

Exhibit B: Pacific Halibut



Photo from www.conservefish.org

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

April 23, 2021

Christian Heath, Marine Resources Program

Outline

- **Issue 1. Sport and commercial Pacific halibut fisheries in 2021**
 - Adopt quotas, season dates and management measures for sport and commercial Pacific halibut fisheries in 2021.



Halibut Management Partners



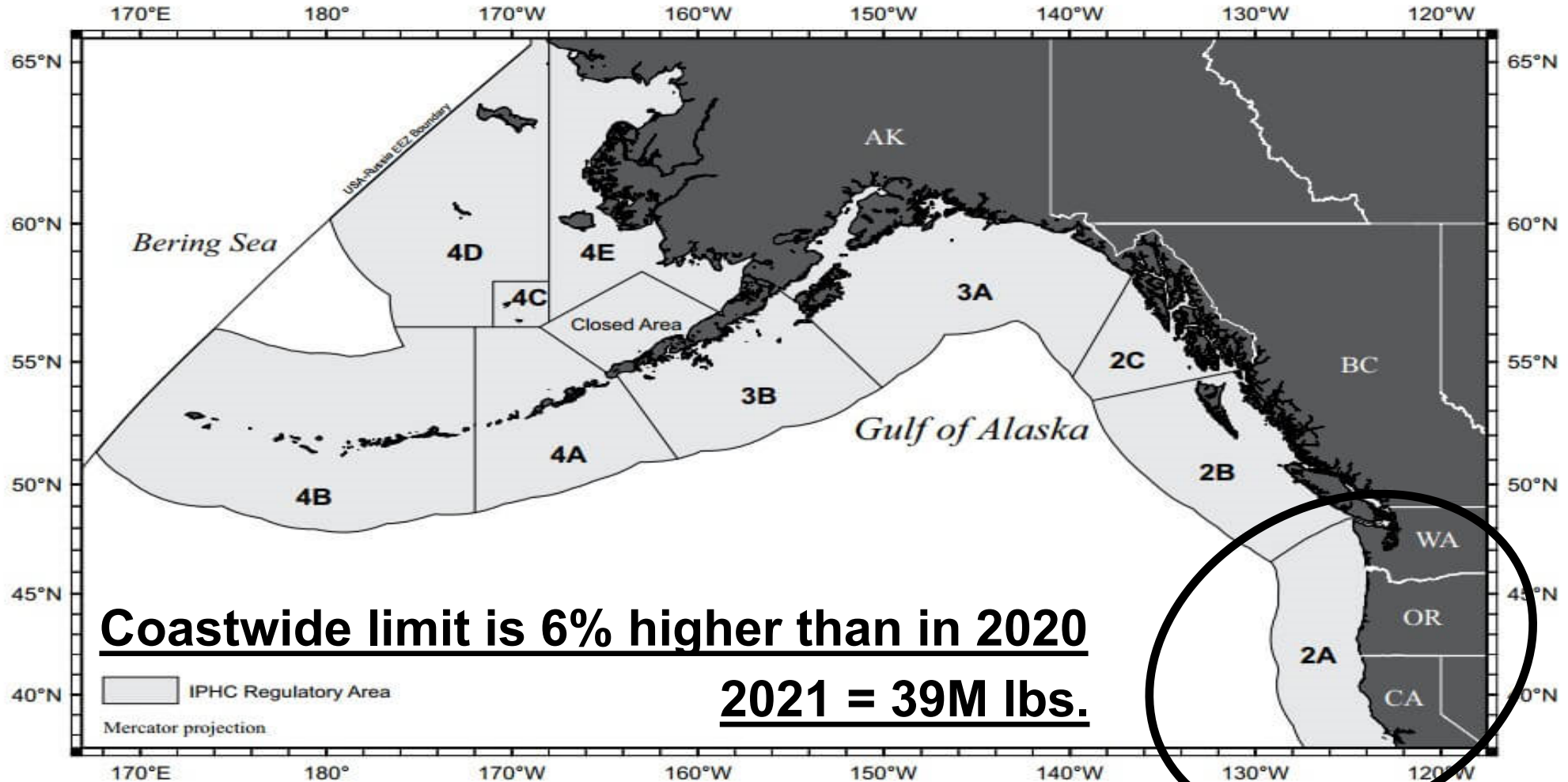
INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC



HALIBUT COMMISSION

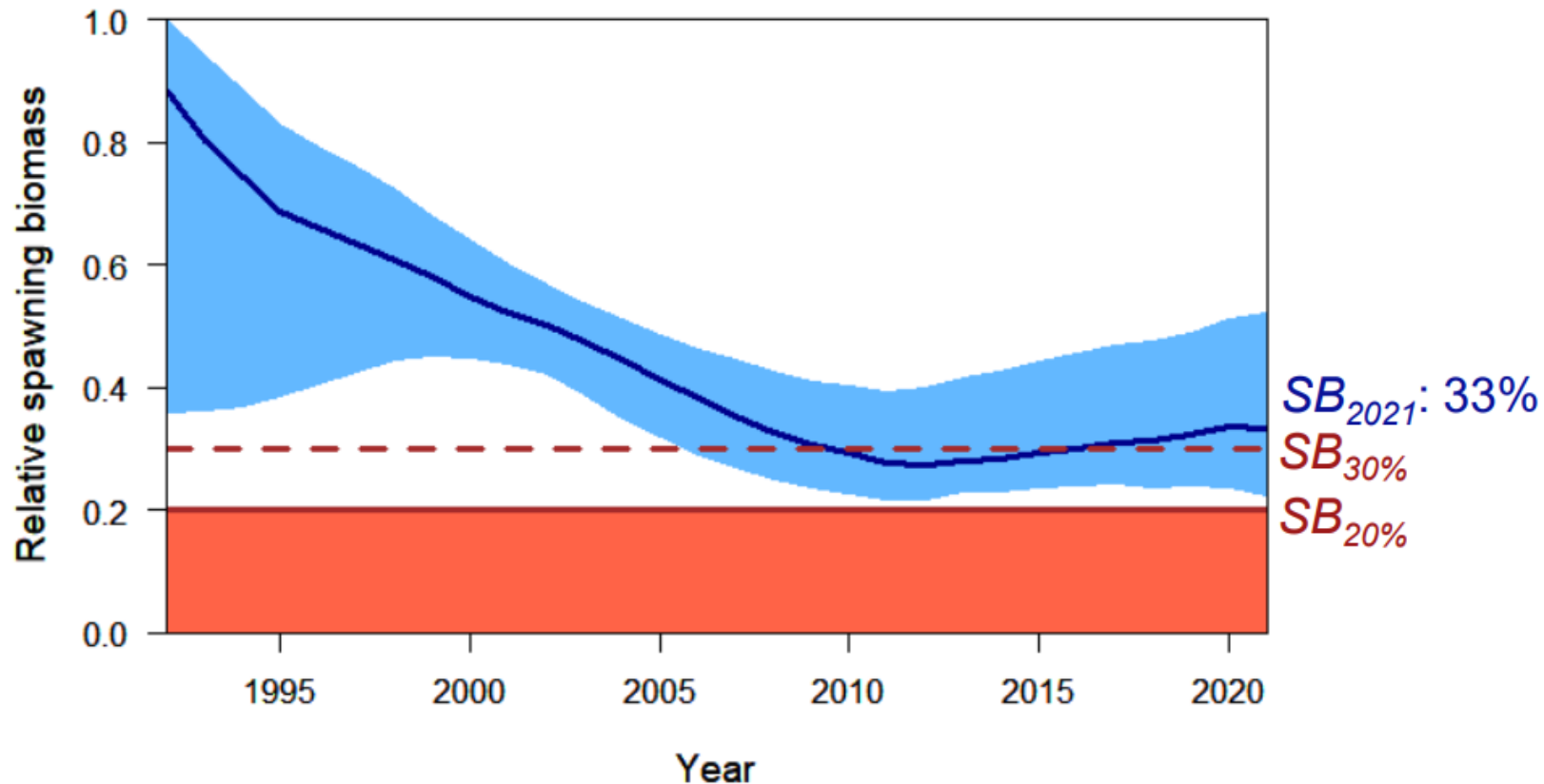


IPHC Regulatory Areas



2020 Stock Assessment

Relative spawning biomass



Current coastwide spawning biomass estimate is 33% of unfished

Below 30% trigger, IPHC's management procedure calls for reduced harvest rate

The Biology

- Long lived species
- Sexually mature at about age 10
- Spawn off the coast of Alaska and BC
- Opportunistic feeders

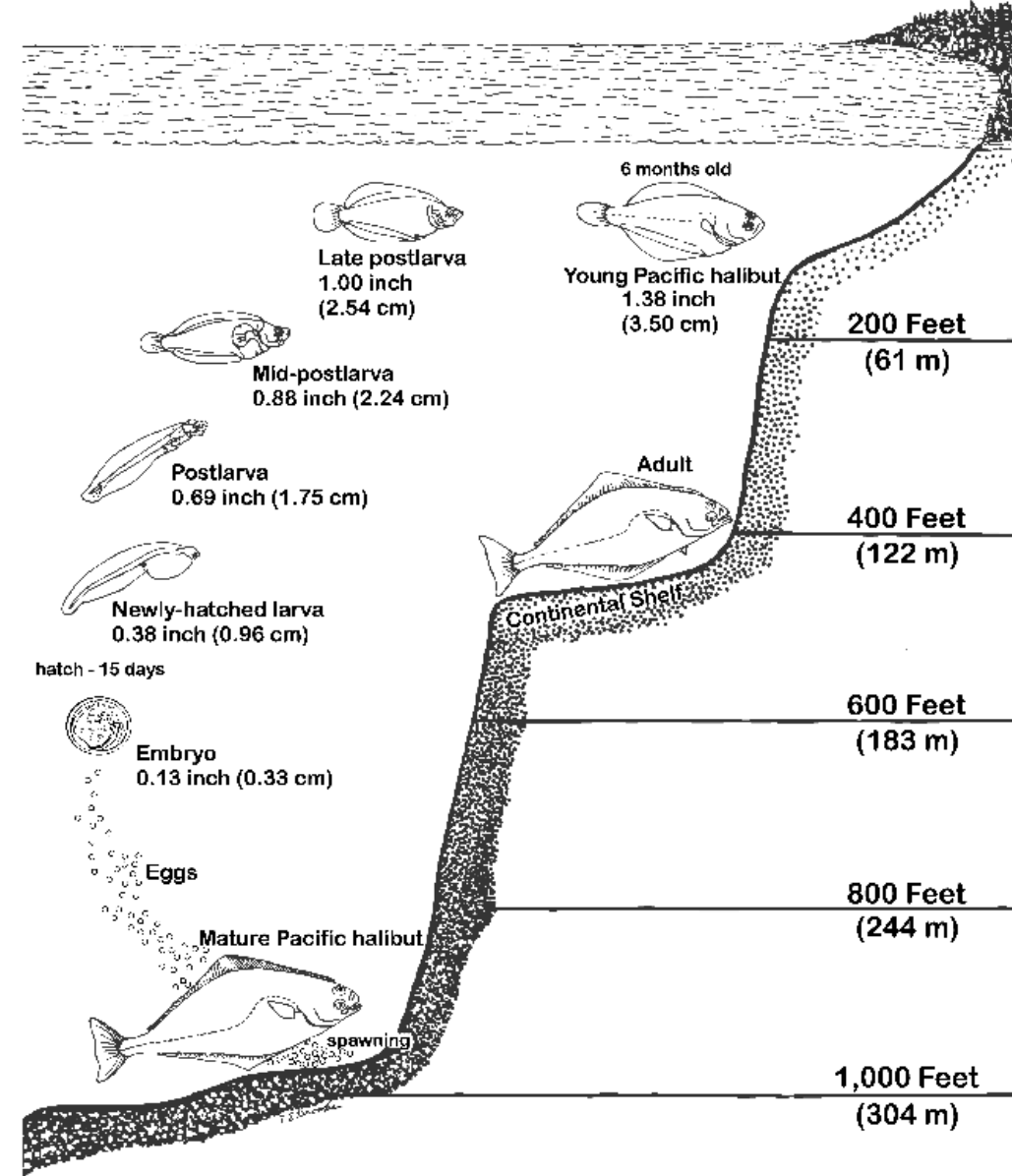


Figure 2. Life cycle of Pacific halibut



Spawning Grounds & Migration Patterns

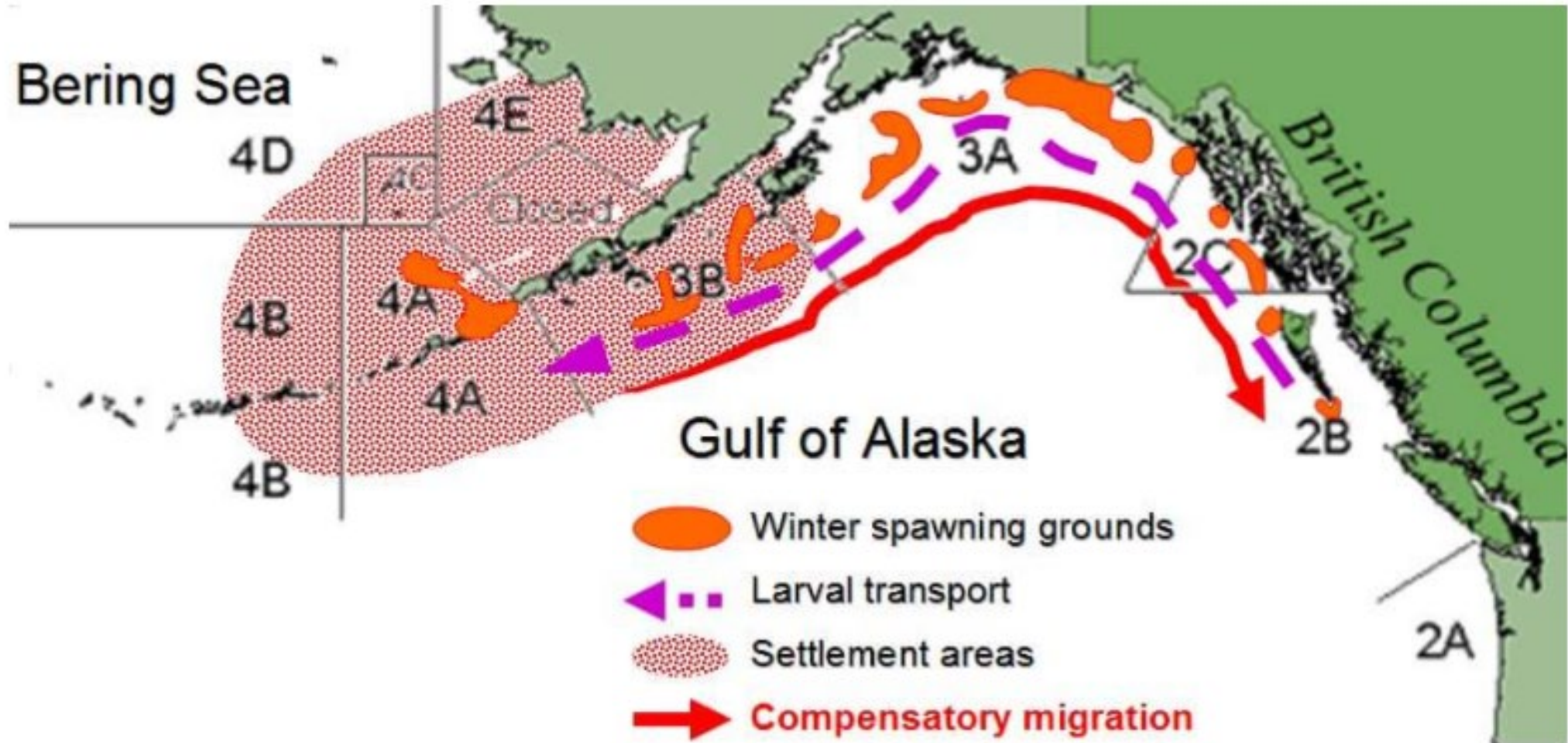
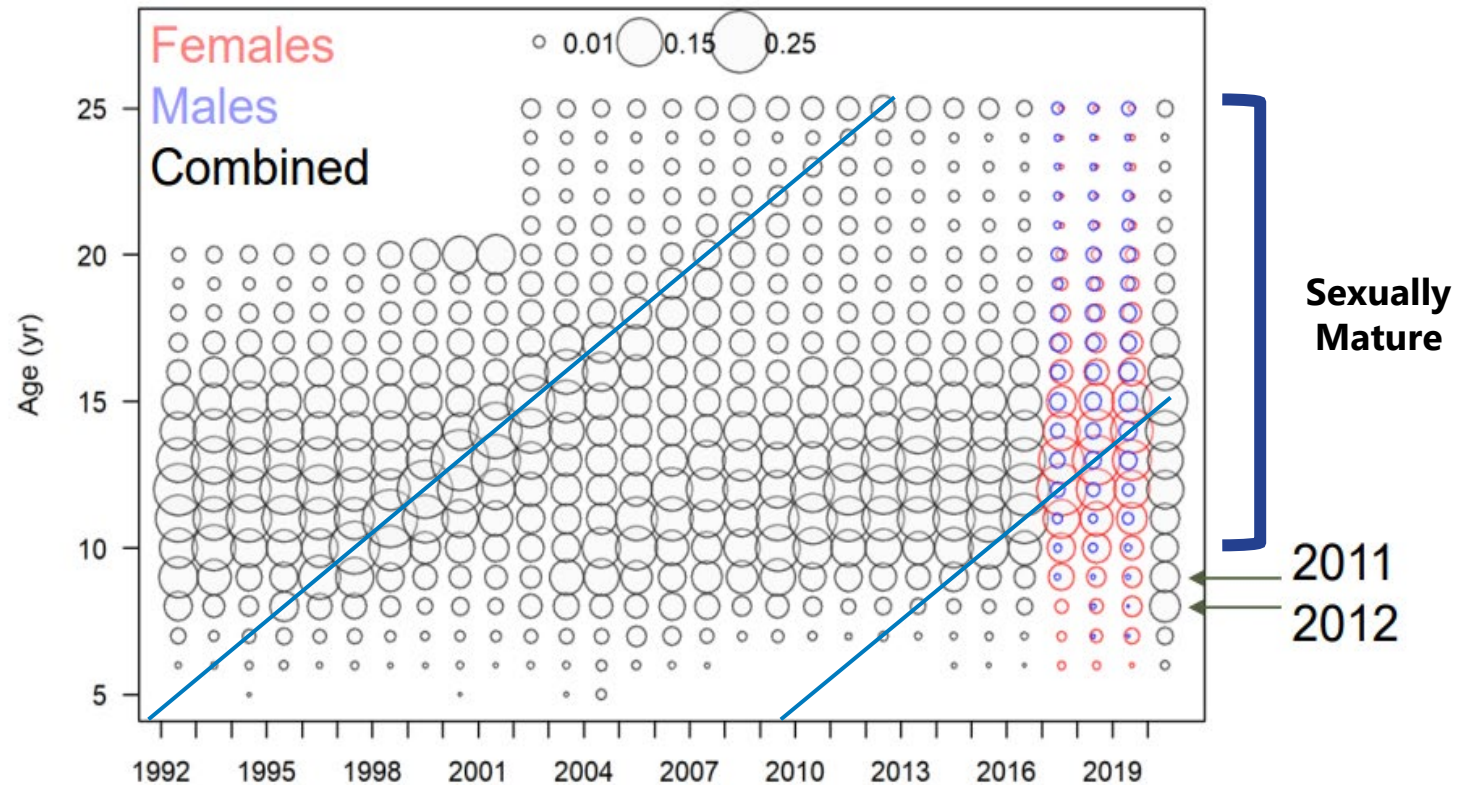


Figure 1. Conceptual model of Pacific halibut migration patterns

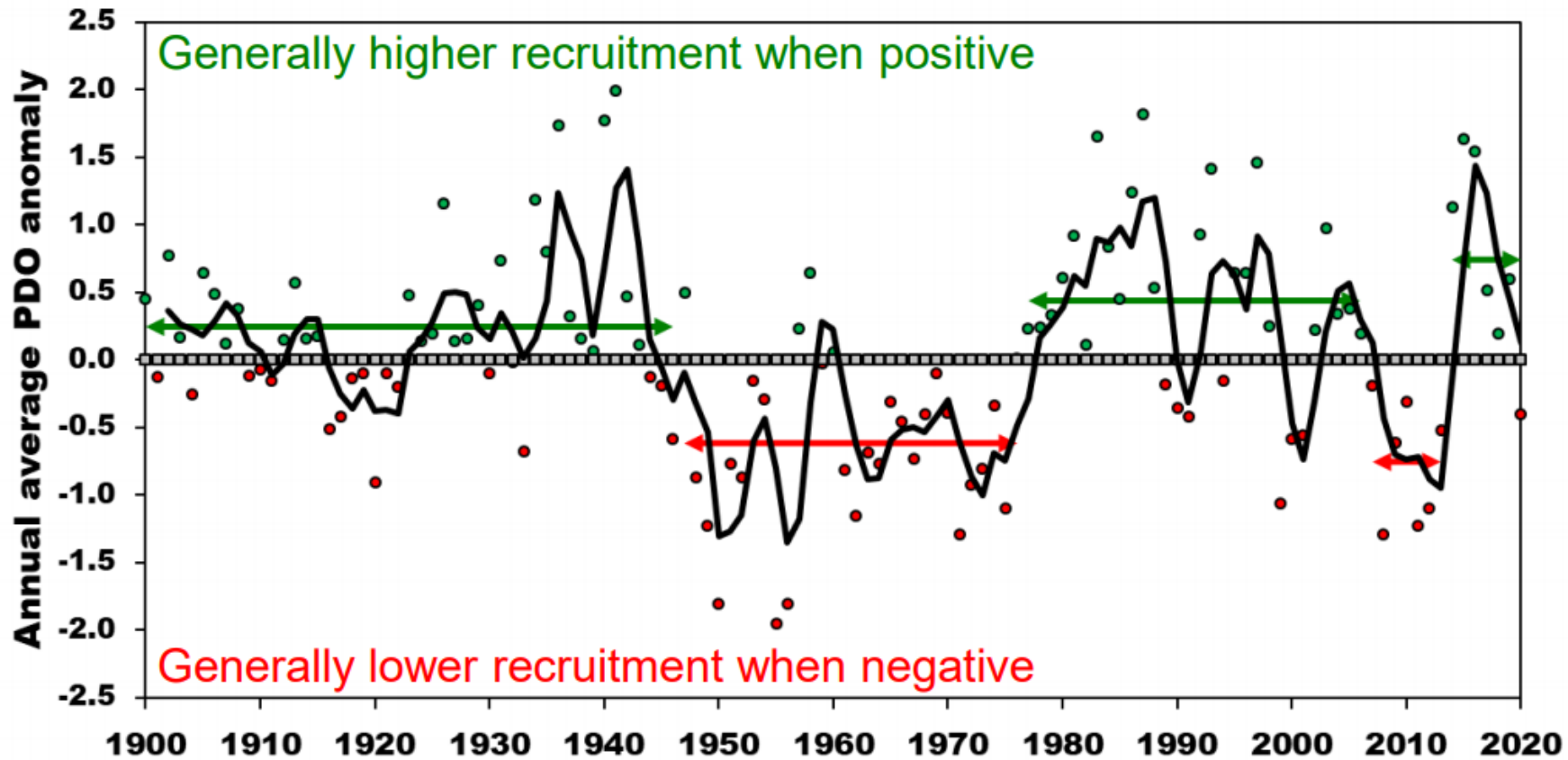
Growth and Recruitment to the Fishery

Recent fishery ages



Environmental Factors

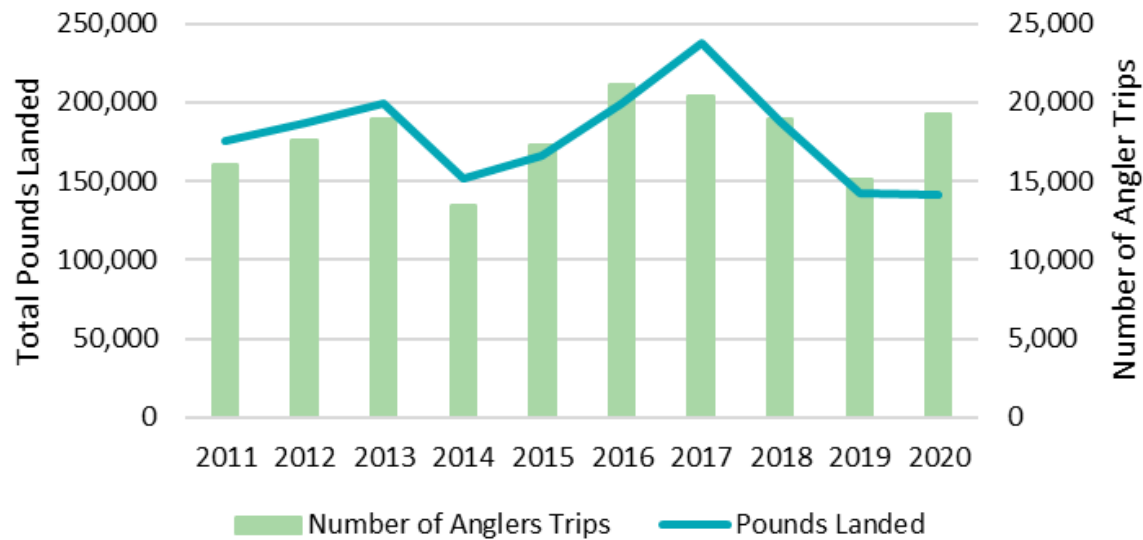
Ecosystem conditions: Pacific Decadal Oscillation



Oregon Halibut Fisheries

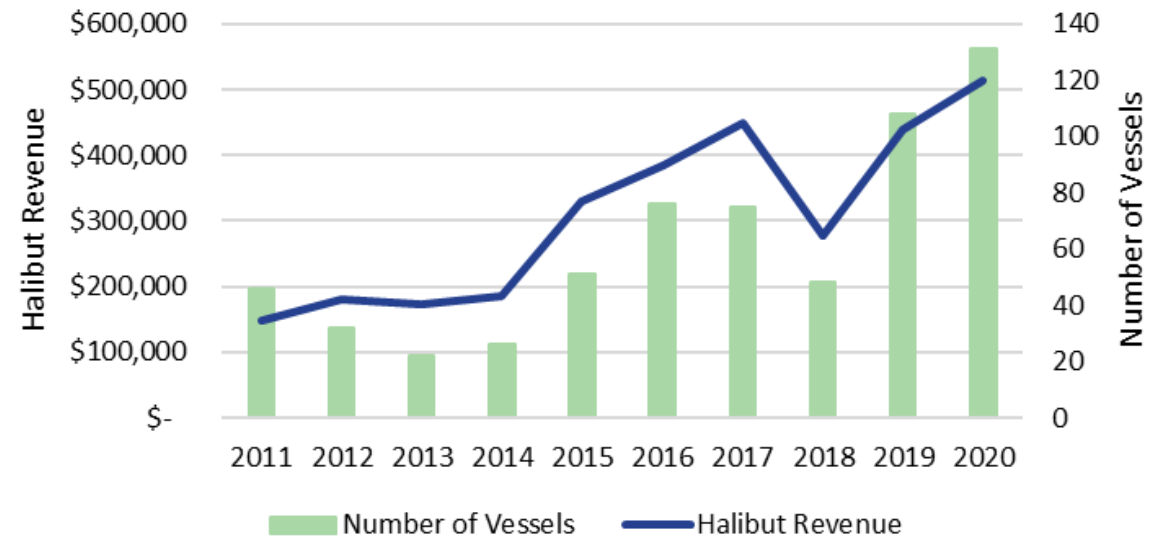
Sport Halibut:

Total Pounds Landed and Number of Angler Trips

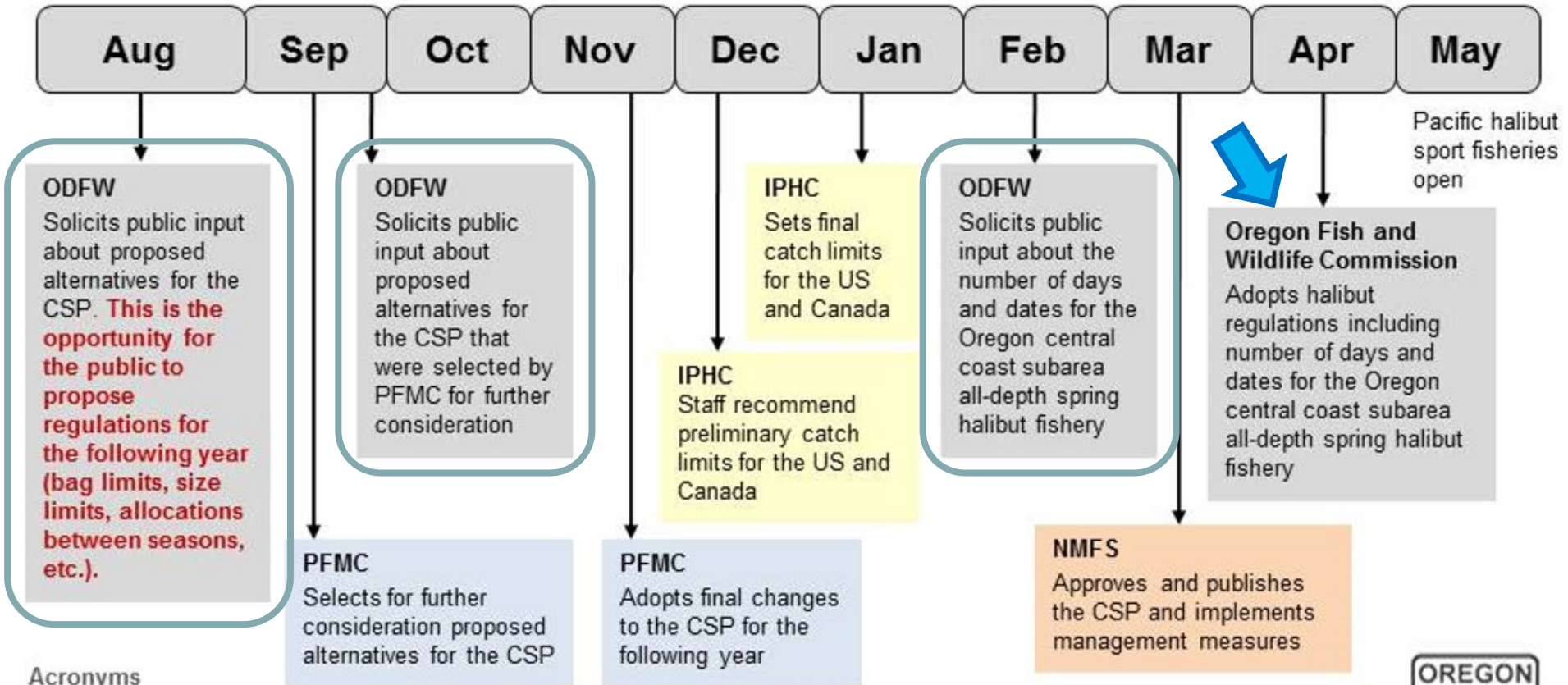


Oregon Directed Commercial Halibut:

Revenue (left axis) and Vessel Count (right axis)



Timeline of the Process



Acronyms

- CSP Catch Sharing Plan
- IPHC International Pacific Halibut Commission
- NMFS National Marine Fisheries Service
- ODFW Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- PFMC Pacific Fishery Management Council



March 2015

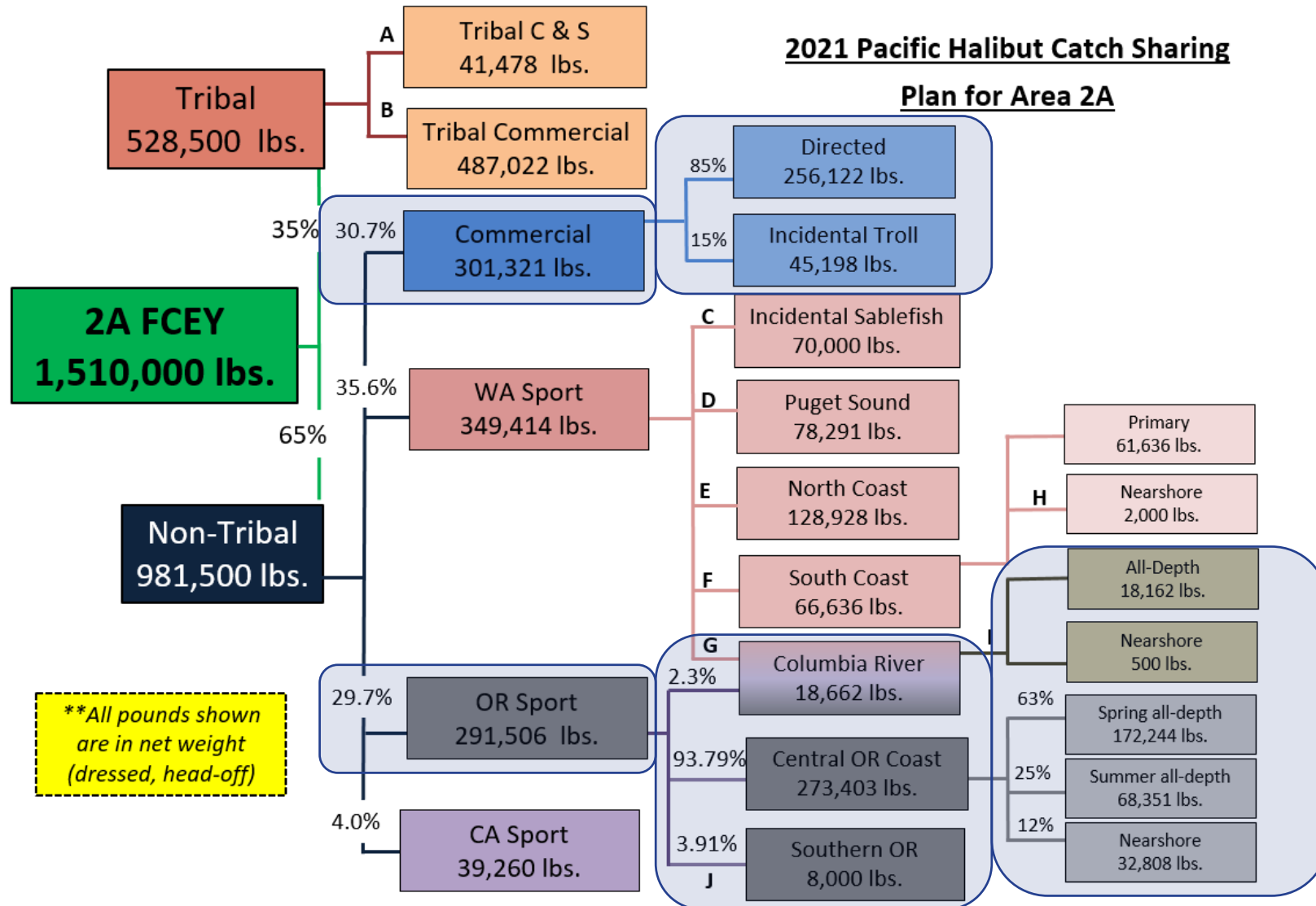


Area 2A Catch Limit

- IPHC Commissioners approved 1,510,000 lbs.
 - For 4 years (2019-2022)
 - Unless a significant conservation concern arises
 - Provides some stability for Area 2A
 - Better meets Treaty obligations with WA Tribes



Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan (CSP)



Oregon Sport Halibut Allocations

		2019	2020	2021
Area 2A Allocation		1,500,000	1,500,000	1,510,000
Oregon Sport Allocation		289,575	289,575	291,506
Columbia River	All-Depth	14,627	17,949	18,662
	Nearshore	500	500	500
Central Oregon Coast	Spring All-Depth	171,103	171,103	172,244
	Summer All-Depth	67,989	67,989	68,351
	Nearshore	32,591	32,591	32,808
Southern Oregon		11,322	8,000	8,000

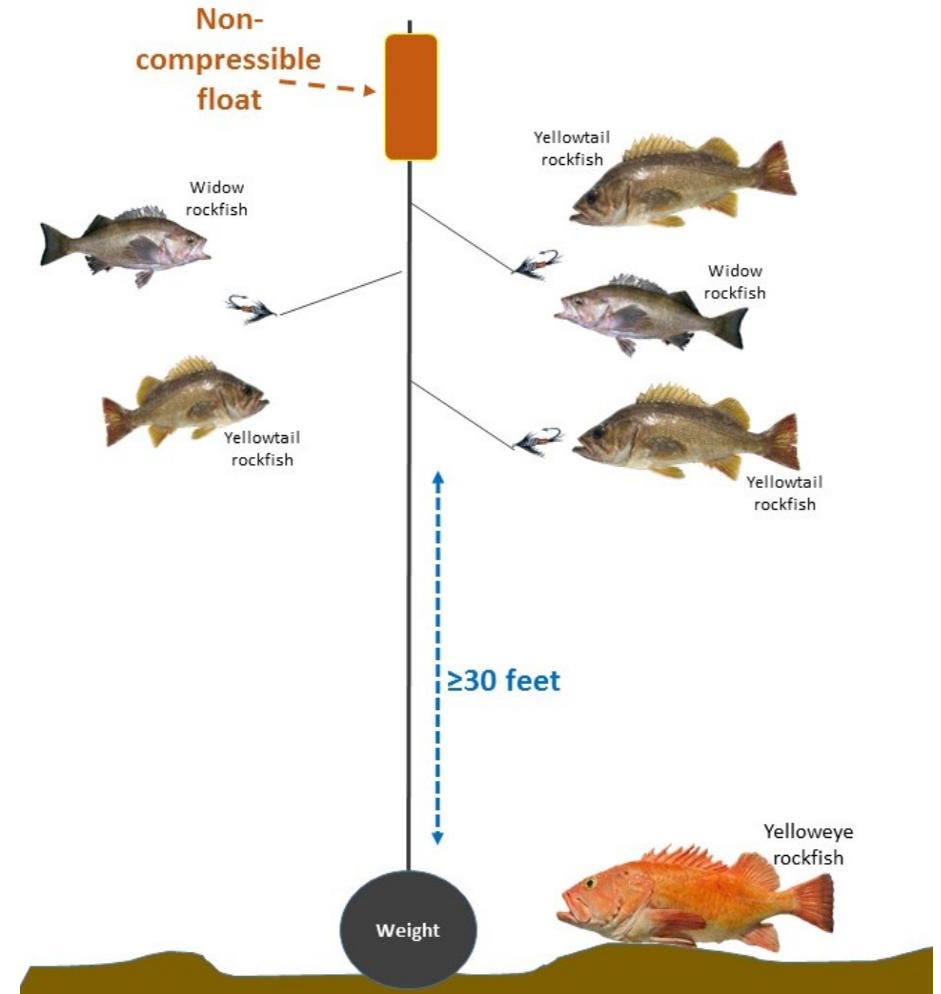
Allocations in pounds (lbs.)



Changes to the Catch Sharing Plan

More opportunity:

- Longleader gear fishing allowed with all-depth halibut on the same trip
 - During Jun, Jul & Aug in 2021
 - Months when bottomfish fishery has depth restriction
 - Once longleader species are retained, no further halibut fishing may occur
 - Lingcod may not be retained



Sport Fishing Seasons



Columbia River Subarea

Columbia River Subarea dates set in CSP:

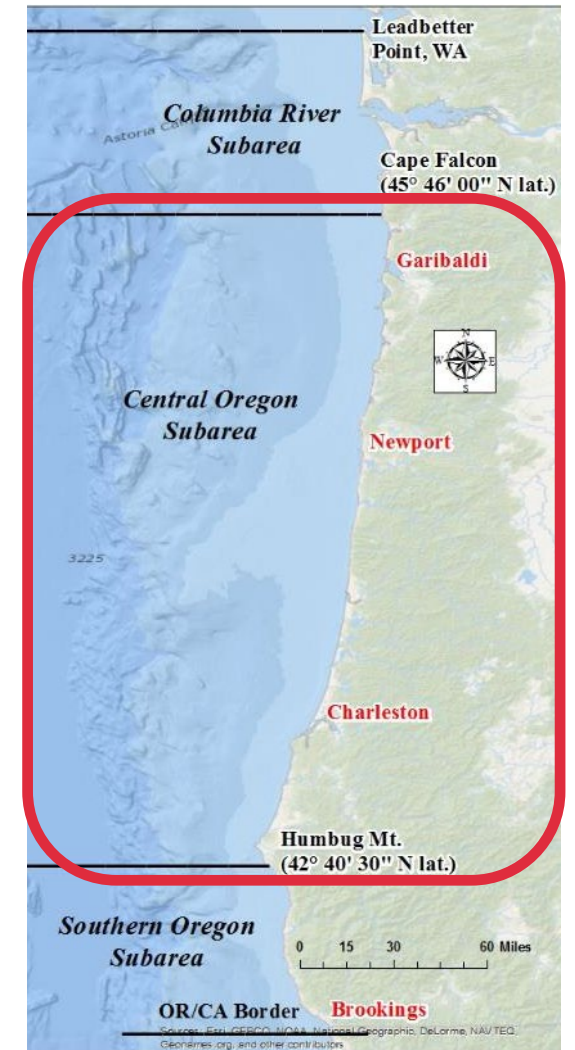
- Management shared with WDFW
- All-depth fishing days: May 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and then every Sunday & Thursday
- Nearshore season: May 10 – Sept. 30
 - Every Monday-Wednesday
- Both seasons end on Sep 30 or when quota is attained



Central Oregon Coast Subarea

Spring all-depth dates recommended annually by ODFW:

- Use, but don't go over, Spring quota
- Avoid strong negative tides (safety reasons)
- Staff recommended dates:
 - May 13-15, 20-22, June 3-5, 10-12, 17-19 and July 1-3.
 - Back-up dates if there is enough quota remaining: July 15-17, 29-31.



Central Oregon Coast Subarea

Summer all-depth season set in CSP:

- Opens 1st Thursday or Friday in August
- Open every other Friday and Saturday until Oct. 31 or quota attainment
- Thursdays added if season opens with >60,000 lbs.

Nearshore season set in CSP:

- Open May 1 – October 31, 7 days per week, or until quota attainment.



Southern Oregon Subarea

Southern Oregon Subarea season set in CSP:

- Opens May 1, 7 days per week until October 31.
- Season closes if quota is attained



Commercial Fisheries



Changes to Commercial Fishery

2019:

- 10-hour openers
- Wednesdays only
- IPHC indicated their intent to move to a different season structure

2020:

- 3-day (58 hr.) openers
- Mon-Wed
- Majority of stakeholders who provided input supported a change from the 10-hour openers

2021:

- 3-day (58 hr.) openers
- Tue-Thurs
- First opener:
 - June 22 (8AM) to June 24 (6PM)
- First back-up:
 - July 6 – July 8



Staff Recommendations

Adopt recommendations as shown in Attachment 1

Adopt the federal rules for Pacific halibut sport and commercial fisheries by reference, which include:

1. Harvest levels
2. The 2021 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan
3. Sport season dates
4. Commercial opening dates



Thank You.

Questions?

Marine Resources Program
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

2040 SE Marine Science Drive
Newport, OR 97365
(541) 867-4741

Christian Heath

Christian.t.heath@state.or.us

Maggie Sommer

Maggie.Sommer@state.or.us

