

California Fish and Game Commission
Executive Director Sonke Mastrup's Talking Points Regarding Pacific Halibut
Pacific Fishery Management Council Meeting
March 10, 2014

- We appreciate the IPHC's extension of surveys south to 40 degrees north and we look forward to the planned expansion this year to 39 degrees north, including the depth additions.
- The significant expansions of Area 2A bottom area surveyed (16% in 2013 and another 5% planned in 2014) logically supports an argument that further discussions about modifications to the Catch Sharing Plan is appropriate.
- Under the current plan, California will be allocated less than 1% of Area 2A allocation while contributing up to 18% of the total bottom habitat and possibly biomass that will be surveyed in Area 2A by the end of 2014.
- It is our expectation that as we develop a better understanding of Pacific Halibut in the southern end of Area 2A, we can engage in a process to re-evaluate the catch sharing plan for this area beginning with the June council meeting.
- In addition, we are working to improve delivery and consistency of our Pacific Halibut regulations by entertaining an auto-conformance process to bring federal regulations into state waters in a timely fashion.