

Attachment 2: Pacific Halibut Public Meeting Summary and Season Options

Public Meeting Summary

Following the International Pacific Halibut Commission's adoption of the 2A Catch Sharing Plan in late January 2015, and setting the total allowable catch which provided the 2015 California recreational quota, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) held a public meeting on February 4, 2015 in Eureka, California. The purpose of the meeting was to review preliminary catch estimates from the 2014 recreational fishery and to receive public input on potential season dates for the 2015 fishery in order to stay within the newly established quota. The Department planned to use the input from the public meeting to determine a season structure to recommend to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for setting federal regulations for 2015. The goal was to determine how to restructure the 2015 season in a manner that would balance a variety of needs from various geographic areas and angling interests (i.e., Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel [CPFV] operators and private anglers). Approximately 14 verbal comments were received from the public meeting and are addressed in Attachment 1 to the Final Statement of Reasons. Commenters included private anglers, fishing association groups, CPFV owners/operators, fish business representatives, and tribal interests. One fishing association group (Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers; HASA) conducted an independent survey which resulted in approximately 89 responses, and the results were summarized and presented at the meeting, then later at the Fish and Game Commission meeting in February. In addition, a Department online survey and email correspondence were also used to solicit further input.

Season Options

Several season structure options were presented by the Department to the public for their input at the February 4, 2015 public meeting, and then two additional options were submitted to meeting attendees for their input after the public meeting. Additionally, HASA developed several season options and submitted those options for consideration by the Department and the Commission. Table 1, below, summarizes the season options which were presented and discussed. The season structure the Department ultimately recommended to NMFS, and which was published in the federal register, was the HASA Option 8.

Table 1. Pacific halibut 2015 season date options presented to the public for input.

Option	Season Dates
CDFW Option 1	Status quo: May 1 – July 31, September 1 – October 31
CDFW Option 2	May 1-31, July 1-31, September 1 – October 31
CDFW Option 3	May 1-15, June 1-15, July 1-15, August 1-15, September 1-15, October 1-31
CDFW Option 4	May 1-31, July 1-15, August 16 – October 31
CDFW Option 5	May 1-14, June 27 - July 12, August 15 – October 31
CDFW Option 6	May 1 – July 15, September 1 – October 31
CDFW Option A	May 1-15, June 1-15, July 1-15, August 1 – October 31
CDFW Option B	May 1-15, June 24 - July 15, August 8 – October 31

Amendments to T.14 Sections 28.20 and 28.95

Option	Season Dates
HASA Option 1b	May 1-7, May 15-21, June 1-7, June 15-21, July 1-7, July 15-21, August 1-7, August 15-21, September 1 – October 31
HASA Option 8	May 1-15, June 1-15, July 1-15, August 1-15, September 1 – October 31