



**Pacific Fishery Management Council correspondence regarding recommendations for
2022 Pacific halibut regulations applicable to the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A**

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (9 DECEMBER 2021)

PURPOSE

To provide additional details on the Pacific Fishery Management Council recommendation for the 2022 non-tribal commercial directed Pacific halibut fishery, the 2022 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A, and Annual Fishery Regulations.

BACKGROUND

At their November 2021 meeting, the Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted a recommendation for the 2022 season structure of the non-tribal commercial directed Pacific halibut fishery. The letter transmitting the Council's recommendation for IPHC consideration at the annual IPHC meeting in January 2022 was sent to the Secretariat on 1 December 2021 ([Appendix A](#)).

The Secretariat reviewed the letter and concluded that the transmitted recommendation implies no change to IPHC Fishery Regulations (Sect. 9, pt. 4) from the previous year and thus no additional action is required.

In a separate letter dated December 1, 2021, the Pacific Fishery Management Council also informed the IPHC about the recommendations for the 2022 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A and Annual Fishery Regulations ([Appendix B](#)). The request for adoption of regulations consistent with these recommendations will be transmitted to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Letter from the Pacific Fishery Management Council dated December 1, 2021, regarding Council Recommendations for the 2022 non-Tribal Commercial Directed Halibut Fishery in Area 2A

[Appendix B](#): Letter from the Pacific Fishery Management Council dated December 1, 2021, regarding Pacific Council Recommendations for the 2022 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A and Annual Fishery Regulations

APPENDIX A

LETTER FROM THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL DATED DECEMBER 1, 2021, REGARDING COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2022 NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL DIRECTED HALIBUT FISHERY IN AREA 2A

Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
Marc Gorelnik, Chair | Charles A. Tracy, Executive Director

December 1, 2021

Dr. David Wilson, Executive Director
International Pacific Halibut Commission
2320 West Commodore Way, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98199-1278

Re: Council Recommendations for the 2022 non-Tribal Commercial Directed Halibut Fishery in Area 2A

Dear Dr. Wilson:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) adopted recommended changes for the 2022 Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and related annual fishery regulations at their November 2021 meeting, held via webinar. The Council's recommendations will be transmitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting adoption of regulations consistent with the Council's recommendation. These recommendations were also provided to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) in a separate letter.

At their November 2021 meeting, the Council also adopted a recommendation for the 2022 season structure of the non-tribal commercial directed halibut fishery. This letter transmits the Council's recommendation for IPHC consideration at the annual IPHC meeting in January 2022.

Area 2A non-tribal commercial directed halibut fishery 2022 season structure:

- A series of three-day openings, beginning at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday in June and ending at 6 p.m. on the Thursday of that week. Additional three-day openings would occur every other week, Tuesday through Thursday, until the directed fishery allocation is obtained.
- Inseason management, and vessel trip limits necessary to ensure that the quota is not exceeded will be determined by the IPHC and implemented in IPHC 2022 regulations.

The season recommended for 2022 by the Council is identical in nature to the season adopted by IPHC in 2021. It is the Council's understanding that no additional action or information need be submitted by the Council, as the regulations will not change from the previous year.

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Please have your staff call upon Ms. Robin Ehlke of the Council staff if you need any further clarification or assistance in implementing the Council's proposed revisions.

Sincerely,



Marc Gorelnik
Chairman

RDE:rdd

Cc: Mr. Marc Gorelnik
Mr. Chuck Tracy
Mr. Merrick Burden
Mr. Barry Thom
Mr. Ryan Wulff
Mr. Frank Lockhart
Mr. Josh Lindsay
Ms. Kathryn Blair
Mr. Phil Anderson
Ms. Maggie Sommer
Ms. Robin Ehlke

APPENDIX B**LETTER FROM THE PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL DATED DECEMBER 1, 2021,
REGARDING PACIFIC COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2022 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH
SHARING PLAN FOR AREA 2A AND ANNUAL FISHERY REGULATIONS**

Pacific Fishery Management Council

7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101 Portland, OR 97220-1384
 Phone 503-820-2280 | Toll free 866-806-7204 | Fax 503-820-2299 | www.pcouncil.org
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Dr. David Wilson, Executive Director
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 2320 West Commodore Way, Suite 300
 Seattle, WA 98199-1278

Re: Pacific Council Recommendations for the 2022 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A and Annual Fishery Regulations

Dear Dr. Wilson:

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council or Pacific Council) adopted recommended changes to the Area 2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and annual fishery regulations for 2022 at their November 2021 meeting. The Council's recommendations will be transmitted to National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requesting adoption of regulations consistent with the Council's recommendation.

The Council recommendations for the 2022 CSP and associated regulations are described below. These recommendations are consistent with recommendations provided to the Council by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) did not provide any recommendations for Council consideration.

- WDFW: Revise the CSP language to 1) describe the management objectives for the Washington sport fishery and the need for flexible inseason management to maximize fishing opportunity and achieve the Washington sport allocation; 2) allow opening the Puget Sound subarea (Marine Areas 5 – 10) up to five days per week during August and September, and 3) allow opening the Coastal subareas (Marine Areas 1 – 4) up to five days per week during August and September. The [WDFW report](#) to the Council described justification for the recommended changes and included a series of proposed dates for the 2022 season.
- ODFW: Revise the CSP language to state that 1) if the Central Oregon Coast Subarea Spring All-Depth allocation is greater than 100,000 pounds, the season may open up to seven days per week starting the second Thursday in May through June 30; then open every Thursday through Saturday, except weeks can be skipped to avoid adverse tides. 2.) if after the first summer all-depth opening (first Thurs-Sat in August), it is estimated that there will be 60,000 pounds or more remaining on the Central Oregon Coast combined nearshore and all-depth quotas remaining, the all-depth fishery may open up to seven days per week

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beginning September 1, and 3) at the conclusion of the spring all-depth season, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), NMFS, Council, and ODFW will consult to determine whether increasing the bag limit to two fish is warranted with the intent of taking the subarea quota by September 30. Additionally, if Central Oregon Coast Subarea bag limit is increased to two halibut, then the Southern Oregon subarea will increase to two halibut at the same time. The [ODFW report](#) to the Council described justification for the recommended changes for the 2022 season.

The Council provided their recommendation regarding the 2022 season structure for the Area 2A non-Indian commercial directed halibut fishery in a separate letter. Please consider the recommendation at your annual meeting in 2022 when you determine the season structure and vessel trip limits necessary to ensure that the quota is not exceeded.

Thank you for continuing to assist the Council and NMFS in managing the Area 2A fisheries and implementing IPHC regulations for 2022. Please have your staff call upon Ms. Robin Ehlke of the Council staff if you need any further clarification or assistance in implementing the Council's proposed revisions.

Sincerely,



Mr. Marc Gorelnik
Council Chairman

RDE:rd

Cc: Mr. Phil Anderson
Ms. Kathryn Blair
Mr. Merrick Burden
Ms. Robin Ehlke
Ms. Heather Hall
Mr. Marc Gorelnik
Mr. Josh Lindsey
Mr. Frank Lockhart
Mr. Brad Pettinger
Ms. Maggie Sommer
Mr. Barry Thom
Mr. Chuck Tracy
Mr. Brett Wiedoff
Mr. Ryan Wulff
Ms. Marci Yaremko