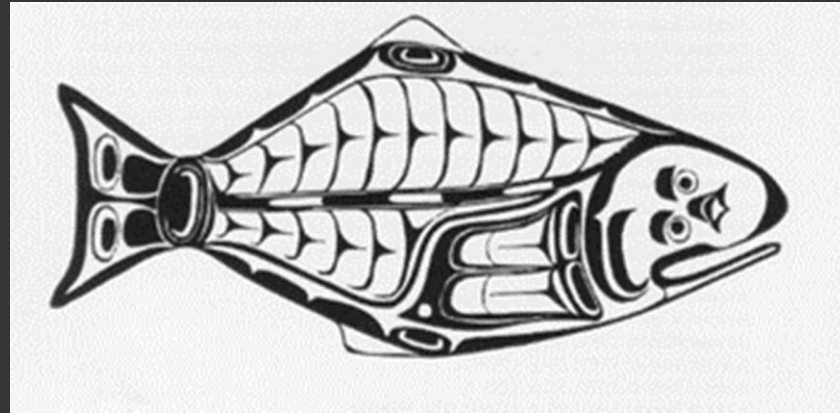


Pacific Halibut



2023 Review 2024 Planning

August 2, 2023



Heather Hall and Lorna Wargo
WDFW Intergovernmental Ocean Policy

Agenda and Purpose of Meeting

Purpose: Review 2023 season and begin planning for 2024

4:30 – 4:45 pm Introductions

4:45 – 5:00 pm Halibut Management Overview

5:00 – 5:20 pm Review 2023 Season

5:20 – 6:00 pm Plan for 2024

6:00 – 6:20 pm Update on PFMC Pacific Halibut Activity - CSP

6:20 – 6:30 pm Next steps

6:30 pm Adjourn

Halibut Fishery Management Structure

International Pacific Halibut Commission

- Biology & Research
- Conservation
- Set Annual Catch Quotas

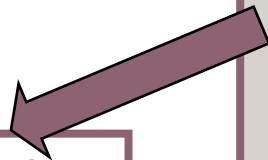
Pacific Fishery Management Council *and* National Marine Fisheries Services

- Allocation Authority (Catch Sharing Plan)
- Rule-making Authority
- West Coast Coordination

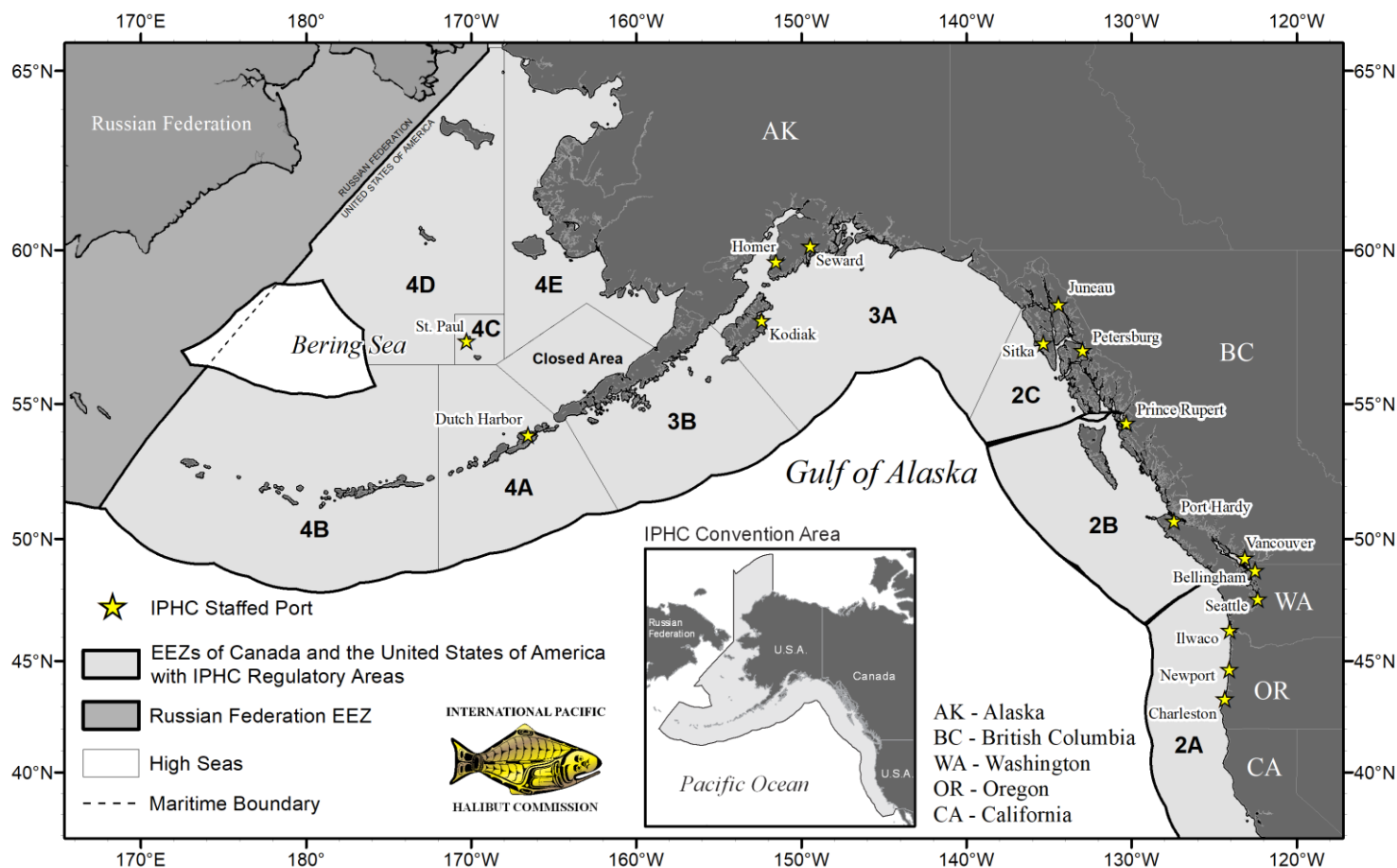
Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan (CSP)

WDFW

- Advisory Role
- Catch Accounting
- Facilitate Stakeholder Input
- Enforcement



IPHC Regulatory Areas



Washington Catch Areas and Recreational Fishery Monitoring

Washington

- Part of IPHC Area 2A
- Halibut Fishery Catch Area Names

Fishery Monitoring

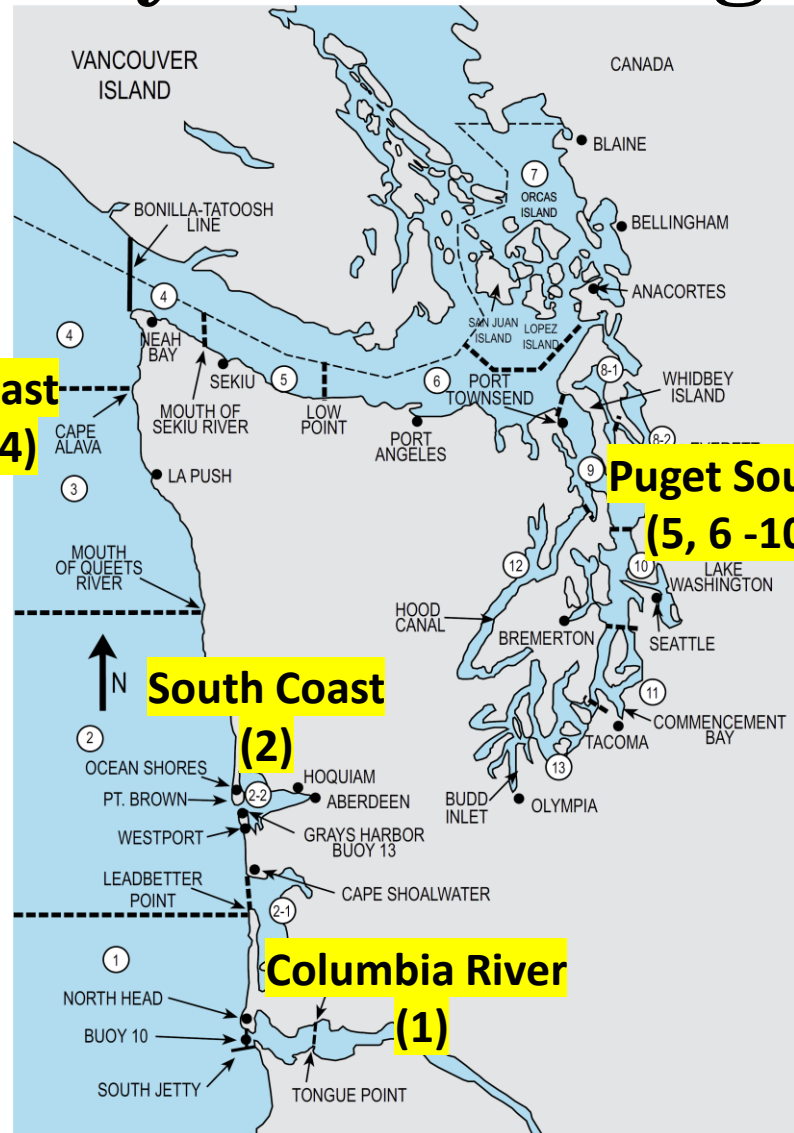
- Interview Anglers at Access Sites
- Record Catch Data
- Collect Biological Data
- Generate catch estimates

**North Coast
(3 and 4)**

**Puget Sound
(5, 6 -10)**

**South Coast
(2)**

**Columbia River
(1)**

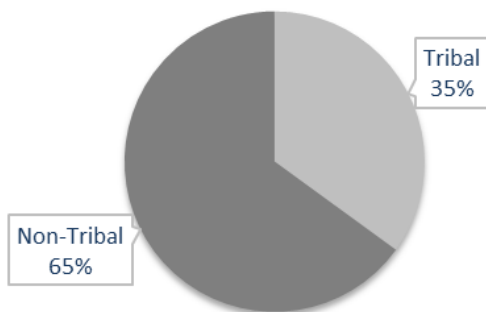


Catch Sharing Plan (CSP)

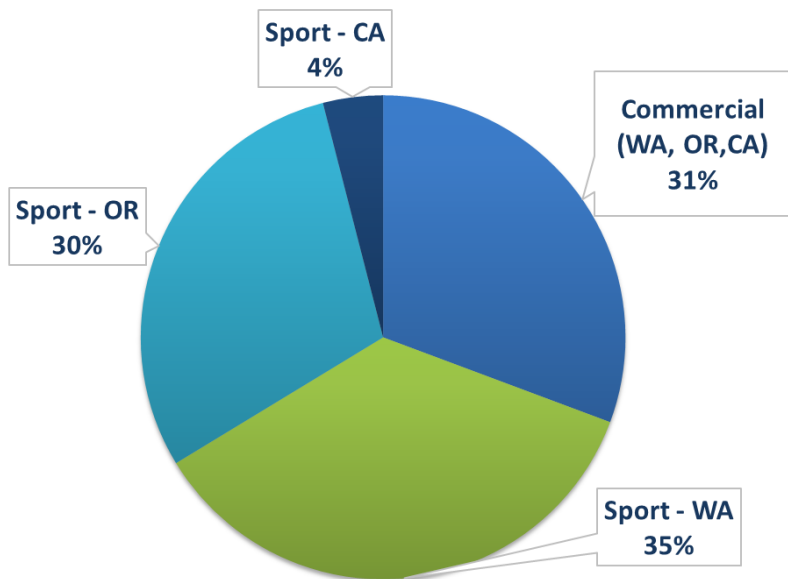
- PFMC document
- Guides tribal, non-tribal commercial and recreational fisheries off WA, OR, and CA.
- Framework for allocating Area 2A allowable catch (FCEY) to subareas
- Framework implemented in federal rule
- Updated annually
- For a copy of the CSP go to:
https://www.pcouncil.org/managed_fishery/pacific-halibut/

2A Halibut Catch Sharing

Tribal - Non-Tribal



Non-Tribal Commercial and Recreational



2023 Quotas by Fishery (pounds)

TCEY	1,650,000
2A TAC	1,520,000
Tribal	532,000
Tribal C&S	23,500
Tribal Commercial	508,500
Nontribal	988,000
Commercial	303,316
Directed	257,819
Incidental Troll	45,497
Sable Incidental	70,000
WA Sport	281,728
Puget Sound	79,031
North Coast	129,668
South Coast	64,376
Columbia River	18,875
OR Sport	293,436
Central OR	275,214
Southern Oregon	8,000
CA Sport	<u>39,520</u>
TOTAL	1,520,000

WA Catch Sharing Plan Goals

Catch Sharing Plan management goals relevant to WA recreational fishing include:

1. Establish season structures for each subarea that maximize fishing opportunity and achieve but not exceed subarea quotas.
2. Flexibility through timely inseason action(s), such as opening additional fishing days or shifting quotas between subareas, may be necessary to achieve the overall Washington sport allocation and fishery objectives.

WA Catch Sharing Plan Objectives

All Sub-areas

- Season dates will be developed by the end of November each year for the following year
- If quota remains after final open day in June, additional openings may be implemented in August and September
- Open up to 7-days/week in August and September

Sub-area specific

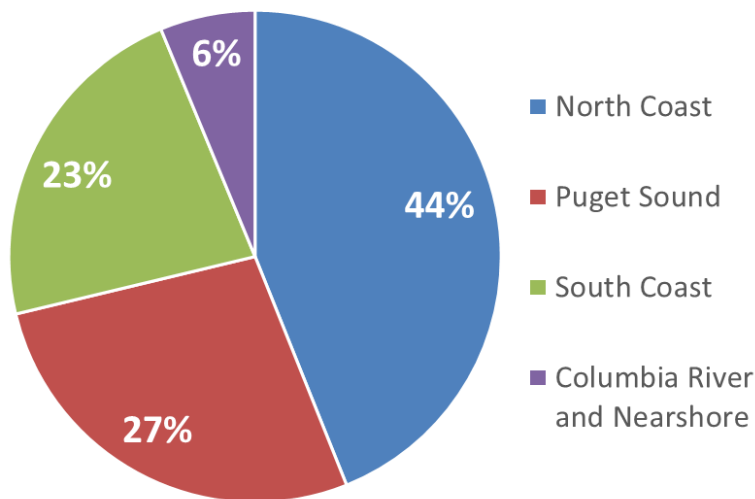
- Puget Sound – earliest date to open April 1; up to 5-days/week April and May, up to 7-days per week in June
- Coastal subareas – earliest date to open April 30; up to 3-days/week April, May, June
- South Coast Nearshore – May open if balance of primary fishery quota is insufficient for a full fishing day, open first Saturday after closure of primary fishery, seven days per week until quota taken
- Columbia River – season dates coordinated with Oregon, no Saturdays, up to 3-days per week April, May, June
 - Columbia River Nearshore – open Monday-Wednesday following opening of the all-depth fishery through September 30 or until 500 lb. quota attained

WDFW Season Setting Principles

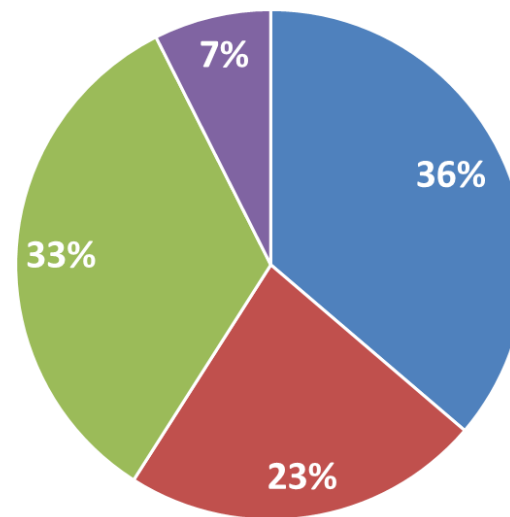
- Avoid effort shift to maximize season length and fishing opportunity - Continue to align fishing days as much as possible, particularly Columbia River/ South Coast and North Coast/Sekiu
- Provide advance notice of season dates to allow anglers to plan rather than add dates inseason
- Provide more fishing opportunity in areas where catch was below the subarea allocation
- Recognize traditional days if possible (e.g., North Coast: Thu/Sat, South Coast: Sun/Tue, MA 5: Memorial Day derby)

Flexible Inseason Management Approach

Catch Sharing Plan - Quota Allocation

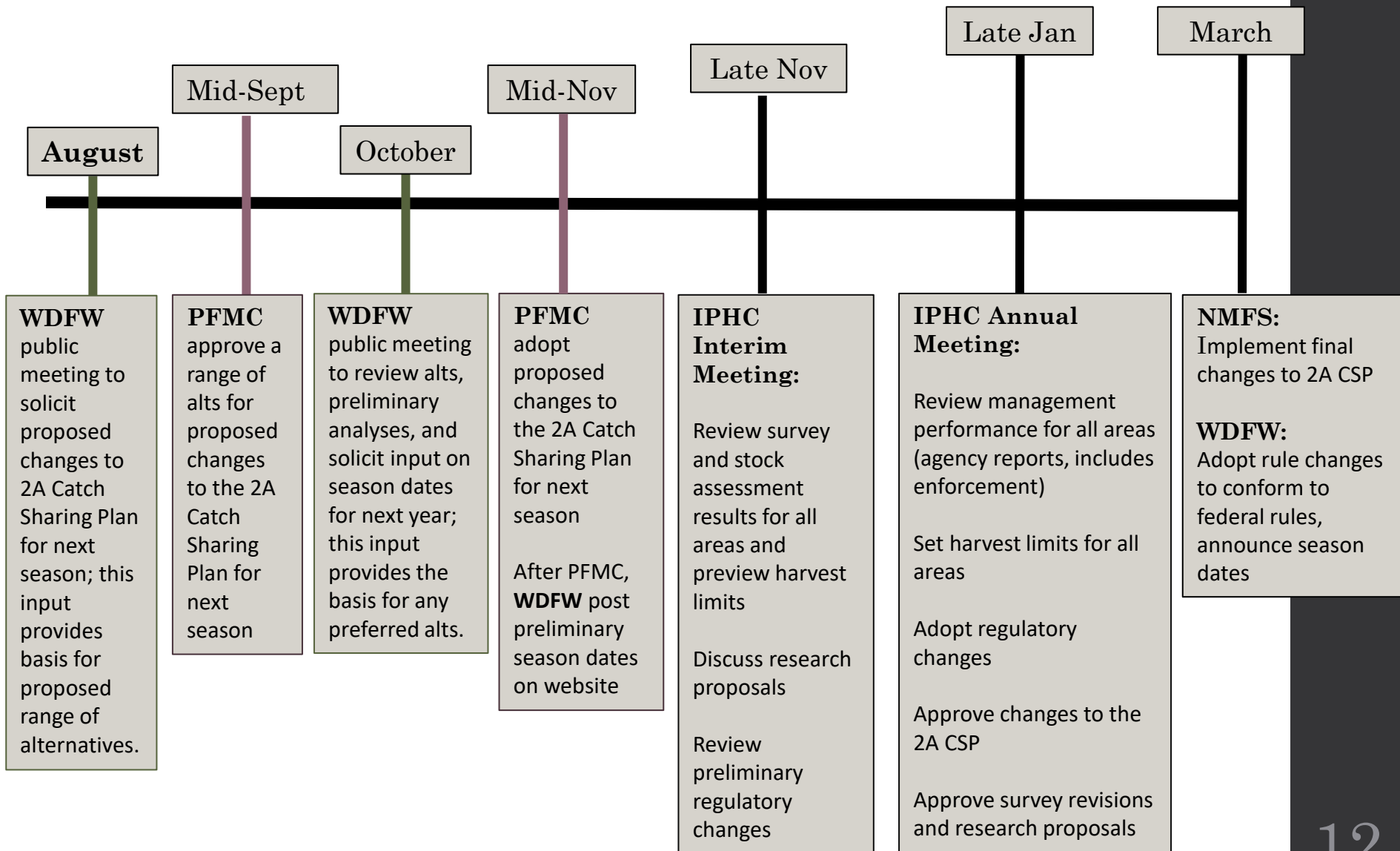


Estimated Inseason Aug. 2022



2022 Subarea	Subarea quota	Total Catch	% of Quota Caught	Remaining Quota
Puget Sound	83,210	64,825	78%	18,385
North Coast	133,847	96,208	72%	37,639
South Coast	68,555	71,202	104%	-2,647
Columbia River (WA & OR)	19,037	20,253	106%	-1,216
Total	304,649	252,489	83%	52,160

Halibut Management Timeline



WA Halibut Season - 2023

- Puget Sound – Front loaded spring compared to previous years
- Aligned Area 5 with Puget Sound
- South Coast – Added 3rd day per week in May
- North Coast – Status quo to start
- Columbia River – Status quo to start
- Flexible inseason – Added June dates, Adding dates in August and September, Sharing statewide quota

Puget Sound

- Opened Thursday, April 6
- 5 days per week, April and May, Thursday – Monday (compared to 3 days/week in 2022)
- 7 days per week, June 1-30 (compared to 3 days/week in 2022)

Area 5 – Sekiu

- Aligned season with Puget Sound instead of North Coast (Area 3 and 4)

North Coast

- Opened May 4, 2-days per week, Thursday and Saturday except Friday and Sunday of Memorial Day weekend
- **Inseason action:** Added Friday and Sunday; 4-day per week, Thursday-Sunday schedule in June

South Coast

- Opened May 4, 3-days per week, Tuesday, Thursday, Sunday
- Open four days in June: Thursday and Sunday, 15th, 18th, 22nd, 25th

Columbia River

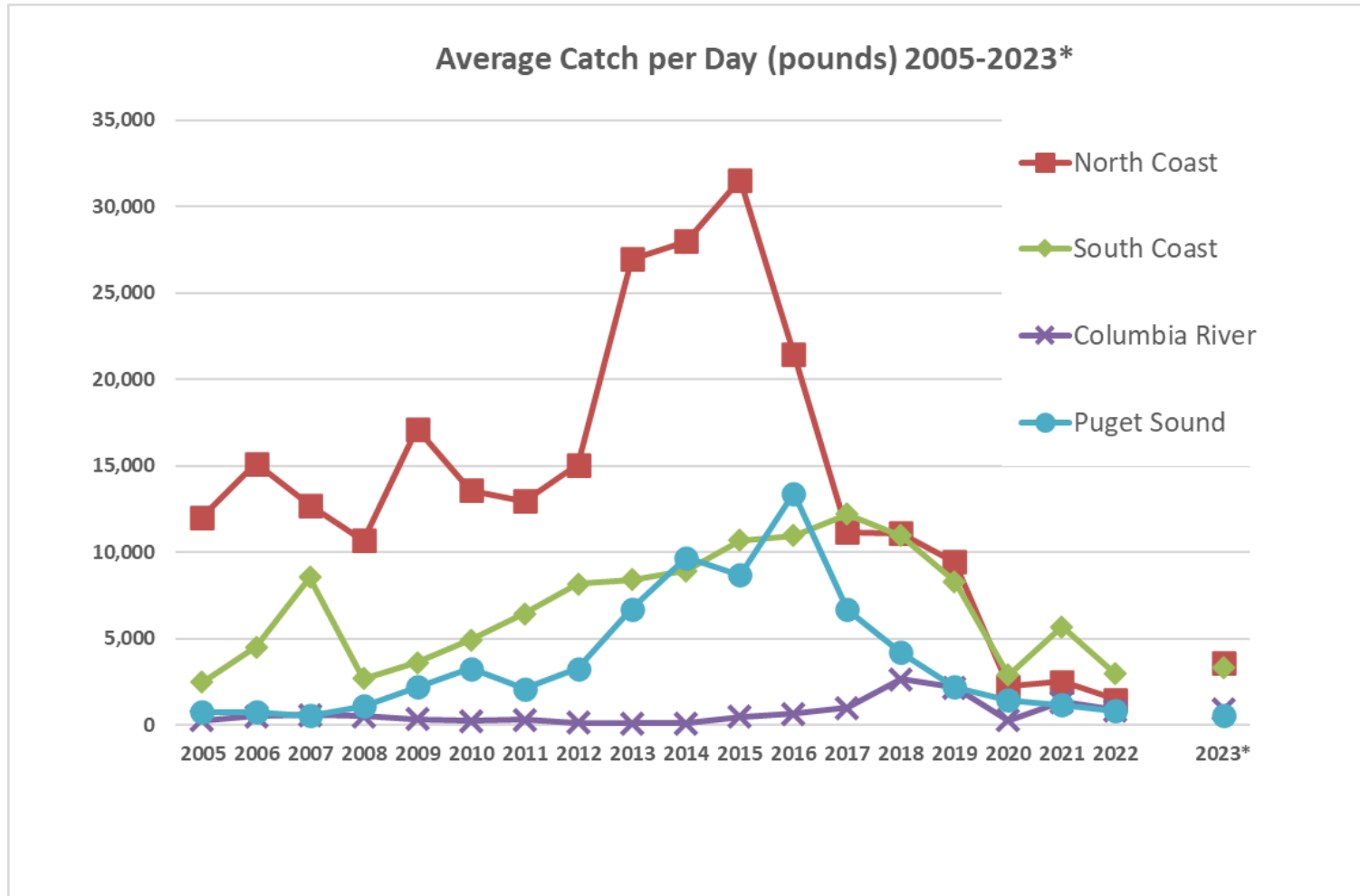
- Opened May 4, 2-days per week, Thursday and Sunday, except no Sunday of Memorial Day weekend
- Open 2-days per week in June, Thursday and Sunday
- **Inseason action:** Added 2 days in June, Tuesday, 13th and 20th

Catch Update

Subarea	Subarea Quota	Catch-to-Date	Quota Remaining Columbia R includes OR	thru	% Quota caught	% Quota remaining
North Coast	129,668	86,336.5	43,331.5	June 30	67%	33%
Puget Sound	79,031	42,301.4	36,729.6	June 30	54%	46%
South Coast	64,376	52,428.3	11,947.7	June 30	81%	19%
Columbia River	18,375	13,408.4	2,536.9	June 30	86%	14%
Columbia River - OR lbs		2,429.7		June 30		
Columbia River - Nearshore	500	0.0	500.0		0%	100%
Total WA (includes Col R. - OR)	291,950	196,904.2	95,045.8		67%	33%

Puget Sound does not include Marine Area 7-9 to date

Compare Catch per Day



* 2023 - Inseason and preliminary estimate

Late Season Opportunity

Announced additional season dates July 24*

Columbia River (Area 1)

Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27; Friday and Saturday September 8 and 9, and Friday September 22

Southern Near Shore Fishery (Area 1)

Through September 27; Monday through Wednesday

South Coast (Area 2)

Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27; Friday and Saturday September 8 and 9, and Friday September 22

North Coast (Areas 3 and 4)

August 17 through September 30, seven days per week

Puget Sound (Area 5 through 10)

August 17 through September 30, seven days per week

Increased annual limit to 6 fish

*All openings dependent on available quota

Ideas to Consider for 2024

Adopt dates through June in regulation!

Coastal areas (1-4)

May

- Area 3-4: open five days/week, Thursday-Monday
- Area 1: Memorial Day weekend dates
- Area 1: Add Tuesdays, aligning with MA 2, = 3-days per week

June (see first point!)

- Area 1: three days/week
- Area 2: four or five days
- Area 3-4: five or seven days/week

Straits and Puget Sound

- Align Area 5 with Area 6-10
- Areas 5-10: seven days/week in April
- Areas 5-10: five days/week in May
- Areas 6-10: open in February, seven days/week

All Areas

August and September

- Area 5-10: open when salmon closes, seven days/week
- Coastal areas: increase number of days

Other ideas?

Keep in mind!

- Need to balance impacts to Yelloweye Rockfish
- Sampling Constraints
- NMFS regulatory schedule requirements
- Coordinate Columbia River with Oregon
- Area 1 – Consider 1st directed halibut opener

Range of Options for 2024

Puget Sound (Marine Areas 5, 6-10)

Status Quo: Open April 4 through May 20 **five days per week**, Thursday through Monday. Memorial Day open Friday, May 24 through Sunday May 26. Open, May 30 through June 30, seven days per week. If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

Option 1: Open April 4 through May 20, **seven days per week**. Memorial Day open Friday, May 24 through Sunday May 26. Open, May 30 through June 30, seven days per week. If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

Option 2: Open starting in **February or March, seven days per week** through June 30. Memorial Day open Friday, May 24 through Sunday May 26. If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

Range of Options for 2024

North Coast (Marine Areas 3 and 4)

Status Quo: Open May 2 through May 18, **two days per week**, Thursday and Saturday. Memorial Day weekend, open Friday and Sunday, May 24 and 26. May 30 through June 29, open **two days per week**, Thursday and Saturday. If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

Option 1: Open May 2 through May 20, **five days per week**, Thursday through Monday. Memorial Day weekend, open Friday and Sunday, May 24 and 26. May 30 through June 29, open **five days per week**, Thursday through Monday. If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

Range of Options for 2024

South Coast (Marine Area 2)

Status Quo: Open May 2 through May 21, **three days per week**, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday. Memorial Day weekend, open Thursday, May 23. If sufficient quota remains, open June 13, 16, 20, 23. If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

Option 1: Open May 2 through May 21, **three days per week**, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday. Memorial Day weekend, open Thursday, May 23. If sufficient quota remains, open June 13, 16, **18**, 20, 23, **25**, **27**, 30. If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

Columbia River (Marine Area 1)

Status Quo: Open May 2 through May 19, **two days per week**, Thursday and Sunday. Memorial Day weekend, open Thursday, May 23. Open May 30 through June 30, **two days per week**, Thursday and Sunday. If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

Option 1: Open May 2 through May 21, **three days per week**, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday. Memorial Day weekend, open Thursday, May 23 and **Sunday**, May 26. May 30 through June 30, open **three days per week**, Thursday, Sunday, and Tuesday. If quota remains, open up to seven days per week in August and September.

Council Catch Sharing Plan Revisions – Two Processes

Annual - Routine

- Council considers recommendations from states on recreational season structure
- Council adopts incidental landing restrictions for salmon troll and commercial sablefish longline fisheries
- May consider other changes to CSP as needed

2022-2024 Review

- Separate action from annual season setting process
- Prompted by need to consider enforcement issues in commercial halibut fisheries and CA request for increased recreational quota
- June 2023 Council requested analysis and draft revisions to CSP
- September - Council will consider a Range of Alternatives and Preliminary Preferred Alternative for public review
- March or April?

PFMC Catch Sharing Plan Review

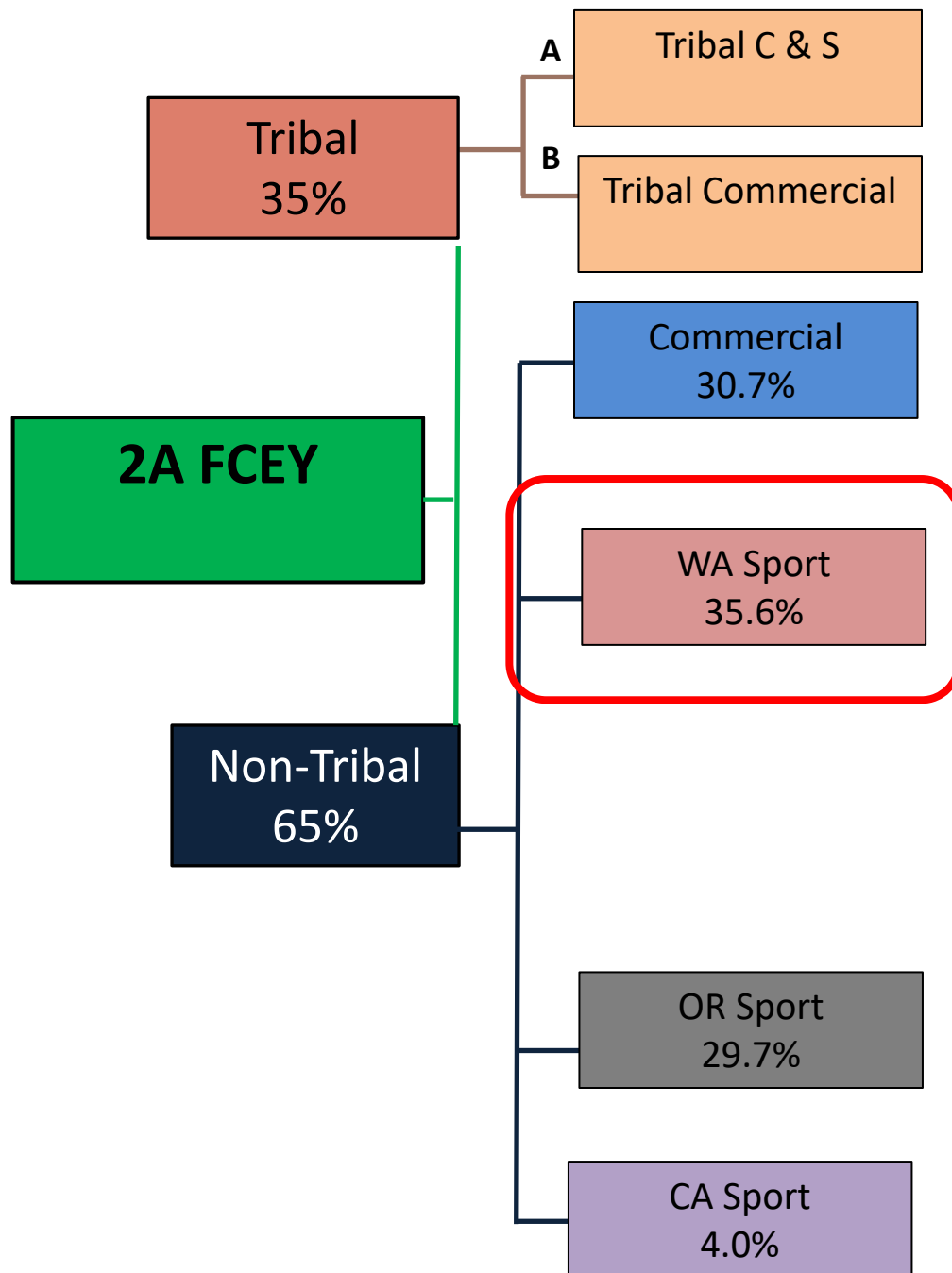
8/2/2023

Council request for proposed revisions and analyses, June 2023:

- Update or improvement where needed, management objectives in the CSP for each sector or sub-area with a specific allocation
- Request California review their fishery objectives to achieve a longer season (e.g., delay opening, open fewer days per week)
- Expand the CSP flexible inseason management provisions to allow transfer of projected unused quota between all WA, OR, and CA recreational sub-areas and commercial sectors after August 15.
- Move 0.5 percent of the WA sport allocation and 1.0 percent of the OR sport allocation to the California sport sector in years when:
 - a. Option 1: when the 2A FCEY is 1.5 million pounds or greater and,
 - b. Option 2: when the 2A FCEY is 1.3 million pounds or greater.
- Move 1 percent from the non-tribal WA sport allocation and 2 percent from the non-tribal OR sport allocation to the CA sport sector.
 - a. Option 1: when the 2A FCEY is 1.5 million pounds or greater and,
 - b. Option 2: when the 2A FCEY is 1.3 million pounds or greater.
- Regulatory changes as recommended by the Enforcement Consultants (Agenda Item E.1.a, [Supp EC Report 1](#), June 2023).

Pacific Halibut Catch
Sharing Plan for Area 2A

Proposed allocation
change calculation
method 1 reduces the
percentage of the sport
allocation. For WA that
would be moving 1% or
0.5% from WA's 35.6%
share to to CA



2023 Halibut Allocations	
TCEY	1,650,000
2A FCEY	1,520,000
Tribal	532,000
Tribal C&S	23,367
Tribal Commercial	508,633
Nontribal	988,000
Commercial	303,316
Directed	257,819
Incidental Troll	45,497
Sable Incidental	70,000
WA Sport	281,728
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South Coast	64,376
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TOTAL	1,520,000

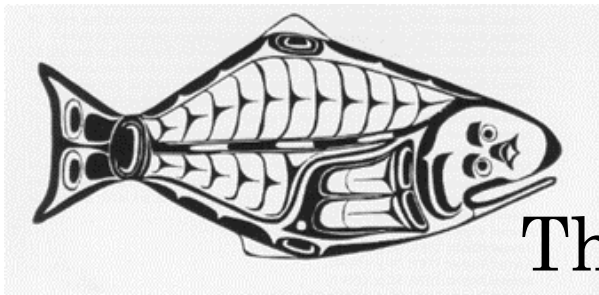
Proposed allocation change calculation **method 2** reduces the WA sport allocation by 1% or 0.5% and gives that to CA

Meeting Schedule for 2024

August 2	WDFW Public Meeting	Review 2023 season Begin 2024 Catch Sharing Plan Discussion Take public input
September 7-14 Halibut – Sept. 9 Spokane/Hybrid	<u>September 2023 Council Meeting - Pacific Fishery Management Council</u>	1. WDFW recommends 2024 season structure options and Council approves them for public review (Annual) 2. Council considers CSP revisions (Long term)
October TBD Webinar	WDFW Public Meeting	Review options from September and refine WA recommendations for final season structure and dates, take public input
November Oct 31 – Nov 8 Garden Grove, CA/Hybrid	<u>November 2023 Council Meeting - Pacific Fishery Management Council</u>	WDFW submits final 2024 season recommendations; Council considers public comments and recommendations for adoption for 2024
January 22-26, 2024 Anchorage, AK	<u>IPHC Annual Meeting</u>	Attended by U.S. and Canada delegations and stakeholders; Scientific and resource status reports presented by IPHC scientists; IPHC sets rules, and establishes annual allowable catch by IPHC area

Wrap Up and Questions

- Confirm ideas to carry forward for further review and/or analysis
- Next Steps
 - September PFMC Meeting
 - WDFW October Public Webinar
 - November PFMC Meeting
 - January 2024 IPHC Meeting



Thank you for attending!

Information

IPHC

- Landing updates
<https://www.iphc.int/data>

WDFW

- Halibut and Bottomfish Regulations/Landing updates
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/halibut>
- Lorna Wargo
360.581.5611
Lorna.Wargo@dfw.wa.gov

2024

January						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30	31			

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September						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December						
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