

STATE OF WASHINGTON

JANUARY 2023

# Washington Pacific Halibut 2022 Summary of Non-Treaty Recreational and Commercial Fisheries



Washington Department of  
**FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
Fish Program

FPA 23-02

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Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

# Table of Contents

2022 Halibut Fishery Summary .....	1
2022 Recreational Halibut Season Overview .....	1
North Coast Subarea (Marine Catch Areas 3 and 4) .....	5
South Coast Subarea (Marine Catch Area 2).....	5
Puget Sound Subarea (Marine Catch Areas 5 – 10) .....	5
Columbia River Subarea (Washington Marine Area 1 to Cape Falcon, OR) .....	7
Management.....	7
Catch Sharing Plan .....	7
Recreational Catch Monitoring .....	9
2023 Recreational Season Planning.....	9
2022 Statewide Non-treaty Commercial Halibut Season Overview.....	10
Incidental Halibut Retention in the Primary Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis, Washington.....	10
Incidental Halibut Retention in the Salmon Troll Fishery.....	11
Directed Commercial Fishery South of Point Chehalis, Washington .....	12
APPENDIX A. Weekly Inseason Catch and Effort Estimates, 2022 .....	14
APPENDIX B. Estimates of Pacific Halibut Caught in Canada.....	16
APPENDIX C. 2023 Recommended Recreational Season Structure.....	17





# 2022 Halibut Fishery Summary

This report provides an overview of the non-treaty 2022 recreational and commercial fisheries for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) in the Washington portion of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) regulatory area 2A (Area 2A) and summarizes management actions taken during the year. The report also includes 2023 recreational halibut fishery planning and recommended season structure.

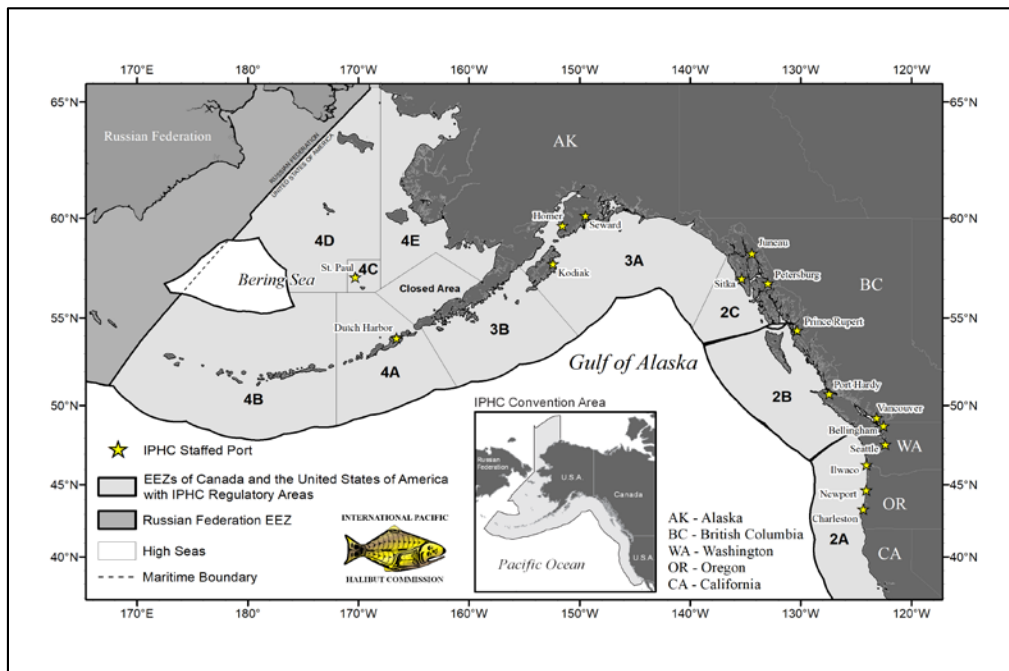


Figure 1. IPHC Regulatory Areas

## 2022 Recreational Halibut Season Overview

This year mostly saw a return to pre-pandemic operations coastwide with all coastal ports open all season in contrast to 2020 and 2021 during which some ports were closed all or part of a year. However, other factors in 2022 such as severe inclement weather during the spring and early summer, particularly on the coast, significantly affected fishing effort. Bar closures due to weather coincided with several days open for halibut for some ports. Reduced effort was also attributed to high fuel costs. The Washington statewide average June gasoline price was \$5.48 compared to less than \$3.80 for the same month in 2021, and prices were higher in coastal counties.



Despite opening Marine Catch Area (MCA) 6-10 in April and all other areas in May following a fairly traditional season structure, it was clear a substantial amount of quota might not be utilized unless effort increased and no days were lost to weather through June (Table 1, Figure 2). In mid-May, WDFW conferred with NMFS and IPHC to consider adding dates to the June schedule for coastal marine areas. With input from stakeholders, WDFW announced on June 3 two additional days for the Columbia River and South Coast, and three additional days for the North Coast, basing catch projections on productive fishing days (when weather was favorable) in May. However, due to continued poor weather, the extra fishing time did not result in substantial catch. Notably, all coastal ports experienced multiple days, including preseason fixed dates and dates added inseason, in May and June in which no (zero) effort was observed: Columbia River (MCA 1) - 6 days, South Coast (MCA 2) - 4 days, North Coast (MCAs 3 and 4) - 3 days. Puget Sound (MCAs 5 - 10) recorded effort on all days open, although averaging approximately 1,100 anglers per week compared to about 1,800 per week in 2021. Estimated statewide quota attainment was about 22 percent at the end of May and about 56 percent at the end of June.

Following the closure of the halibut fishery at the end of June, WDFW again conferred with NMFS and met with stakeholders to consider how to structure a late season fishery. Per the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP), additional opportunity could be scheduled for August and September. Also consistent with flexibility described by the CSP, adherence to subarea quotas was relaxed which meant scheduling could aim for full utilization of Washington's quota while also providing opportunity across all subareas. With these dual objectives and consideration for regulatory and fishery monitoring constraints, in mid-July WDFW announced six additional days for the Columbia River and South Coast, a five day per week opener beginning August 11 through September 5, shifting to seven days per week from September 6 through September 30 for the North Coast, and a seven day per week opener for Puget Sound beginning August 11 through September 30. All openers were contingent on sufficient remaining statewide quota.

The late season closed as scheduled on September 30, with preliminary season total catch for all Washington areas of 252,489 pounds or 83 percent of the Washington recreational halibut fishery allocation (Table 2). Weekly inseason estimates of catch and effort by Washington region/MCA are presented in Appendix A. The estimates presented in these tables are preliminary and may differ from estimates provided during the season due to subsequent additional data or corrections. Further, due to fishery monitoring constraints, procedures differ somewhat between the early season (April - June) and the late season (August - September) and this affects the characterization of effort estimates. Monitoring capacity supports full coverage of halibut days in the early season and thus the number of anglers is equivalent to the number of individuals targeting halibut based on direct interviews. When halibut is open five to seven days per week, not all days are sampled, and angler target strategy is not known on unsampled days. Therefore, estimates of halibut catch rates (CPUE) are not comparable in all areas between the early season and late season.



Total season length in 2022 was 192 days (Figure 3) including all MCAs; area specific totals are presented in the following sections. This continues the trend observed since 2020 of longer seasons, but this period encompasses extraordinary circumstances. As a result of precautions taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic, a portion of 2020 Washington recreational fishery season (across all species) was entirely closed, and both ports serving the north coast – Neah Bay and La Push – were closed. In 2021, public access to La Push was allowed for part of the season while Neah Bay remained closed. In contrast, under more typical conditions, the halibut season averaged 38 days from 2015 through 2019. The last year with a season length similar to 2022 was 2005 with 172 days.

*Table 1. Washington Recreational 2022 Pacific Halibut Season Dates. Dates in red were announced through inseason action.*

Subarea	Marine Catch Area (MCA)	April	May	June	August	September
Puget Sound	5	-	5,7,7,12,14,19,21,27,28,29	2,3,4,9,10,11,16,17,18,23,24,25,30	11-31	1-30
Puget Sound	6-10	7,8,9,14,15,16,21,22,23	5,6,7,12,13,14,19,20,21,27,28,29	2,3,4,9,10,11,16,17,18,23,24,25,30	11-31	1-30
North Coast	3-4	-	5,7,12,14,19,21,27,29	2,4,9,10,11,16,17,18,23,24,25,30	11,12,13,14,15,18,19,20,21,22,25,26,27,28,29	1-30
South Coast	2	-	5,8,12,15,19,22,26	16,19,23,26,28,30	19,25,28	3,4,23
Columbia River	1	-	5,8,12,15,19,22,26	2,5,9,12,13,16,19,20,23,26,30	19,25,28	3,4,23

*Table 2. Washington Halibut quota and estimated catches by subarea, 2022.*

Subarea	Subarea quota	Total Catch	% of Quota Caught	Unused Quota Pounds
Puget Sound	83,210	64,825	78%	
North Coast	133,847	96,208	72%	
South Coast	68,555	71,202	104%	
Columbia River (WA & OR)	18,537	20,210	109%	
Columbia River Nearshore	500	43	9%	
Total	304,649	252,489	83%	52,160



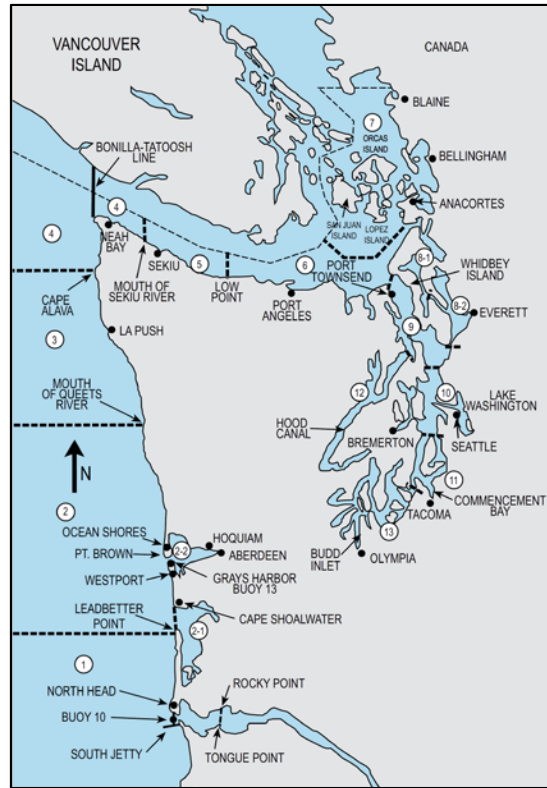


Figure 2. Washington Recreational Marine Catch Areas (MCAs), 1-13.

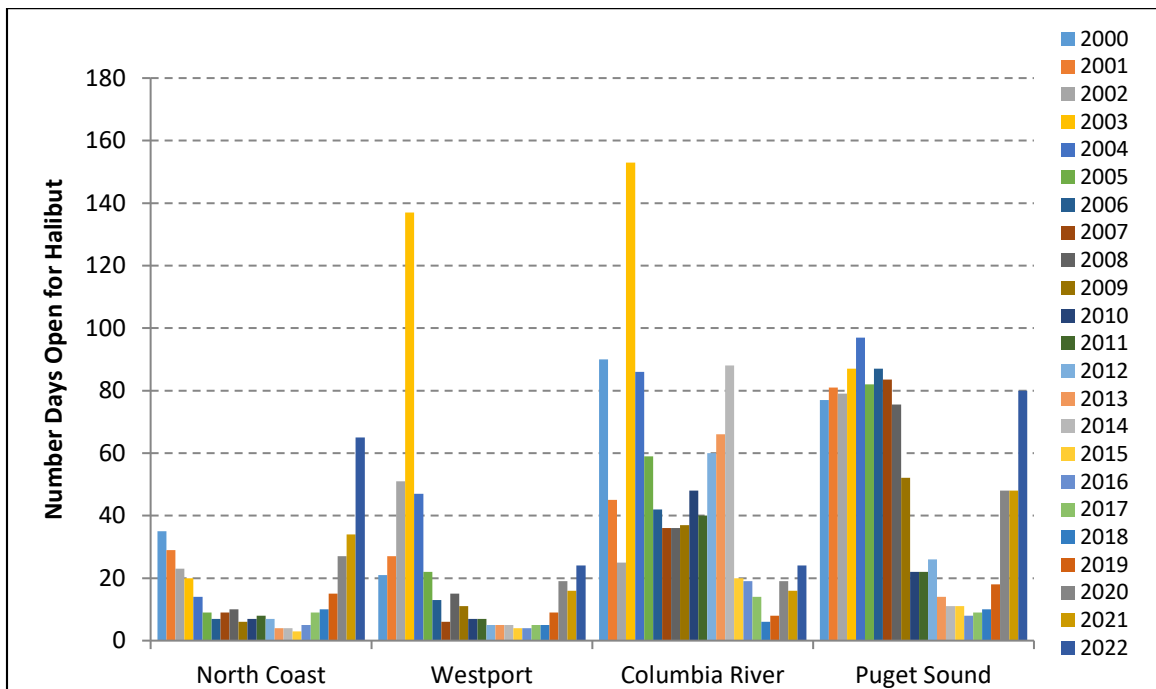


Figure 3. Recreational Halibut Season Length, Number of Days by region, 2000-2022.





### **North Coast Subarea (Marine Catch Areas 3 and 4)**

The early season Thursday, Saturday structure followed a traditional season structure for the north coast. The shift to Friday, Sunday for Memorial Day aligned the days open to coincide with a popular and long running halibut derby held over the holiday weekend at Sekiu (subarea 5).

The north coast subarea was open a total of 65 days in 2022. The subarea opened on May 5 on a two-day (Thursday and Saturday) per week schedule through the first week of June except during Memorial Day weekend when it opened on Friday and Sunday. A third day, Friday, was added through inseason action for the second through fourth weeks of June. The last day of the early season (spring/summer) was Thursday, June 30 as originally announced. Announced in July, the late season opened August 11 and ran five days (Thursday – Monday) per week thereafter until September 5 when it then opened seven days per week through September 30.

The subarea allocation was 133,847 pounds and the preliminary total catch was 96,208 pounds (Table 2). Estimates of effort and the number of Pacific halibut landed into Neah Bay from Canada are presented in Appendix B.

### **South Coast Subarea (Marine Catch Area 2)**

South coast schedule tends to mirror the Columbia River in May but differs in June.

The south coast all-depth fishery was open 17 days in 2022. The subarea opened at all-depths on May 5 on a two-day (Thursday and Sunday) schedule in May, except it did not open the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. The subarea re-opened as announced the third and fourth weeks in June, also on Thursday and Sunday. Two additional days, Sunday, June 28 and Thursday, June 30 were added through inseason action. Announced in mid-July, the late season (August and September) dates included Friday, August 19, Thursday, August 25, Sunday, August 28, the Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend (September 3 and 4) and Friday, September 23.

The subarea allocation was 68,555 pounds and the preliminary total catch was 71,202 pounds (Table 2).

### **Puget Sound Subarea (Marine Catch Areas 5 – 10)**

With respect to Puget Sound, the 2022 season continued to expand opportunity, reflecting an effort to align harvest with the subarea's quota. This has proven challenging. Having overshot the quota in eight of nine years between 2008 and 2016 (Figure 3), WDFW began an intensive sampling program to support inseason catch estimation. Previously catch estimates were only available postseason. Other measures such as opening subareas at the same time to distribute effort and a four fish annual bag limit to were implemented to reduce the risk of exceeding the quota while striving to provide meaningful fishing seasons. Recent years' catches while improving have fallen below the quota, likely in part due to direct and lingering effects of the pandemic.



Marine Areas 6-10 opened in early-April 2022 compared to mid-April in 2021 and fully a month earlier than years prior. This earlier season start was scheduled with some trepidation because the consequence of opening in early April was uncertain, however, at least under conditions experienced in 2022 it served to bolster catch and did not preclude later opportunity. The 2022 early season also continued a three day per week structure which had been expanded from two days per week starting in 2020.

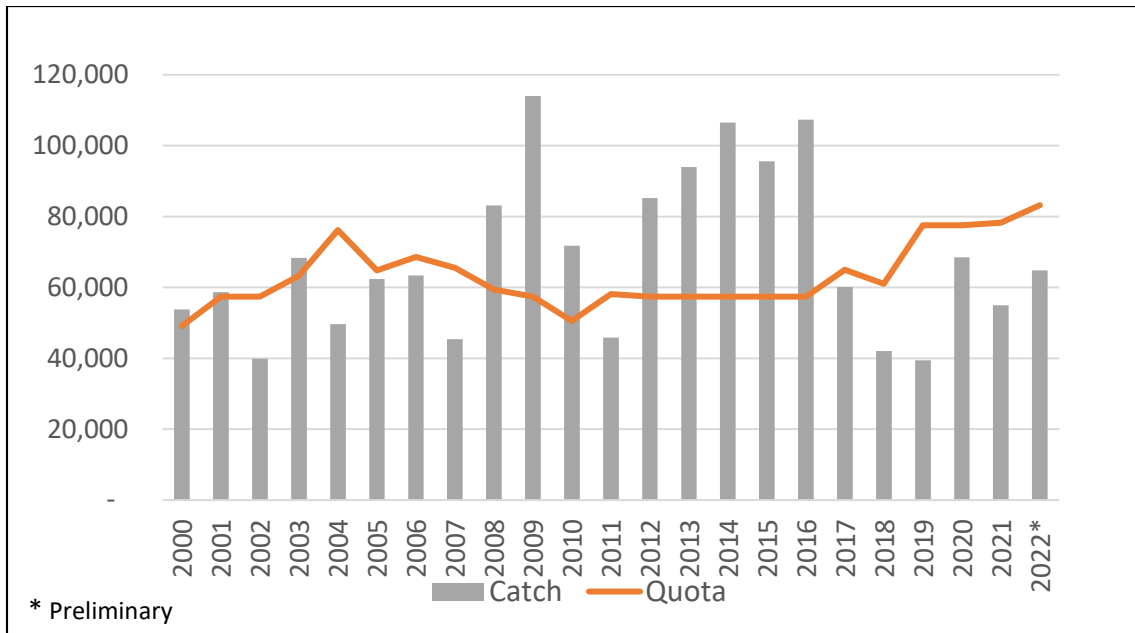


Figure 4. Puget Sound Recreational Catch and Subarea Quota, 2000-2022.

In 2022, Marine Area 5 was open for 72 days and Marine Areas 6-10 were open for 87 days. Marine Areas 6-10 opened earliest, on April 7 with a three day (Thursday-Saturday) per week schedule through June 30. Like the North Coast (Areas 3-4), Marine Area 5 opened May 5 on a two-day (Thursday and Saturday) per week schedule in May, except that it was open Friday, May 27 through Sunday, May 29 for an annual Memorial Day weekend halibut derby. In June, Marine Area 5 was open three days (Friday – Sunday) through June 25 and on Thursday, June 30. Unlike, coastal subareas, the Puget Sound season progressed as planned through June. However, as with the coast, additional opportunity was announced in July. All areas of Puget Sound opened August 11 for five days per week through Labor Day, and then were open 7 days per week through September 30.

The subarea allocation was 83,210 pounds and total estimated catch was 64,825 pounds (Table 2).



## **Columbia River Subarea (Washington Marine Area 1 to Cape Falcon, OR)**

The Columbia River subarea is co-managed with the ODFW. The Columbia River season is structured to open at all-depths the first Thursday in May and continue three days per week (Thursday, Friday, and Sunday) until the all-depth allocation is projected to be taken. Five hundred pounds of the Columbia River allocation is set aside to allow halibut retention in the nearshore area when bottomfish are on board Monday through Wednesday.

In 2022, Columbia River subarea all-depth fishery was open for a total of 24 days. The subarea opened on May 5 on a two-day (Thursday and Sunday) per week schedule through May and June 30, except it did not open Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. Two additional days, Monday, June 13 and Monday, June 20 were added through inseason action. Announced in mid-July, the late season (August and September) dates included Friday, August 19, Thursday, August 25, Sunday, August 28, the Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend (September 3 and 4) and Friday, September 23. The nearshore fishery opened on Monday, May 7 and continued through September 30.

The total all-depth subarea quota was 18,537 with another 500 pounds for the nearshore fishery. Total estimated catch was 20,210 for the all-depth fishery and 43 pounds for the nearshore fishery (Table 2).

## **Management**

The IPHC annually determines the amount of halibut available for harvest (in pounds of fish, net weight<sup>1</sup>) in Area 2A based on stock assessment information and harvest policy. Once the total constant exploitable yield (TCEY) is determined, projected bycatch and wastage mortality are subtracted to produce the fishery constant exploitable yield (FCEY) or total allowable catch (TAC) as it was previously termed. The annual FCEY is approved by the IPHC at their yearly meeting which typically occurs in late January. Under a four-year agreement, the Area 2A TCEY for 2022 remained fixed at 1.65 million pounds. After accounting for non-directed fishing discard mortality, the 2A FCEY was 1.49 million pounds. This static framework has served to provide stability to Area 2A fisheries.

## **Catch Sharing Plan**

### *Allocation*

Management of the Area 2A Pacific Halibut is accomplished, in part, via a [catch sharing plan](#) (CSP) of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC, or Council). Revised and updated annually, the CSP guides tribal, non-tribal commercial, and recreational halibut fisheries off

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<sup>1</sup> The weight of a fish with head and internal organs removed. In Pacific halibut, that is approximately 75% of the round weight. (c.f. round weight)



the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. The CSP prescribes an allocation formula for allowable catch which is implemented through annual fishery regulations by both the IPHC and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

As outlined in the 2022 CSP, the Washington recreational fishery receives 35.6 percent of the Area 2A allocation. The Washington recreational allocation is further divided among subareas with each area receiving a percentage of the first 130,845 pounds: Puget Sound, 23.5; North coast, 62.2; South coast, 12.3; Columbia River, 2. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) contributes 2.3 percent of the Oregon recreational allocation to the Columbia River subarea. Each subarea then gets an additional 32 percent of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 pounds. Based on an Area 2A FCEY (i.e., allowable catch) of 1.49 million pounds and provisions of the CSP, the 2022 Washington recreational allocation was 304,649 pounds; allocations to each subarea are shown in Table 1. Note that subarea allocations do not sum to the Washington recreational allocation because a portion of the Washington recreational allocation is used to allow incidental halibut retention in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington and because of the Oregon contribution to the Columbia River. More details on this allocation are provided in the commercial fishery section of the report.

#### *CSP Management Goals*

- Establish season structures for each subarea that maximize fishing opportunity and achieve but not exceed subarea quotas.
- 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: align fishing days as much as possible, particularly Columbia River/South Coast and North Coast/Seki 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/Tue, MA 5: Memorial Day derby)

The recreational halibut season in 2022 mirrored the general approach taken to set the season structure across Washington subareas in recent years. Changes to the CSP for 2022 focused on the need to increase flexibility to maximize fishing opportunity and achieve the Washington sport allocation and included allowing opening coastal and Puget Sound subareas up to five days per week in August and September. As noted in the overview, the flexibility to share subarea quotas, undertaken in response to conditions stemming from the



pandemic, supports angler access to the full Washington sport halibut allocation and will likely continue to be an extremely valuable tool into the future.

### **Recreational Catch Monitoring**

WDFW port samplers interview recreational anglers as they return to the dock to collect information on the number of Pacific halibut retained and released. Samplers also collect length data which is converted to weight using an [IPHC conversion factor](#). Weekly estimates of catch and effort are produced to manage the fishery relative to available allocation. Managers track catch throughout the season and coordinate with IPHC, NMFS, and other state's managers to consider closing areas when catch is projected to reach the subarea allocation. Weekly, preliminary catch estimates are posted to [WDFW halibut fishery webpages](#) during the season. The IPHC also posts comprehensive landing summaries at <https://iphc.int/datatest>.

### **2023 Recreational Season Planning**

Upcoming recreational halibut season dates and potential revisions to the CSP are considered through the PFMC process at the September and November Council meetings. Aligning with this process, WDFW holds meetings with Washington stakeholders in August and October to seek input for the upcoming season. This input is used to develop specific recommendations such as season dates or changes to the CSP. WDFW held two virtual stakeholder planning meetings in 2022, on August 9 and October 4.

Stakeholder input during the August 9 public meeting was broadly supportive of continuing the general season structure adopted in 2020 for the north coast, south coast, and Columbia River subareas with a common theme of increasing the opportunity to catch more of the sport allocation earlier in the season by increasing the number of days per week that the fishery can be open. Stakeholders from the Puget Sound subarea supported changes to the CSP that would allow for more access to recreational halibut fishing earlier in the year and on more days per week. In September 2022, PFMC adopted for public review recommendations from WDFW for the 2023 Washington recreational season that largely maintained a status quo season structure for coastal subareas (MCAs 1 – 4) and options to increase access to the Puget Sound subarea allocation by allowing more days to open per week, either up to 5 or 7 ([September 2022 briefing book - Pacific Fishery Management Council \(pcouncil.org\)](#)).

From discussions at the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, proposed changes to the CSP for 2023 were recommended and presented to the PMFC for consideration at their November 2023 meeting ([November 2022 briefing book - Pacific Fishery Management Council \(pcouncil.org\)](#)). The Council adopted recommendations are presented in Appendix C.

Requests to increase the annual bag limit from the current four fish to six fish for 2023 were received and discussed at the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Stakeholder responses were mixed with



some voicing support for a six fish bag limit while others opined the status quo, or four fish bag limit provided sufficient opportunity for anglers. Further consideration was postponed until 2023 to provide time to conduct an updated bag limit catch analysis and to explore how to address practical and regulatory constraints associated with the current catch record card system to allow reporting up to six fish. Bag limits are not subject to the CSP process, changes are undertaken through state regulatory processes.

## **2022 Statewide Non-treaty Commercial Halibut Season Overview**

### **Incidental Halibut Retention in the Primary Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis, Washington**

The CSP provides for incidental landings of halibut in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington, which lasts from April 1 until October 31. The Council took action to extend the season to December 31 beginning in 2023. The allocation to the primary fishery comes from the Washington recreational allocation and is only allowed when the Area 2A TAC is sufficient to provide meaningful opportunity for both sectors. The primary fishery is allocated 50,000 pounds for incidental halibut retention when the Area 2A TAC is less than 1.5 million pounds and 70,000 pounds when the Area 2A TAC is 1.5 million pounds or greater.

In 2022, the Area 2A TAC was 1.49 million pounds, resulting in a maximum amount of 50,000 pounds allocated to the primary fishery for incidental halibut retention. Beginning on April 1, 2022, the fishery was subject to a landing limit of 225 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of sablefish (both dressed weight with head-on), with up to two additional halibut in excess of the landing limit ratio. Effective May 9, 2022, the incidental landing limit was revised to 150 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of sablefish (both dressed weight with head-on), with up to two additional halibut in excess of the landing limit ratio. The Council chose this revision because the 225-pound landing limit ratio was set in 2021 when the total incidental amount allocated to the primary fishery was 70,000 pounds. With the reduction to 50,000 pounds in 2022, the Council chose to set a more precautionary landing limit.

In 2022, 16 vessels made 49 landings that included 57,061 pounds of dressed, head-on halibut in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis at the conclusion of the fishery, which is 114 percent of the established quota. While 2022 landings exceeded the 50,000-pound quota by 7,061 pounds, the primary fishery allocation is a subset of the overall Washington sport allocation, which was 294,786 lbs. in 2022 (before adjustment to include Oregon contributions to the Columbia River subarea). As of November 6, 2022, at least 52,000 lbs. of Pacific halibut remained unused by the Washington sport fishery pending final recreational catch estimates for Puget Sound, which were expected to be relatively low. Incidental halibut landings in the sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis from 2018 to 2022



are summarized in Table 3 below. In 2022, the primary fishery earned \$417,844 in inflation-adjusted ex-vessel<sup>2</sup> revenue from incidental halibut landings.

*Table 3. Incidental Halibut Retention in the Primary Sablefish Fishery North of Pt. Chehalis*

Year	Vessels	Number of Landings	Quota (lbs.)	Landings (lbs.)	% of Quota	Adj. Exvessel Revenue <sup>a/</sup>
2022	16	49	50,000	57,061	114	\$417,844
2021	15	62	70,000	69,155	99	\$468,406
2020	14	56	70,000	63,358	91	\$306,536
2019	19	89	70,000	79,401	113	\$510,730
2018	17	72	50,000	43,716	87	\$270,094

a/ from halibut landings only; adjusted for inflation

### **Incidental Halibut Retention in the Salmon Troll Fishery**

The Area 2A CSP allocates 15 percent of the non-Indian commercial halibut allocation to the commercial ocean salmon troll fishery for incidental halibut catch. The primary management objective outlined in the CSP is to attain the incidental quota during the April through June salmon troll fishery, with a secondary objective to attain the balance of the incidental quota from July through the end of the salmon troll season. Beginning May 1, 2022, salmon trollers were allowed to retain no more than one halibut per two chinook salmon, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut may be landed per trip.

In 2022, 27 salmon troll vessels made 109 halibut landings into Washington ports, totaling 27,924 lbs. of halibut, or 63% of the 2022 Area 2A allocation (Table 4). The number of Washington salmon troll vessels retaining halibut nearly halved from 2019 to 2020 due to impacts to the salmon troll fleet from the coronavirus pandemic, as well as depressed salmon quotas. Between 2019 and 2021, Washington halibut landings declined by 50 percent. Retention has appeared to remain at those lower levels through 2022.

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<sup>2</sup> Ex-vessel refers to the price or revenue received by fishers for fish at the first point of landing.



Table 4. Incidental Halibut Retention in the Commercial Salmon Troll Fishery

Year	Vessels	Number of Landings	Quota (lbs.)	Landings (lbs.)	% of Quota	Adj. Exvessel Revenue <sup>a/</sup>
2022	27	109	44,599	27,924	63	\$165,330
2021	28	118	45,198	23,669	52	\$117,327
2020	28	120	44,899	36,612	82	\$161,712
2019	52	276	44,899	47,531	106	\$213,266
2018	51	186	35,620	41,921	118	\$186,333

a/ from halibut landings only; adjusted for inflation

### Directed Commercial Fishery South of Point Chehalis, Washington

The CSP apportions 85 percent of the 2A commercial allocation to allow for a directed commercial halibut fishery south of Point Chehalis, Washington, which was 252,730 pounds in 2022. The directed fishery is a small but important fishing opportunity for commercial fishery participants in Washington and consists of three-day openers starting in June and periodically occurring until the allocation is reached or projected to be reached. The 2022 directed fishery openers were June 28-30, July 12-14, and July 26-28.

In 2022, 14 vessels made 40 landings into Washington ports totaling 63,382 pounds (or 25 percent of the allocation), which resulted in a season total of \$484,921 in inflation-adjusted ex-vessel revenue from halibut landings (Table 5). Landings into Washington ports from the directed fishery increased from 2013 to 2019 before dropping in 2020 and 2021 due to coronavirus pandemic related impacts (Figure 5).

Table 5. Ex-vessel Revenue, adjusted for inflation, from Halibut Landings in the Directed Commercial Fishery South of Pt. Chehalis.

Year	Vessels	Number of Landings	Landings (lbs.)	Adj. Ex-vessel Revenue
2022	14	40	63,382	\$484,921
2021	17	44	51,556	\$301,432
2020	17	58	58,712	\$263,308
2019	20	47	87,254	\$509,015
2018	15	35	61,346	\$422,918





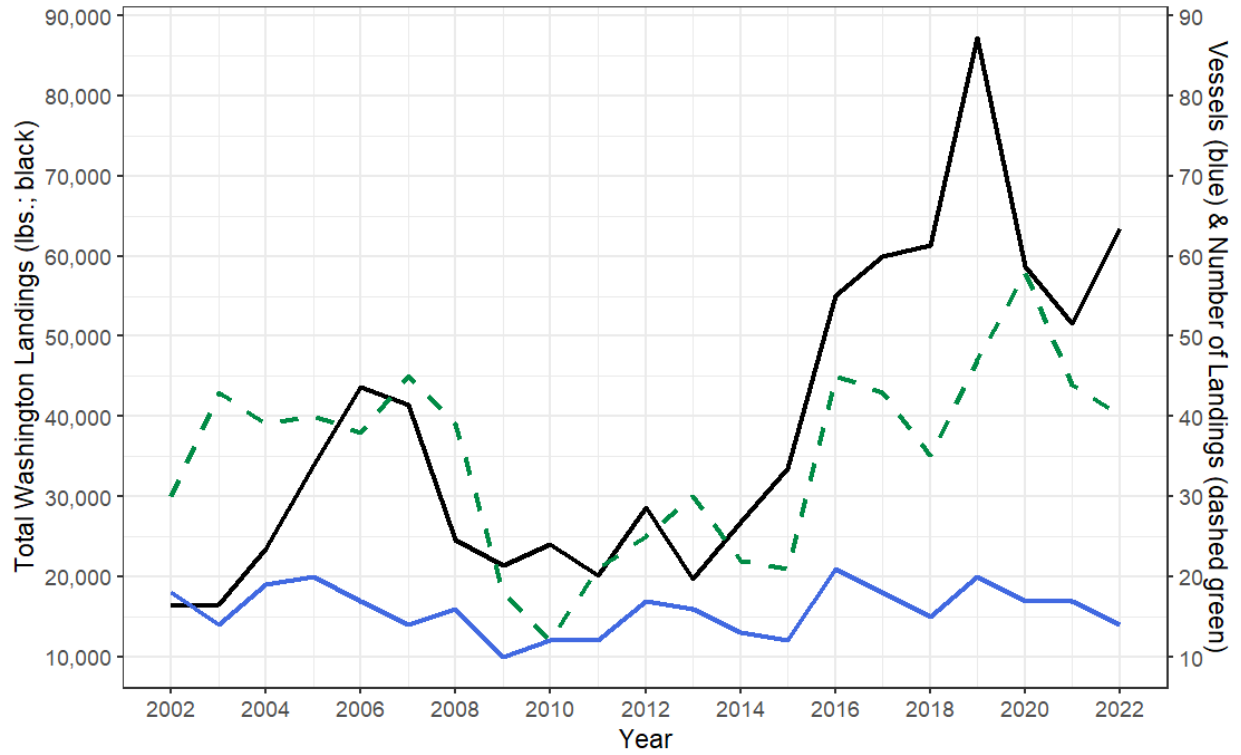


Figure 5. Annual Washington Landings of Halibut by the Directed Fishery South of Point Chehalis, 2002-2022



## APPENDIX A. Weekly Inseason Catch and Effort Estimates, 2022

Weekly inseason estimates of catch and effort are preliminary and incomplete, and totals may differ from posted inseason estimates and final estimates. NOTE: Due to logistical constraints, the sampling and estimation procedures differ between early season openers (April-June) and late season openers (August-September). For this reason, the angler metric does not necessarily represent known halibut anglers based on angler interviews ([See the Recreational Season Overview section for details.](#))

Table 6. Weekly Inseason Catch and Effort Estimates, North Coast (MCA 3-4), 2022.

Region/MCA	Statistical Week	Month	Dates Open	# Halibut	# Anglers	CPUE	Avg Wt	Total Wt	Cumulative	
North Coast								(pounds)		
	19	May	5, 7	14	178	0.1	14.9	209	209	
	20	May	12,14	105	381	0.3	17.1	1,798	2,006	
	21	May	19, 21	621	910	0.7	16.5	10,271	12,277	
	22	May	27, 29	47	262	0.2	16.0	750	13,027	
	23	June	2, 4	376	530	0.7	16.0	6,014	19,041	
	24	June	9, 10,11	483	778	0.6	15.3	7,401	26,443	
	25	June	16, 17,18	636	1,035	0.6	16.2	10,282	36,725	
	26	June	23, 24, 25	984	1,406	0.7	15.2	14,946	51,671	
	27	June	30	163	232	0.7	16.1	2,621	54,293	
	33	Aug	11, 12, 13, 14	815	1,100	0.7	16.9	13,757	68,050	
	34-35	Aug	22, 25, 26, 27, 28	928	1,381	0.7	15.2	14,139	82,188	
	36	Aug/Sep	29, 1,2,3,4	277	426	0.7	15.6	4,323	86,511	
	37	Sep	5-11	105	169	0.6	14.8	1,559	88,071	
38	Sep	12-18	304	420	0.7	15.0	4,562	92,633		
39	Sep	19-25	198	319	0.6	14.2	2,815	95,447		
40	Sep	26-30	54	79	0.7	14.1	761	96,208		

Table 7. Weekly Inseason Catch and Effort Estimates, South Coast (MCA 2), 2022.

Region/MCA	Statistical Week	Month	Dates Open	# Halibut	# Anglers	CPUE	Avg Wt	Total Wt	Cumulative	
South Coast								(pounds)		
	19	May	5, 8	393	422	0.9	14.5	5,694	5,694	
	20	May	12,15	11	18	0.6	16.7	184	5,877	
	21	May	19, 22	936	1,478	0.6	13.3	12,493	18,370	
	22	May	26	397	567	0.7	15.2	6,042	24,413	
	25	June	16, 19	910	1,147	0.8	15.6	14,152	38,565	
	26	June	23, 26	646	861	0.8	15.8	10,203	48,768	
	27	June	28,30	318	377	0.8	16.5	5,245	54,013	
	34	Aug	19	206	332	0.6	18.3	3,777	57,790	
	35	Aug	25, 28	171	189	0.9	20.2	3,447	61,237	
	36	Sep	3, 4	372	458	0.8	17.0	6,314	67,551	
39	Sep	23	238	252	0.9	15.3	3,651	71,202		



Table 8. Weekly Inseason Catch and Effort Estimates, Columbia River (MCA 1), including OR Columbia River estimates, 2022.

Region/MCA	Statistical Week	Month	Dates Open	# Halibut	# Anglers	CPUE	Avg Wt	Total WA	Total OR	Combined Total	Cumulative Combined
Columbia River								(pounds)			
	19	May	5,8	50	73	0.7	11.8	591	12	602	602
	20	May	12,15	30	30	1.0	13.8	415	-	415	1,017
	21	May	19,22	199	262	0.8	13.3	2,642	760	3,402	4,419
	22	May	26	88	134	0.7	13.1	1,152	377	1,529	5,948
	23	June	2,5	135	155	0.9	14.4	1,945	603	2,548	8,496
	24	June	9,12	141	168	0.8	13.3	1,880	-	1,880	10,376
	25	June	13,16,19	178	194	0.9	12.7	2,266	293	2,558	12,935
	26	June	20, 23, 26	158	177	0.9	14.1	2,220	99	2,319	15,253
	27	June	30	34	59	0.6	13.6	463	-	463	15,716
	34	Aug	19	125	125	1.0	12.6	1,569	139	1,709	17,425
	35	Aug	25, 28	65	78	0.8	12.8	831	-	831	18,256
	36	Sep	3, 4	80	124	0.6	10.9	873	33	907	19,163
39	Sep	23	62	75	0.8	9.4	585	462	1,048	20,210	

Table 9. Weekly Inseason Catch and Effort Estimates for Puget Sound, MCA 5-6 and monthly for MCA 7-10, 2022.

Region/MCA	Statistical Week	Month	Dates Open	# Halibut	# Anglers	CPUE	Avg Wt	Total Wt	Cumulative
Puget Sound MCA 6								(pounds)	
	15	April	7,8,9	124	914	0.1	17.7	2,199	2,199
	16	April	14,15,16	115	879	0.1	22.1	2,543	4,742
	17	April	21,22,23	153	1,007	0.2	17.3	2,646	7,388
MCA 5-6	18	April	28,29,30	105	805	0.1	21.1	2,212	9,600
	19	May	5,6,7	103	884	0.1	14.1	1,449	11,049
	20	May	12,13,14	161	1,181	0.1	15.8	2,544	13,593
	21	May	19,20,21	313	1,181	0.3	17.8	5,581	19,174
	22	May	26,27,28	273	2,132	0.1	14.0	3,811	22,985
	23	June	2,3,4	378	1,277	0.3	15.5	5,856	28,841
	24	June	9,10,11	309	1,585	0.2	15.3	4,717	33,557
	25	June	16,17,18	245	963	0.3	15.9	3,886	37,444
	26	June	23,24,25	455	1,545	0.3	13.9	6,311	43,755
	27	June	30	74	315	0.2	15.3	1,134	44,889
	33	Aug	11-14	209	1,590	0.1	13.6	2,848	47,737
	34	Aug	15-21	298	2,449	0.1	11.0	3,286	51,023
	35	Aug	22-28	157	1,892	0.1	11.6	1,820	52,843
	36	Aug/Sep	29-5	426	4,410	0.1	11.1	4,721	57,564
	37	Sep	6-11	36	3,566	0.010	11.8	425	57,989
	38	Sep	12-18	9	4,665	0.002	11.5	104	58,093
	39	Sep	19-25	18	3,887	0.005	12.0	217	58,309
40	Sep	26-30	11	987	0.011	21.5	236	58,546	
MCA 7-10		April		226				4,419	4,419
		May		81				1,570	5,989
		June		15				291	6,280
		Aug		0				-	6,280
		Sep		0				-	6,280
<b>Total PS</b>									<b>64,825</b>



## APPENDIX B. Estimates of Pacific Halibut Caught in Canada

Table 10. Number of boats, anglers, and halibut caught by anglers fishing and landing halibut into Neah Bay from Canadian waters. The port of Neah Bay was closed in 2020 and 2021 due to pandemic related precautions.

Year	# Boats	# Anglers	# Halibut
2022	97	239	168
2021			
2020			
2019	233	653	343
2018	169	419	245
2017	230	608	304
2016	254	648	434
2015	295	797	629
2014	390	1,107	690



## APPENDIX C. 2023 Recommended Recreational Season Structure

The Council-recommended changes for Washington recreational halibut fisheries are detailed in the report provided by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) in [Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental WDFW Report 1](#), and **included adding Tuesday, May 30** to the season dates for the South Coast subarea (Marine Area 2). These changes apply to Sections 6.9 and 6.10 of the CSP and include:

1. For all Washington subareas – allow halibut fishing up to seven days per week in August and September.
2. Puget Sound subarea (Marine Areas 5 – 10) - allow halibut fishing in the Puget Sound subarea up to 5 days per week, Thursday through Monday, during April and May, and up to 7 days per week during June, August, and September.

These recommended changes for Washington subareas are reflected in the following recommended 2023 season structure, including, for all subareas, that if quota remains after June 30, consider August and September dates up to seven days per week.

### *Puget Sound Subarea*

Marine Areas 5, 6 - 10

April 6 through May 22, five days per week, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday  
Memorial Day weekend, open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, May 26, 27, and 28

June 1 through June 30, seven days per week

### *North Coast Subarea*

Marine Areas 3 - 4

May 4 through May 20, two days per week, Thursday and Saturday

Memorial Day weekend, open Friday and Sunday, May 26, and May 28

June 1 through June 24, two days per week, Thursday and Saturday, and Thursday, June 29

### *South Coast Subarea*

Marine Area 2

May 4 through May 23, three days per week, Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

Memorial Day weekend, open Thursday, May 25, and Tuesday, May 30

If sufficient quota remains, the following open dates would be considered depending on available quota: June 15, 18, 22, 25

### *Columbia River Subarea:*

Marine Area 1

May 4 through May 21, two days per week, Thursday and Sunday

Memorial Day weekend, open Thursday, May 25

June 1 through June 25, open two days per week, Thursday and Sunday, and Thursday, June 29





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