

Pacific Halibut and Bottomfish

October 11, 2023



Heather Hall and Lorna Wargo
WDFW Intergovernmental Ocean Policy

Agenda

4:30 – 4:45 Introductions/Purpose/Review Agenda

4:45 – 5:45 Halibut Management

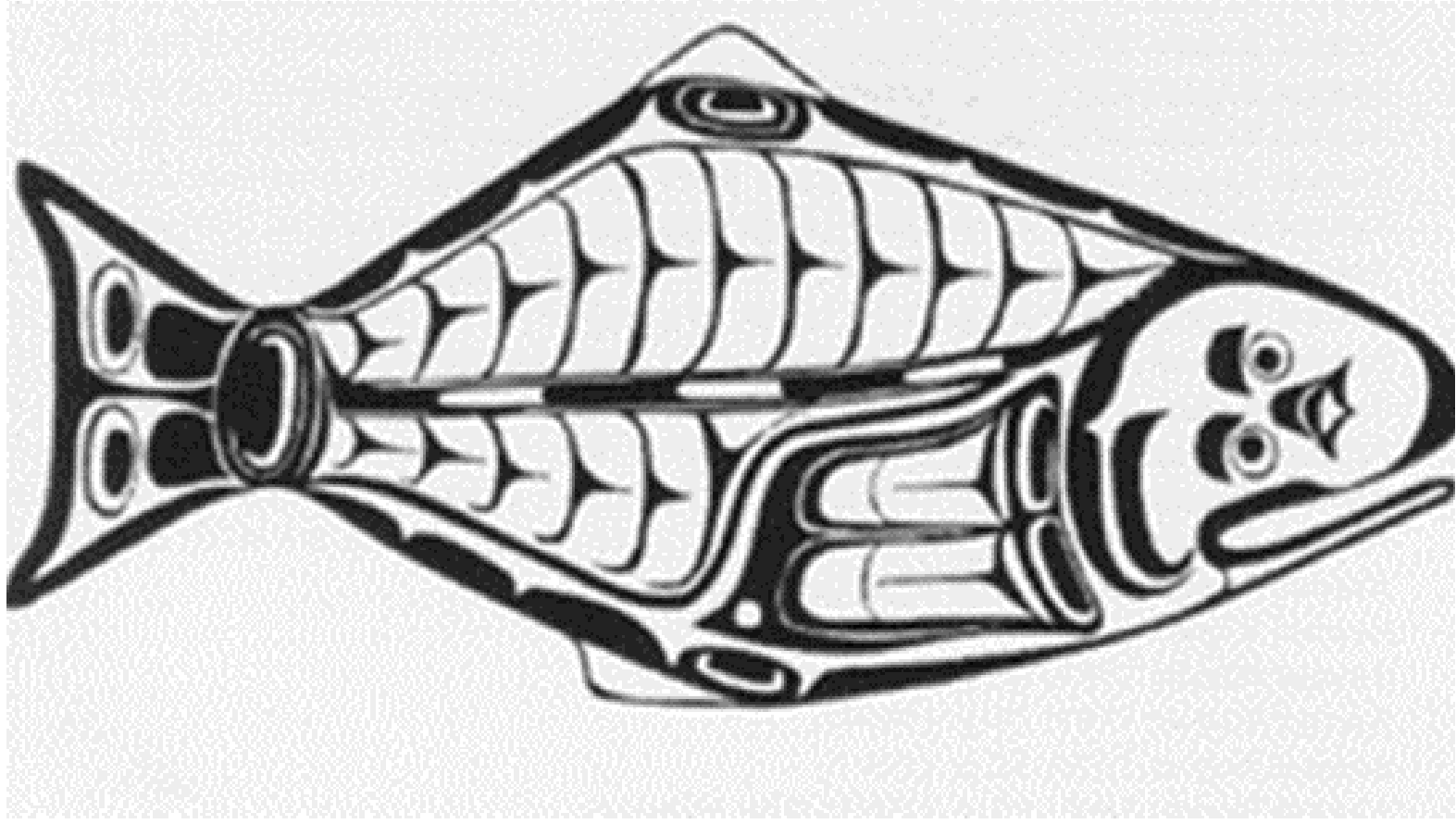
- Catch Sharing Plan – Allocation Proposal
- 2024 Season Options

5:45 – 6:15 Bottomfish

- 2025-26 Harvest Specifications and Process

6:15 – 6:30 PM Wrap up, Next Steps

6:30 ADJOURN



Halibut

Halibut Management Overview

International Pacific Halibut Commission

- Science and Stock Assessment
- Annual TCEY and FCEY → Total Allowable Catch (TAC) “Quota”

Pacific Fishery Management Council

- Management via Catch Sharing Plan
- Public Process

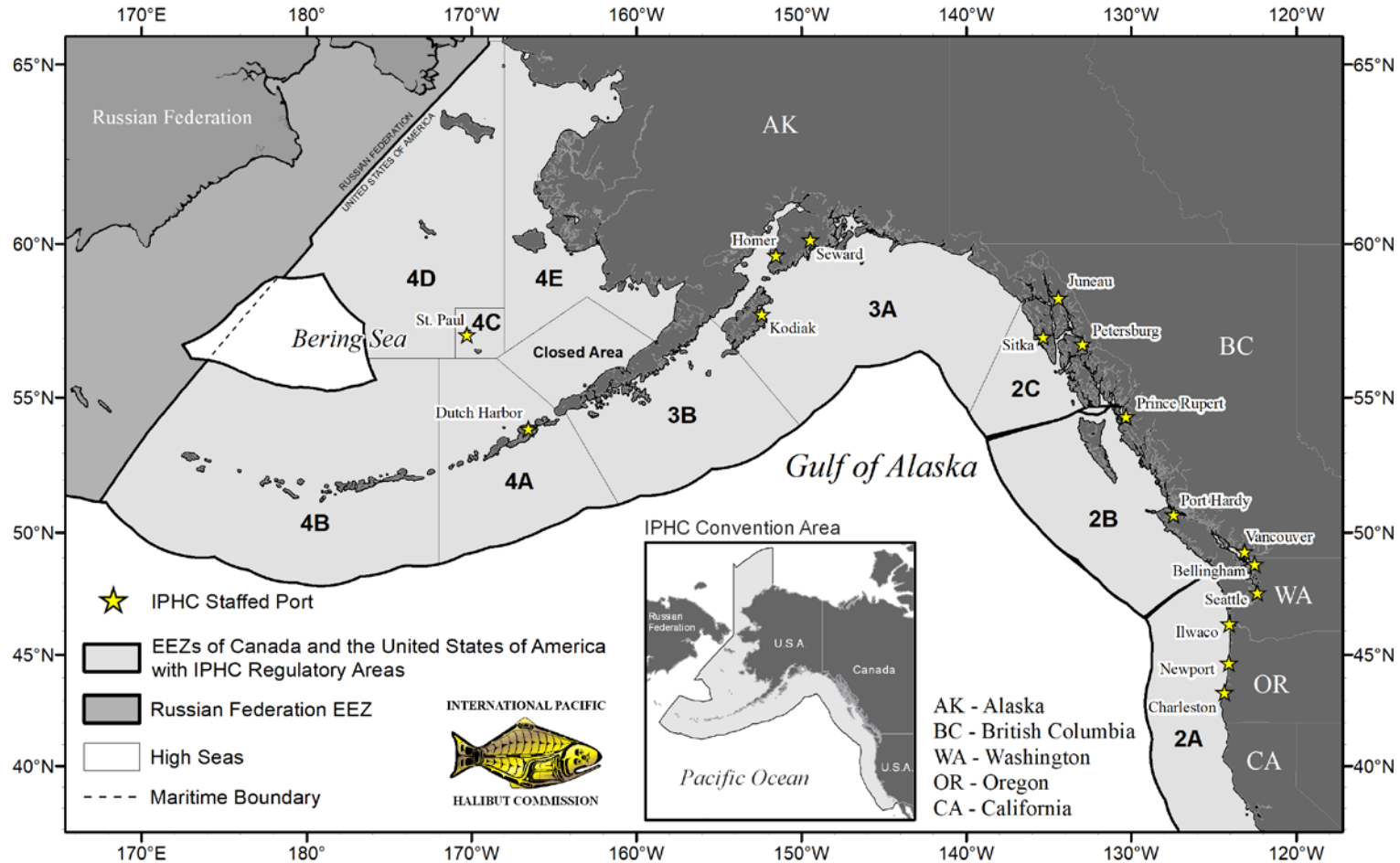
National Marine Fisheries Service

- Federal Regulations (Season dates)

WDFW

- State Regulations (Conform to federal regulations, catch limits)
- Monitor Quota
- Enforcement
- Public Process
- Coordinate with NMFS other states on inseason action
- Communicate with IPHC, NMFS, Tribes, other states

IPHC Regulatory Areas



Catch Sharing Plan

AREA 2A 2023 PACIFIC HALIBUT CATCH SHARING PLAN

For tribal, commercial, and recreational Pacific halibut fisheries of Washington, Oregon, and California

<https://www.pcouncil.org/documents/2023/04/2023-pacific-halibut-catch-sharing-plan-for-area-2a.pdf/>

Recreational Fishery Management Goals

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.

WDFW Season Setting Principles

- Avoid effort shift: continue to align fishing days as much as possible, particularly Columbia River/ South Coast and North Coast/Sekiu to maximize season length and fishing opportunity
- 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/Thu, MA 5: Memorial Day derby)

Status Quo Catch Sharing Plan

Puget Sound

- Open as early as April 1
- April and May: up to five days per week, may include at least one weekday and one weekend day
- June: may be open seven days per week

North Coast

- Open in early May, flexibility to open on April 30 in years when April 30 falls on a Thursday.
- April, May, and June: up to three days per week, may include at least one weekday and one weekend day.

South Coast

- Open early May, flexibility to open on April 30 in years when April 30 falls on a Thursday.
- April, May, and June: up to three days per week, may include at least one weekday and one weekend day.

Columbia River

- All-depth fishery open in May, flexibility to open on April 30 in years when April 30 falls on a Thursday.
- Open dates determined after consultation between Oregon and Washington
- April, May, and June, up to three days per week, Thursday or Friday, and/or Sunday

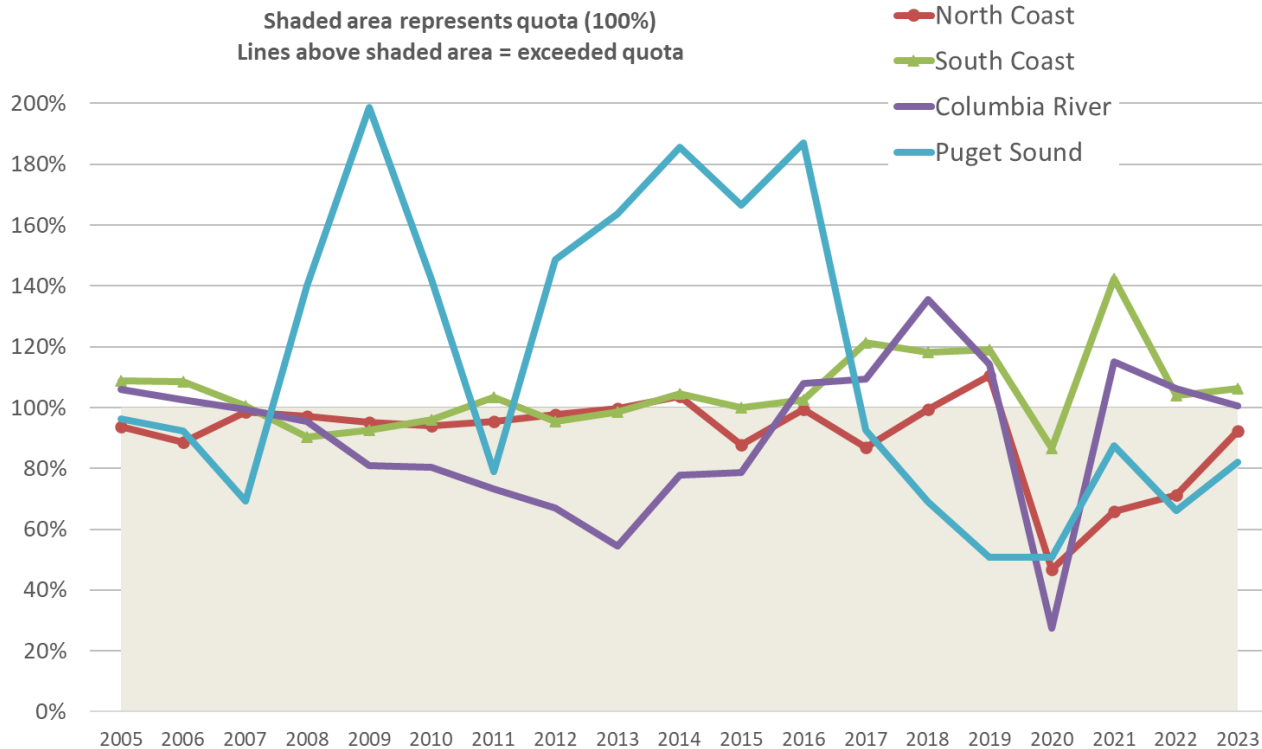
2023 Halibut Update

Preliminary in-season estimates through September 30

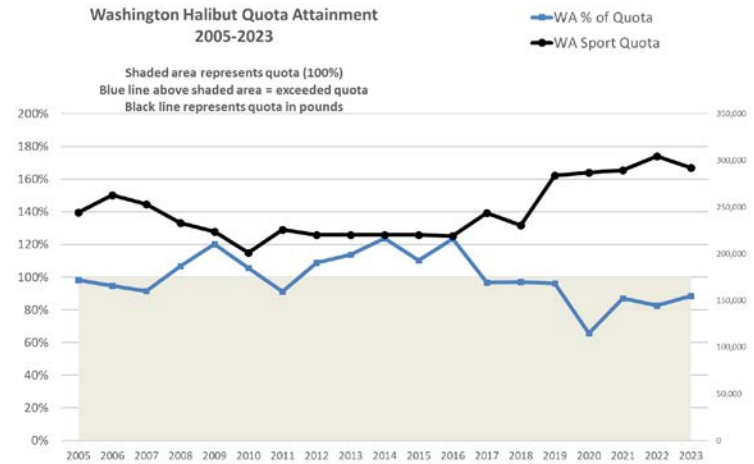
Subarea	Subarea Quota	Catch-to-Date	Quota Remaining Columbia R includes OR	thru	% Quota caught	% Quota remaining
North Coast	129,668	123,288.0	6,380.0	Sept 30	95%	5%
Puget Sound	79,031	52,130.0	26,901.0	Sept 30	66%	34%
South Coast	64,376	70,151.8	-5,775.8	Sept 24	109%	-9%
Columbia River	18,375	15,737.9	-837.2	Sept 24	105%	-5%
Columbia River - OR lbs		3,474.3				
Columbia River - Nearshore	500	0.0	500.0		0%	100%
Total WA (includes Col R. - OR)	291,950	264,781.9	27,168.1		91%	9%

Halibut Quota Attainment

Washington Halibut Subarea Quota Attainment
2005-2023



Washington Halibut Quota Attainment
2005-2023



Proposed Options for 2024

All areas include Aug-Sept up to seven days per week if quota is available.

Puget Sound

- **Option 1:** Open April 4 seven days per week through June 30.
- **Option 2:** Open MAs 6-10 (eastern Puget Sound) in February or March, seven days per week through June 30 and open MA 5 (western Puget Sound), April 1 seven days per week through June 30.
- **Option 3:** If 2024 2A FCEY is below 1.3 million pounds, open April 4 five days per week through June 30.

North Coast

- **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
- **Option 2:** If 2024 2A FCEY is below 1.3 million pounds, open May 2 through May 20, four days per week, Thursday through Sunday. Memorial Day weekend, open Friday and Sunday, May 24 and 26. May 30 through June 29, open four days per week, Thursday through Sunday.

South Coast

- 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.

Columbia River

- 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.

Recommended Options for 2024

All areas include Aug-Sept up to seven days per week if quota is available.

Puget Sound

- **Option 1:** Open April 4 seven days per week through June 30.
- **Option 2:** Open MAs 6-10 (eastern Puget Sound) in February or March, seven days per week through June 30 and open MA 5 (western Puget Sound), April 1 seven days per week through June 30.
- **Option 3:** If 2024 2A FCEY is below 1.3 million pounds, open April 4 five days per week through June 30.

North Coast

- **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
- **Option 2:** If 2024 2A FCEY is below 1.3 million pounds, open May 2 through May 20, four days per week, Thursday through Sunday. Memorial Day weekend, open Friday and Sunday, May 24 and 26. May 30 through June 29, open four days per week, Thursday through Sunday.

South Coast

- **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.

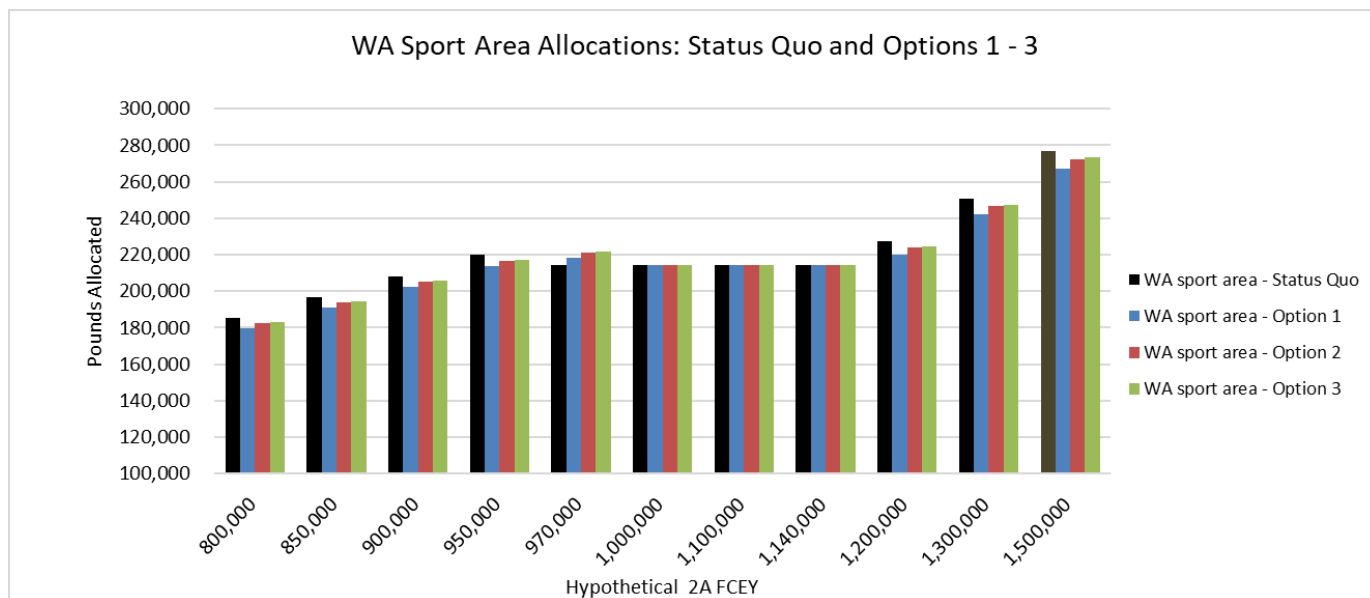
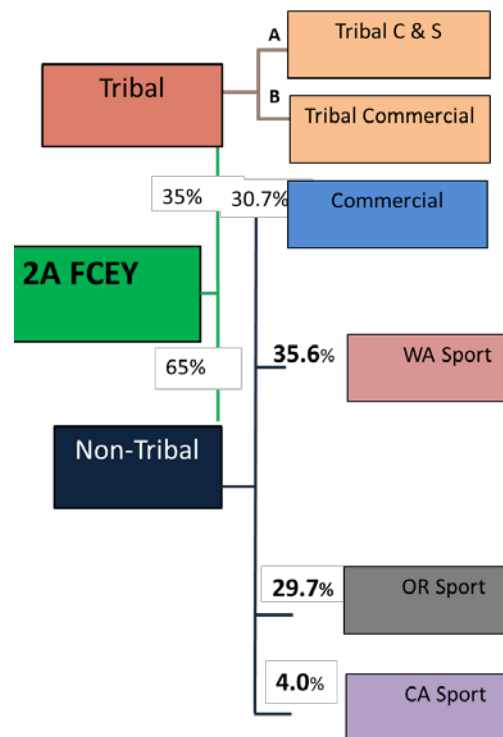
Columbia River

- **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.

Catch Sharing Plan – Proposed Changes to the 2A Sport Allocation

The PFMC is considering revising the percentages that each state is allocated for its halibut sport fishery.

- Option 1: Move 2 percent of the OR sport allocation and 1 percent of the WA sport allocation to the CA sport allocation.
- Option 2: Move 1 percent of the OR sport allocation and 0.5 percent of the WA sport allocation to the CA sport allocation.
- Option 3: Move 0.6 percent of the OR sport allocation and 0.4 percent of the WA sport allocation to the CA sport allocation.



Allocation Alternatives - Results

WA sport area (recreational) allocations under Status Quo and Options 1 – 3 under actual FCEYs, 2015- 2023.

Year/ Sport area allocation (status quo)		Sport Area allocation			Difference +/-		
		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
2015	214,110	218,153	221,306	221,936	4043	7196	7826
2016	214,110	214,110	214,110	214,110	None	None	None
2017	237,762	229,117	233,440	234,304	-8645	-4322	-3458
2018	225,366	217,631	221,499	222,272	-7735	-3867	-3094
2019	277,100	267,350	272,225	273,200	-9750	-4875	-3900
2020	277,100	267,350	272,225	273,200	-9750	-4875	-3900
2021	279,414	269,599	274,507	275,488	-9815	-4907	-3926
2022	294,786	285,101	289,944	290,912	-9685	-4842	-3874
2023	281,728	271,848	276,788	277,776	-9880	-4940	-3952

Allocation Alternatives - Results

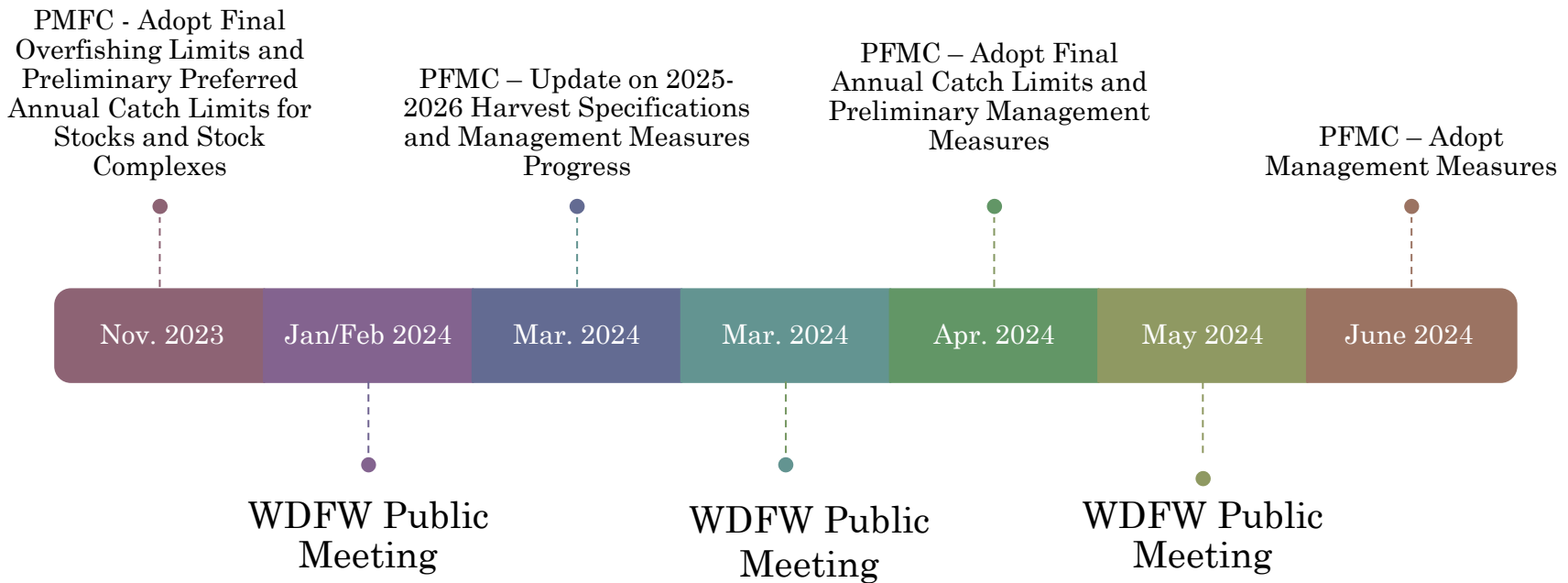
- Impacts to the sport fishery may seem minor (<1-1.25 days) if you only look at it spread across all management areas and considering a range of FCEYs. However, when you consider the WA season like CA
 - In 2015 when the 2A FCEY was 970,000 lbs. the north coast and south coast subareas were only open three and four days respectively
 - During the 2016-2018 seasons, when the FCEY was 1.1 to 1.3 million pounds, season length averaged 9 days per subarea.
 - Had the WA coastal season been structured to be open starting May 1 with no staggering of open days or mid week closures the season would have closed by May 5th, 7th and 8th for the north coast, south coast and Columbia River respectively
 - Even with a 2A FCEY of 1.5 million in 2023, had all the sport areas opened May 1 with no staggering or midweek closures, and using May-June average catch rates, the Washington recreational season would have been open for approximately 37 days
- Allocation changes not only affect the Washington sport fishery but also the incidental allowance in the sablefish fishery.
 - Had any of the options been in place in 2015, no halibut would have been allocated to the sablefish fishery resulting in a loss of ~\$62K in revenue
 - Under a range of hypothetical FCEY's revenue losses range from \$15K- \$63K



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Bottomfish

Bottomfish Harvest Specifications and Management Measures for 2025-2026



2021-Catch thru Aug; 2023-24 Harvest Limits 2025-26 Preliminary Harvest Limits

Species/Complex	Projected Year End				Harvest Limits			
	2021	Catch 2022	2023	Total 2023	2023	2024	2025	2026
BLACK ROCKFISH	114.47	69.07	163.70		271.81	270.51	244.6	241.2
CANARY ROCKFISH	15.87	19.25	21.18		41.4	40.8	17.1	17.2
YELLOW EYE ROCKFISH	1.09	2.01	3.88	4.3	10.4	10.4	8.62	8.75
VERMILION ROCKFISH	0.06	0.57	0.74	0.83	0.7		0.75	0.74
<u>Nearshore Rockfish</u>								
BLUE ROCKFISH	0.11	0.63	0.71		5.91	5.76	5.60	5.45
CHINA ROCKFISH	0.14	0.77	1.34		8.32	7.98	7.65	7.38
COPPER ROCKFISH	0.38	1.23	1.21	1.74	1.88	1.88	1.89	1.89
QUILLBACK ROCKFISH	0.81	0.76	1.59	1.81	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23
Nearshore complex total	1.44	3.38	4.85		18.30			
<u>WA Cabezon/Kelp Greenling</u>								
CABEZON	1.21	2.82	7.77		14.24	11.59	14.24	11.59
KELP GREENLING	0.25	0.58	0.99		5.52	5.52	5.52	5.52
WA Cab/KG total			8.76		19.76	17.11	19.76	17.11
LINGCOD	96.89	97.29	202.06					
PACIFIC COD	0.03	0.40	3.41					
YELLOWTAIL ROCKFISH	42.23	15.76	91.16					
TIGER ROCKFISH	0.16	0.24	0.37					
BOCACCI	3.61	4.06	9.83					

KEY:

Catch – Projected year end totals estimated using 2023 catch thru July and 2022 catches for Aug – Oct.

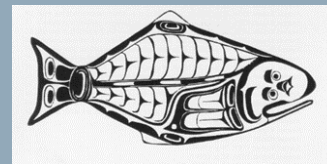
Harvest Limits: italicized/yellow highlighted values are estimates; green highlighted values from stock assessment and not final.

Management Measures

If we need to reduce catch, what tools do we have to use?

- Bag limits
- Depth restrictions
- Area closures

Wrap Up and Questions



PFMC

- Halibut Management
https://www.pcouncil.org/managed_fishery/pacific-halibut/
- Bottomfish Management
<https://www.pcouncil.org/harvest-specifications-regulations-and-seasons/>

WDFW

- Regulations
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/halibut>
- Lorna.Wargo@dfw.wa.gov
- 360.581.5611

IPHC

- Landing updates
<https://iphc.int/data/landings-2022>

Thank you for attending!