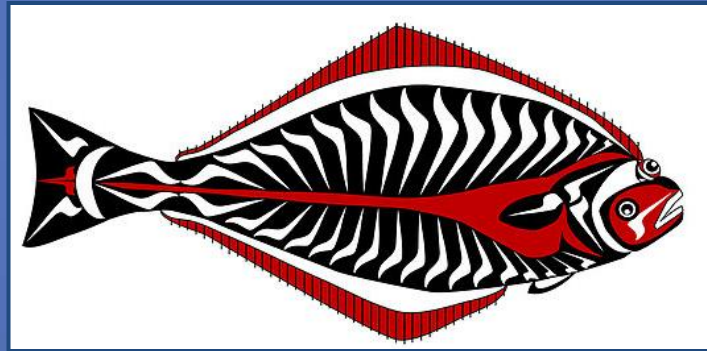




# Public Meetings to Discuss the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for 2016



Brookings— Oct 12  
North Bend—Oct 13  
Newport— Oct 15



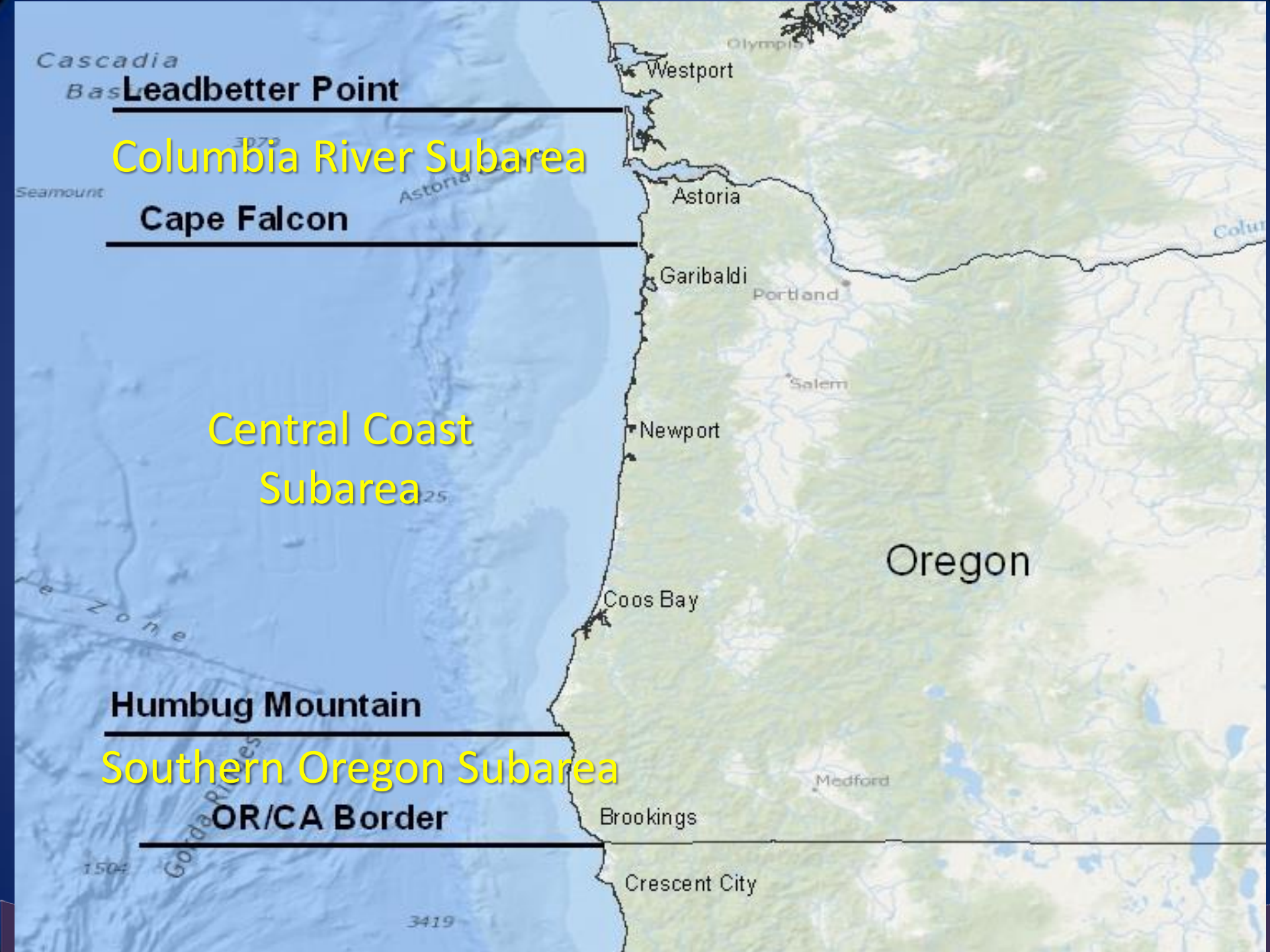
# Meeting Outline

- Catch sharing plan timeline
- Proposals forwarded by the Council
  - Columbia River Subarea
  - Central Coast Subarea
  - Southern Oregon Subarea



# 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](http://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 2016 fishery (Garden Grove, CA) [www.pcouncil.org](http://www.pcouncil.org)
  - January 25-29, 2016: IPHC Annual Meeting, catch limits set (Juneau, AK) [www.iphc.int](http://www.iphc.int)



Cascadia  
Basin

**Leadbetter Point**

**Columbia River Subarea**

**Cape Falcon**

**Central Coast  
Subarea**

**Humbug Mountain**

**Southern Oregon Subarea**

**OR/CA Border**

Oregon

Westport

Olympia

Astoria

Garibaldi

Portland

Salem

Newport

Coos Bay

Medford

Brookings

Crescent City

Seamount

Zone

Gorda  
Ridges

3075

Astoria

25

1504

3419

Colum



# Columbia River Subarea

- All-Depth Season Open Dates
  - Status quo: open 4 days per week, Thurs-Sun
  - Alternative 1: open 7 days per week

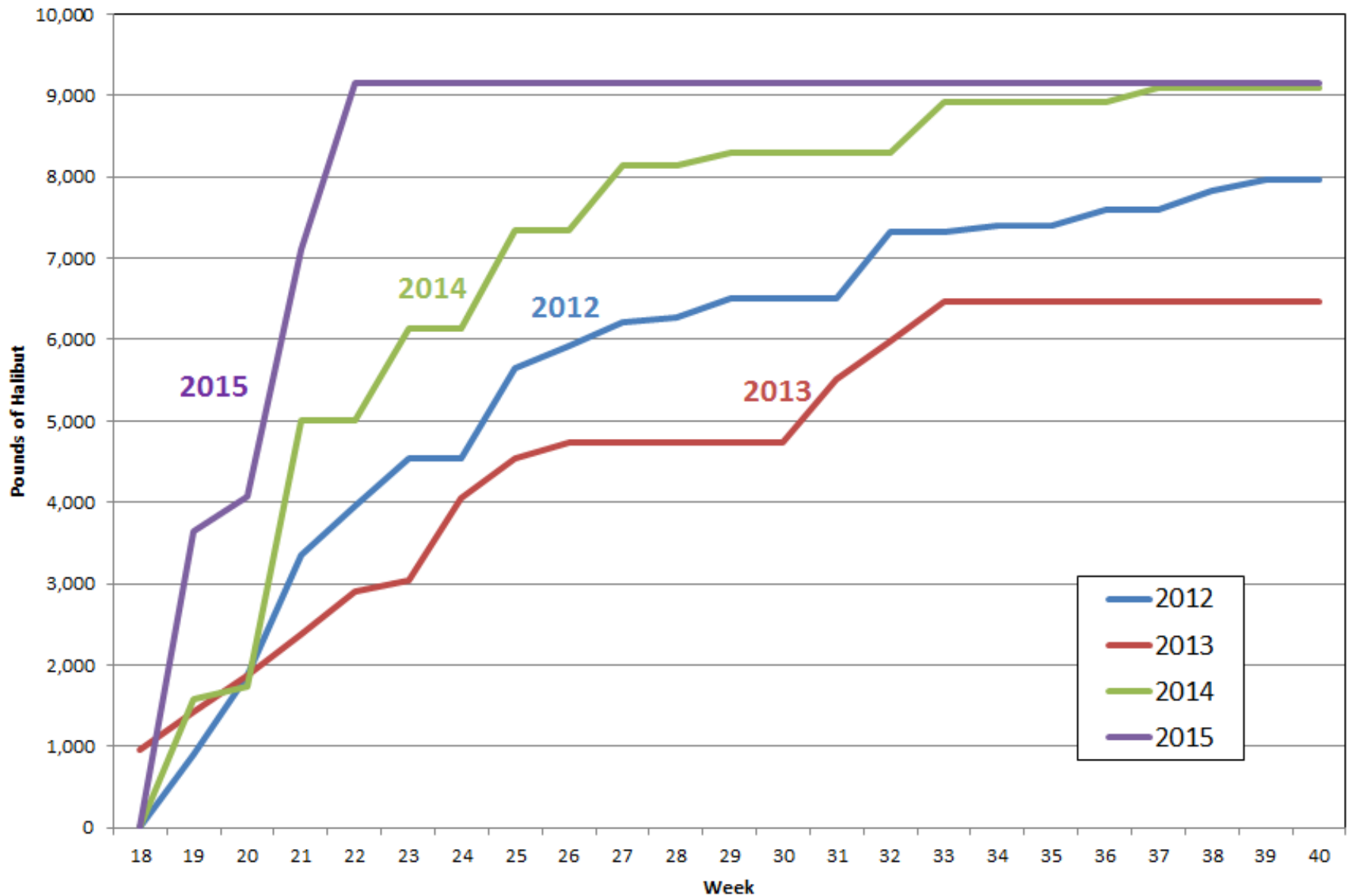


# Columbia River Subarea

## **Rationale:**

- Prior to 2015, the all-depth season(s) lasted May 1-Sept 30 and left quota unharvested
- Expanding days is intended to allow more opportunity to harvest quota
- In 2015, quota taken in ~ 5 weeks (June 3)
  - 2015 may have been an exception
  - Weather in May was excellent and fish were on the bite
  - Led to greater effort and catches than normal

# Cumulative Weekly Landings in the Columbia River Subarea AI-Depth Seasons, 2012-2015





# Columbia River Subarea

- Discussion



# Central Oregon Coast Subarea

- Season and Allocations
  - Status quo:
    - Nearshore = 12%
    - Spring all-depth = 63%
    - Summer all-depth = 25%
  - Alternative 1:
    - Summer all-depth allocation reallocated 75% to spring all-depth, 25% to nearshore;
    - Nearshore = 18.25%
    - Spring all-depth = 81.75%



# Central Oregon Coast Subarea

## Rationale:

- Proposed by ODFW's Sport Advisory Committee
- During summer all-depth season, yelloweye rockfish encounters are higher than in spring or nearshore
  - Yelloweye might be more prevalent
  - Yelloweye might be "on the bite"
  - Due to short seasons, anglers may be unwilling to move if encountering yelloweye



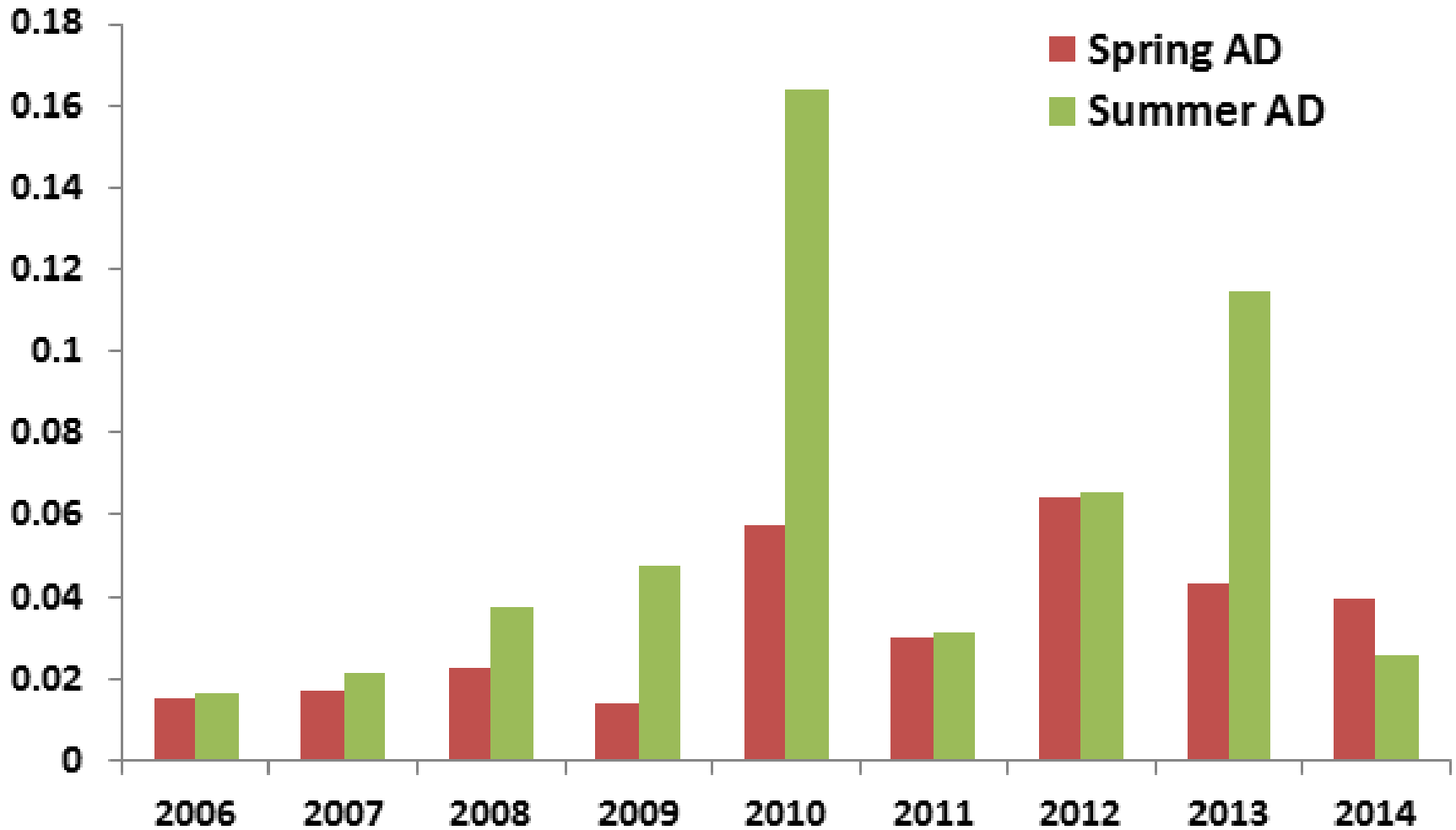
# Central Oregon Coast Subarea

## **Rationale cont.:**

- Concern that a few days of halibut fishing could jeopardize several months of bottomfish fishing
- Summer all-depth halibut days account for on average ~6% (but as high as 23%) of annual allowable yelloweye impacts
  - in 2-4 days
- Use of recompression devices for released yelloweye have helped,
  - however still close to yelloweye total last couple of years



## Yelloweye Per Halibut





# Central Oregon Coast Subarea

- Discussion



# Central Oregon Nearshore

- Nearshore Season
  - Status quo: Opens July 1, 7 days per week
  - Alternative 1: Opens May 1, 7 days per week
  - Alternative 2a: Opens May 1, 7 days per week, with 75% of the nearshore allocation. 25% of allocation set-aside to be available after July 1
  - Alternative 2b: Opens May 1, 7 days per week, with 50% of the nearshore allocation. 50% of allocation set-aside to be available after July 1



# Central Oregon Nearshore

	Status Quo	Alt. 1	Alt. 2a.	Alt. 2b.	
May	<b>closed</b>	100%	75%	50%	
June		closed when quota met	Closed when quota met	Closed when quota met	
July	100%		25%	50%	
Aug	closed when quota met		closed when quota met	closed when quota met	closed when quota met
Sept					
Oct					



# Central Oregon Nearshore

## **Rationale:**

- Prior to 2013, nearshore fishery opened May 1, 7 days per week
  - Quota attained in early July
- In 2013, days of week restricted to try to extend the season
  - Didn't work, shortest season, in terms of total days open
- In 2014 & 2015, opened July 1, 7 days per week
  - Intended to allow halibut opportunities later into the summer
  - Season lasted through September



# Central Oregon Nearshore

## **Rationale** cont:

- Move back to May 1 because fewer other things to fish for in May and June
  - July and August often salmon and tuna
- Splitting the allocation/season intended to allow some opportunities during both time periods (May and July)



# Central Oregon Nearshore

- Discussion



# Southern Oregon Subarea

- Retention of Other Species
  - Status quo: when fishing for Pacific halibut, bottomfish species may not be taken outside of 30 fathoms
  - Alternative 1: allow retention of other flatfish species, Pacific cod, and sablefish outside of 30 fathoms, when fishing for Pacific halibut



# Southern Oregon Subarea

## **Rationale:**

- Bottomfish prohibition intended to minimize interactions with yelloweye rockfish
  - Those species don't live in same areas as yelloweye
- Consistent regulations with other Oregon subareas



# Southern Oregon Subarea

- Discussion



# Recent Suggested Changes, not Implemented

- Return to 32 inch minimum size limit
- Split the Central Coast into smaller subareas
- Reduce the annual bag limit
- Restrict the nearshore fishery to inside of 30 fm
- Allow lingcod retention on all-depth days
- Institute a "big-game" type tag system



End of Presentation