



National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 April 20, 2017

**2017 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and  
 Annual Management Measures for Area 2A  
 --Small Entity Compliance Guide--**

NOAA Fisheries announces publication of the 2017 Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan and annual management measures for Area 2A off Washington, Oregon, and California, **effective April 20, 2017.**

Management changes for 2017 include several refinements to allow more precise inseason management, and allow incidental retention for flatfish in Oregon. Generally, however, most fisheries will be subject to similar types of measures that were in place in 2016, with the changes noted here. Source materials for additional details may be found on the last page of this notice.

**Non-Tribal Commercial Fisheries**

*Directed*

The deadline to [apply](#) for a directed commercial fishing license is May 1, 2017. The IPHC recommended seven 10-hour fishing periods, the first of which will begin at 0800 hours on June 28. These 10-hour openings will occur until the quota is taken and the fishery is closed. These opening dates are described in a final rule published on March 7, 2017 (82 FR 12730), and will be updated on the halibut hotline at 206-526-6667 or 800-662-9825.

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<b>Area 2A TAC:</b>		1,330,000 lbs.
Tribal Allocation:		465,000 lbs.
	Tribal Ceremonial and Subsistence:	29,600 lbs.
	Tribal Commercial:	435,900 lbs.
Non-Tribal Allocation:		864,500 lbs.
	Non-Tribal Commercial Directed:	225,591 lbs.
	Non-Tribal Incidental Salmon Troll:	39,810 lbs.
	Non-Tribal Incidental Sablefish Primary:	70,000 lbs.
Recreational		
	Sport Puget Sound:	64,962 lbs.
	Sport WA Coast:	165,906 lbs.
	Sport Columbia River:	12,799 lbs.
	Sport OR Coast:	250,851 lbs.
	Sport CA:	34,580 lbs.

# National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

## *Salmon Troll*

Vessels fishing in the salmon troll fishery will be allowed to land Pacific halibut, subject to a landing ration. The Council, at its April, 2017 meeting, recommended a limit of not more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook salmon except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 Pacific halibut may be landed per trip. NOAA Fisheries will be considering the Council's recommendation and announcing this regulatory change separately.

## *Sablefish Primary*

Vessels fishing in the limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery, North of Point Chehalis, may retain Pacific halibut, subject to a landing ratio. The ratio of 110 lbs dressed halibut per 1,000 lb dressed sablefish, plus two additional halibut will remain in effect until superseded. The Council, at its March, 2017 meeting, recommended increasing the landing ratio of Pacific halibut due to the higher 2017 quota amounts compared to 2016. Changes to the landing ratio will be published in the *Federal Register* and announced via a separate public notice.

## *Shorebased IFQ*

NMFS will allocate top-off halibut IFQ quota pounds into 2017 quota share accounts as soon as practicable. The final allocation is 174,901 lb (79.33 mt).

Find the Catch Sharing Plan on our website at:

[http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery\\_management/halibut/csp-2017.pdf](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/fishery_management/halibut/csp-2017.pdf)

For more information on international management and research: <http://www.iphc.int>

Any discrepancies between this public notice and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.

## **Recreational Fisheries**

### *Washington*

Measures for Washington recreational fisheries will be similar to 2016, with a few changes. All subareas will have consistent season dates, new sampling programs are initiated in Puget Sound, lingcod retention regulations change in the Columbia River area, and the South Coast subarea quota will be further subdivided to allow more precise inseason management. The first recreational fishery opener for Washington will be May 4, 2017. For more information on recreational Pacific halibut fishing in Washington:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/creel/halibut/>

### *Oregon*

Measures for Oregon recreational fisheries will be similar to 2016, with a few changes. New procedures to reduce yelloweye rockfish bycatch, if necessary, and changes to retention allowances for groundfish.

The first Oregon recreational fishery opener is May 11, 2017. For more information on recreational Pacific halibut fishing in Oregon: <http://dfw.state.or.us/mrp/finfish/halibut/index.asp>

### *California*

Measures for California recreational fisheries will be similar to 2016. Due to the increase in the quota the 2017 season is 16 days longer than the 2016 season, with most of the additional open days in the month of May. The first California recreational fishery opener is May 1, 2017. For more information on Pacific halibut fishing in California:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/marine/pacific-halibut>