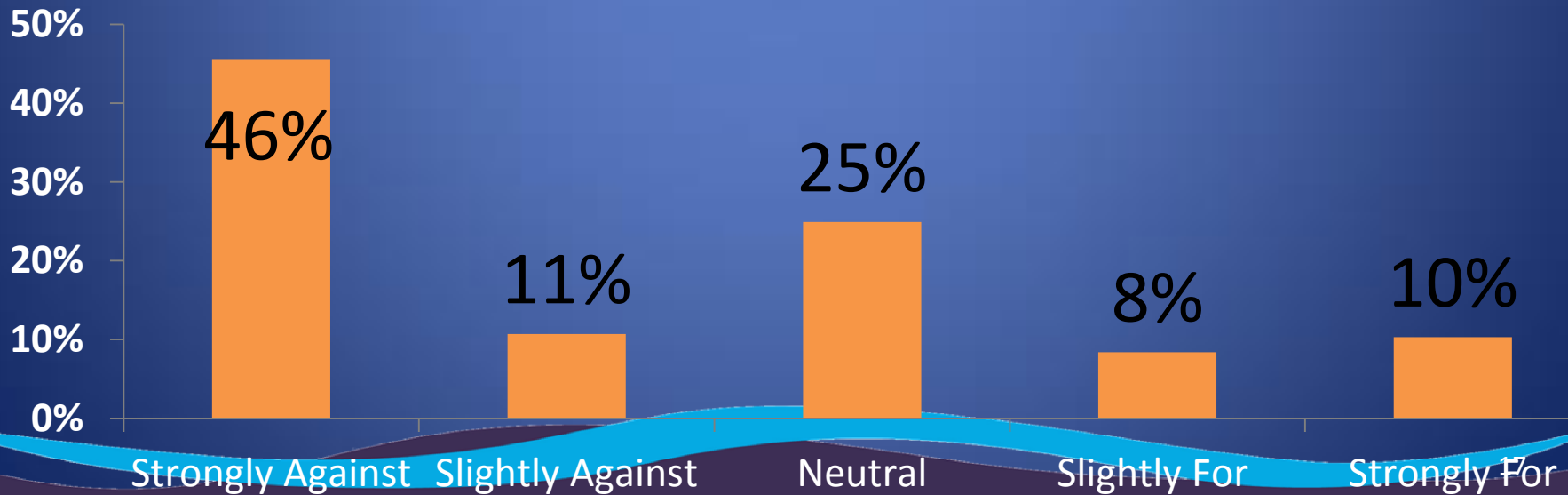


Bag from 6 to:	% reduction in harvest
5	1.6%
4	5.1%
3	11.8%
2	23.5%
1	46.6%



Restrict the Nearshore Fishery to 30-fathoms

- Simplify regulations, same as bottomfish
- Possibly slow down the pace of the nearshore fishery
- Some of most productive nearshore grounds are between 30 and 40 fm





Allow Lingcod Retention on All-Depth Days

- Risk of additional yelloweye rockfish impact too high
- If truly incidental, no additional yelloweye rockfish impacts
- However, if even 10% of anglers targeted lingcod, it could increase yelloweye rockfish impacts enough to close the entire bottomfish fishery
 - Some anglers have told us that they likely would go target lingcod



Tag system similar to big game tags

- Goal: “guarantee” opportunity, and allow anglers to choose when to fish
- Difficulties:
 - Halibut is allocated, and managed, in pounds, but tags are in numbers
 - How to convert pounds of halibut to numbers of tags? If average weight used is off (by as little as 2 lbs/fish), could be quite a bit over/under allocation
 - What about high-grading?



Tag system similar to big game tags

- The average angler would likely only get 1-2 tags annually
- Other considerations:
 - Area/fishery specific or general?
 - Columbia River, Central Coast, or Southern Oregon
 - All-depth vs. nearshore
 - How/when would tags be issued?
 - Pre-season or throughout the season?
 - First-come, first served, or drawing?
 - Cost?



Discussion with Sport Advisory Committee (SAC)

- SAC is a 13 member advisory body who advises ODFW on marine recreational fisheries.
 - Port officials, private anglers, charter operators, fishing associated businesses
 - Coastwide



Discussion with Sport Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Suggestion for Central Coast Season Allocations
- Move the summer all-depth allocation, 75% to the spring all-depth and 25% to the nearshore
 - Summer all-depth has had up to 23% of the total annual allowable yelloweye rockfish impacts in very short season
 - 2-4 days of summer halibut fishing not worth risking the closure of the bottomfish fishery
 - 75% of summer allocation is approximately equal to one 3-day spring opening catch. Timing of additional spring days open for discussion – consider yelloweye
 - Provides more quota/opportunity for the nearshore fishery



Discussion with Sport Advisory Committee (SAC)

- Suggestion for Central Coast Nearshore Fishery
- Move start date back to May 1
 - In May, bottomfish is only other thing open
 - In July and August there are often salmon and tuna opportunities
 - July 1 opening intended to extend the season farther into the summer
 - But has left quota on the table
 - With a May 1 start date, quota could be met and the season could close early, as early as late June



ODFW Proposals

- Clean-up language in CSP on Oregon allocations
 - Still be the same allocation percentages as this year, just clarifying the language
- Allow retention of other flatfish species when halibut fishing in the Southern Oregon Subarea
 - Allowed in Columbia River and Central Coast in 2015
 - Oversight not including Southern Oregon in 2015