



Marine Resources

7th Annual Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Marine Resources Program Sport Halibut Newsletter

April 2026

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High Landings but Small, Young Fish

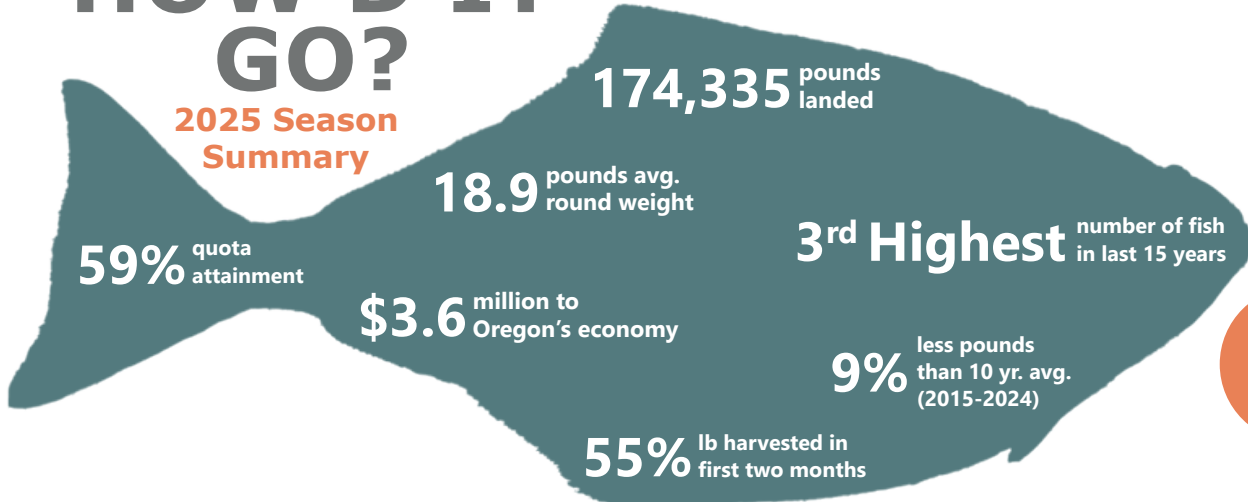
The 2025 recreational (sport) Pacific halibut (halibut) season had a quota of 295,367 pounds net weight (dressed, head-on), of which approximately 59 percent was landed. Net weight is how the quota is allocated and tracked.

The month of May had the highest landings with around 53,000 pounds landed (30 percent of the total landed) – a productive start to the season. In June, landings were just under 43,000 pounds (25 percent of the total). There were about 12,200 halibut landed in 2025, approximately 2,300 fish less than in 2024.

Newport had the highest halibut landings of any port in Oregon for 2025, with over 64 percent of the total weight (112,200 pounds). Charleston landed just under seven percent of the total weight (11,400 pounds). Depoe Bay (10,600 pounds) and Winchester Bay (11,000 pounds) each landed over six percent of the total weight. All other ports had landings under 10,000 pounds each. *(cont'd on p. 2)*

HOW'D IT GO?

2025 Season Summary



Pounds Landed

1% Astoria

3% Garibaldi/Pacific City

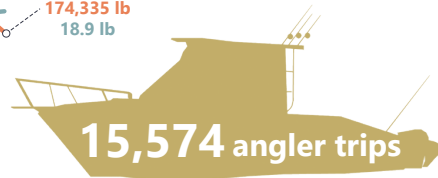
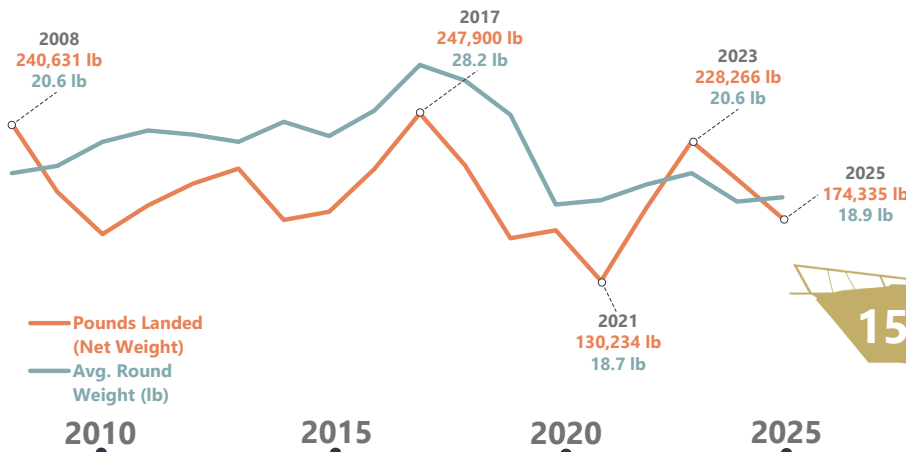
70% Depoe Bay/Newport

11% Florence/Winchester Bay

7% Charleston

5% Bandon

3% Gold Beach/Brookings



2025 Season Summary (cont'd)

Landings decreased again in 2025, with 174,300 pounds landed (Figure 1). Landings were nine percent less than the ten-year average (2015-2024). There were about 15,600 halibut angler trips this year, roughly 2,100 fewer trips than in 2024.

The average weight of all sport halibut landings in 2025 was 18.9 pounds round weight (whole fish). While this was slightly higher than the average round weight of 18.6 pounds in 2024, it was under the average round weight of 20.6 pounds in 2023 and 19.8 pounds in 2022. This indicates that anglers are catching smaller, younger fish compared to 2022 and 2023. See page 6 for more information.

The 2025 recreational Pacific halibut season generated approximately \$3.6 million to Oregon's economy. See page 5 for more info.

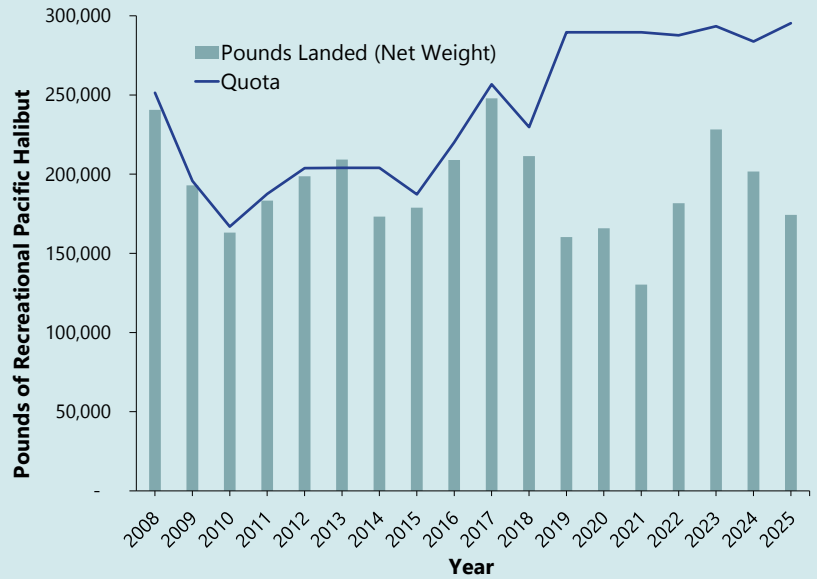
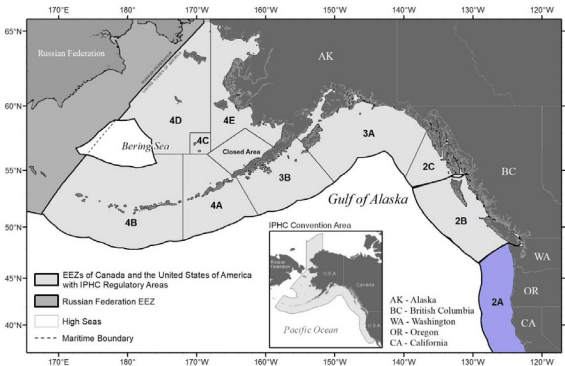


Figure 1: Pounds of sport halibut landed in Oregon and quota, 2008-2025.

Oregon Subareas and Allocations



Pacific halibut range from northern California through British Columbia and Alaska to Russia. Fisheries for halibut in Oregon, Washington, and California are managed collaboratively between the three states, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries as Regulatory Area 2A (Figure 2). This area accounts for about four percent of the biomass of halibut in the Eastern North Pacific.

Figure 2: Map of the IPHC Convention Area with Area 2A filled in purple.

Oregon's recreational fisheries receive 29.7 percent of Regulatory Area 2A's non-tribal allocation. In 2025, this was 295,367 pounds of halibut. This fishery is managed in three subareas: Columbia River, Central Oregon Coast, and Southern Oregon. Each subarea gets a certain amount of quota, as shown in Figure 3. In two of the subareas, the quota is divided based on depth and season (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Summary of Oregon's 2025 recreational halibut effort and landings by subarea and season.

Subarea	Season	Angler Trips	Halibut Harvested	Average Weight (net weight lb)	Approximate Average Weight (round pounds)	Total Pounds (net weight)
Columbia River (Oregon only)	Nearshore	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
	All-Depth	284	207	11.4	15.2	2,365
Central Oregon Coast	Nearshore*	0	0	N/A	N/A	0
	Spring All-Depth	10,717	9,652	13.7	18.3	132,517
	Summer All-Depth	3,102	2,080	16.4	21.9	34,092
Southern Oregon		1,471	297	18.0	24.0	5,360
Oregon Total		15,574	12,236	14.2	18.9	174,335

* The nearshore fishery was never open as the Central Oregon Coast was open at all-depths for the entire season.

Leadbetter Point, WA

Columbia River
19,087 lb

Cape Falcon

Central Coast
277,024 lb

Humbog Mountain

Southern Oregon
8,000 lb

OR/CA Border

Figure 3: Oregon's sport halibut subareas and 2025 allocations.

Columbia River Subarea

The Columbia River subarea is jointly managed with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This subarea's quota is split between the nearshore and all-depth fisheries.

Nearshore

The nearshore fishery was allocated 500 pounds of the quota. This allows anglers fishing for other species to keep halibut when the all-depth halibut fishery is not open. There were no landings into Oregon or Washington ports in 2025. The highest estimated pounds landed in the nearshore fishery was about 220 pounds in 2019, but in each of the last five years landings have been 50 pounds or less. If effort and landings increase, the quota can be adjusted through the annual Catch Sharing Plan process, discussed on page [7](#).

All-Depth

This fishery received 19,087 pounds of quota. The fishery was open Thursday, Friday, and Sunday from May 1 through June 30 as well as June 9, 10, 16, 17, and 30 (Mondays and Tuesdays). The daily bag limit was one halibut per angler. Fishing started off steady, and by the end of June, about 17,000 pounds had been landed (89 percent of the quota).

Enough of the quota remained in the Columbia River to re-open this fishery from August 17 through September 30, every Sunday through Friday (closed on Saturdays). During August and September, only 270 pounds were landed. In total, the all-depth fishery landed just under 17,300 pounds, falling about 1,800 pounds shy of the quota.

Central Oregon Coast Subarea

This subarea's quota is split between the spring all-depth, summer all-depth, and nearshore fisheries.



Picture: An angler with their halibut.
Photo courtesy of Christina Mattos.

Spring All-Depth

This fishery was open May 1 through July 31, seven days per week, with a two-fish bag limit and an initial quota of 207,768 pounds.

Total landings were approximately 132,500 pounds, four percent less than what was landed in 2024. Average weekly landings were about 9,500 pounds, and the last week of June had the highest weekly landings of the season at nearly 19,600 pounds of halibut. The majority of the catch came from Newport where 72 percent of the pounds were landed. Depoe Bay saw eight percent of the pounds landed, and the other ports each saw six percent or less.

Summer All-Depth

This fishery was open seven days per week beginning August 1 with an initial quota of 59,256 pounds. Effort and catches were steady throughout August but then dropped off. Weather and ocean conditions remained good through mid-October, though access to coho salmon and albacore tuna most likely drew anglers away from all-depth halibut fishing.

Halibut fishing closed by regulation on October 31 with about 34,100 pounds landed, about 17,800 pounds less than in 2024.

Again, Newport had the majority (48 percent) of the pounds landed. Florence had 22 percent of the pounds landed, Winchester Bay had 10 percent of the pounds landed, and the other ports each saw less than 10 percent.

Nearshore

This fishery was not utilized in 2025 since halibut fishing was open at all-depths seven days per week for the duration of the spring and summer seasons. The nearshore fishery exists as part of the all-depth halibut fishery when halibut fishing is open at all-depths, and all landings count against the all-depth quota rather than the nearshore quota.

Southern Oregon Subarea

Like the Central Oregon Coast subarea, this fishery opened May 1, seven days per week, with a two-fish bag limit and was not limited to any depth restriction. The quota was 8,000 pounds. Landings averaged around 108 pounds per week through June. In early July, halibut effort and landings increased, averaging about 380 pounds per week through Labor Day weekend. Total landings were just over 5,300 pounds, 3,000 pounds less than last year's landings.

Enforcement

Three agencies patrol on land and at sea to enforce marine fishing regulations: the Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Wildlife Division and specifically the Marine Fisheries Team, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement. Regulations keep fisheries sustainable, and enforcement is a necessary piece of fisheries management.

Common issues cited are fishing without a license, not immediately tagging landed Pacific halibut or salmon, exceeding the bag limit, keeping prohibited species (such as yelloweye or quillback rockfishes), and fishing in closed areas such as Marine Reserves or the Stonewall Bank Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA).

2025 OSP Halibut Contacts and Stories



Patrol Highlights Tag Issues and Good Practices

During a boat patrol near the North and South Rock Pile and the Stonewall Bank YRCA, over 50 anglers were contacted with three citations issued for Fail to Validate Harvest Tag. Several warnings were issued for No Valid License/Tag in Possession and Operating Without Valid Certificate of Registration. While on patrol, the successful use of a descending device for a yelloweye rockfish was observed.

"We Must Have Drifted": YRCA Violation Leads to Citations

A Trooper observed a boat well inside the boundary of Stonewall Bank YRCA with individuals moving around the vessel. As the Trooper pulled next to the boat the individuals on board were slumped over in their chairs. The individuals "woke up" and stated they must have fallen asleep. They were asked about the two halibut on the boat. One angler had not tagged his halibut as he stated the licensing app was not working. The angler was asked to validate his tag, and the app worked perfectly. The other angler had all info on his paper tag other than the length of the fish. During the conversation, one of the anglers looked at the GPS and stated, "Oh man, we are inside Stonewall. We must have drifted in when we fell asleep." The two males showed the Trooper two timestamped waypoints on their GPS outside of the YRCA where they stated they had caught the halibut. The two were cited for Angling Prohibited Area: Inside the YRCA and warned for Failure to Immediately Validate Combined Angling Tag.



Two-Rod Trouble Off Brookings

During an ocean patrol out of Brookings, a halibut angler was found to be angling with two poles. The angler was issued a citation for Angling with More Than One Rod/Line.

Surprise Catch Mid-Inspection

While a Trooper was on board a recreational halibut boat inspecting licenses, one of the anglers caught his first halibut – really great to see!

Picture: Angler's first halibut. Photo courtesy of OSP's Marine Fisheries Team.

Sport Pacific Halibut Monitoring

ODFW's Marine Resources Program (MRP) has a monitoring program where Oregon Recreational Boat Survey (ORBS) port samplers collect information on the sport halibut fishery to inform management recommendations.

ORBS port samplers estimate the total effort by counting the number of ocean sport boat trips by the type of boat (i.e., charter or private vessels).



Samplers randomly conduct dockside boat interviews and collect information on trip target species, total catch, number of anglers on the boat, general fishing location, and the number of released fish.

Lengths are collected from a portion of the sampled catch to convert numbers of fish into weight.



2025 Monitoring Update

30 ORBS port samplers

11 ports sampled

2,028 halibut trip interviews

4,576 halibut counted

3,064 halibut bio samples

Visit www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/finfish/halibut/management.asp for more info on ORBS and the sport Pacific halibut fishery.

Economic Impact

The recreational Pacific halibut fishery contributed approximately \$3.6 million to Oregon's economy in 2025 through fishing-related costs such as gas, bait, gear, moorage, food, and hotels. This translates to about 53 full-time jobs.¹

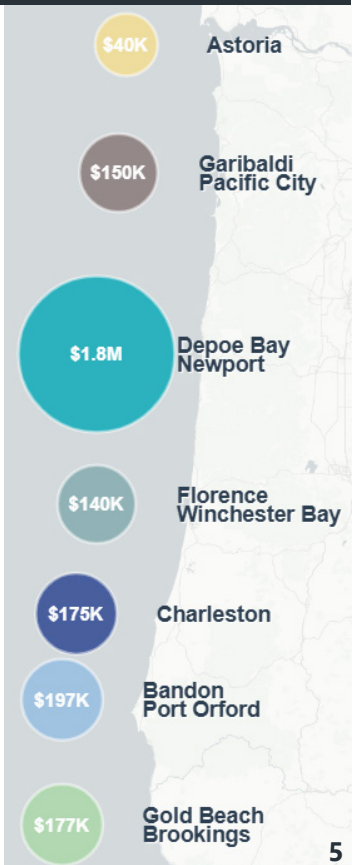
Coastal communities capture a majority of the economic benefits, accounting for 75 percent of the income generated and 94 percent of the jobs throughout the state. Newport and Depoe Bay remain the largest share of the halibut recreational activity, contributing about \$1.8 million to the coastal economy (Figure 4).²

Figure 4 (right): Approximate coastal economic contribution from sport halibut anglers by port in 2025.²

Picture (left): Pacific halibut caught out of Newport. Photo courtesy of John Harrison.

¹Economic impact includes all wages and salaries, while jobs represent estimated positions supported by fisheries. The estimates are produced using NOAA Input-Output Model for Pacific Coast Fisheries (IOPAC) multipliers from the current available data on recreational expenditures from the 2022 National Marine Recreation Expenditure Survey. Adjustments for inflation are applied using the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) gross domestic product (GDP) deflator.

²Direct coastal impacts are lower than statewide totals because some economic activity "leaks" out of coastal communities when businesses or residents purchase goods and services from outside the region.



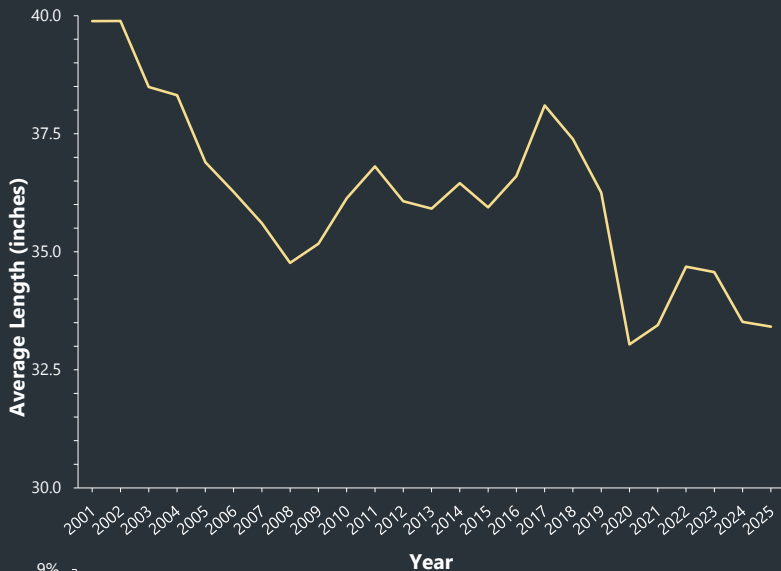
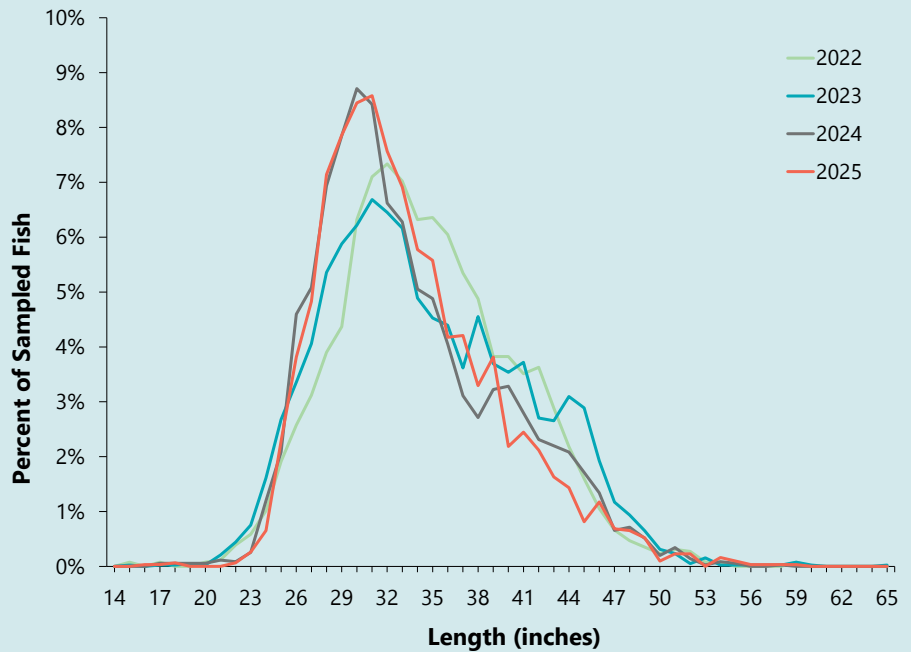
Length Frequency

In 2025, anglers caught higher numbers of “smaller” fish, ranging from 28-33 inches, as shown in Figure 5.

Previously, the trend from 2020 through 2023 showed anglers were catching larger fish each year, tracking with the growth of a large year class growing into the fishery. The 2023 IPHC annual survey showed this was the 2012 year-class, the largest since 2005.

However, the 2024 survey saw more of the 2016 year-class, and the 2025 survey was made up of the 2016 and 2017 year-classes. This means that younger and smaller halibut are being caught.

Figure 5 (right): Percent of lengths of sampled recreational halibut 2022-2025.



2025 Lengths

ORBS samplers collected length information on about 3,065 Pacific halibut in 2025. The figures on the left show the average length of sampled recreational Pacific halibut from 2001 through 2025 (Figure 6) and the length frequency distribution of sampled halibut during the 2025 recreational season (Figure 7).

These figures show that the average length of halibut caught in 2025 decreased, and higher numbers of smaller fish were caught.

The most common length of halibut that were sampled was 31 inches. The largest halibut that was sampled in 2025 was about 59 inches in total length, or about 102 pounds round weight.

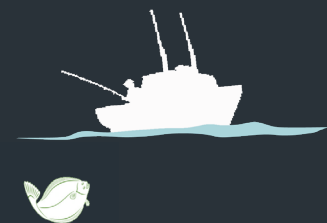
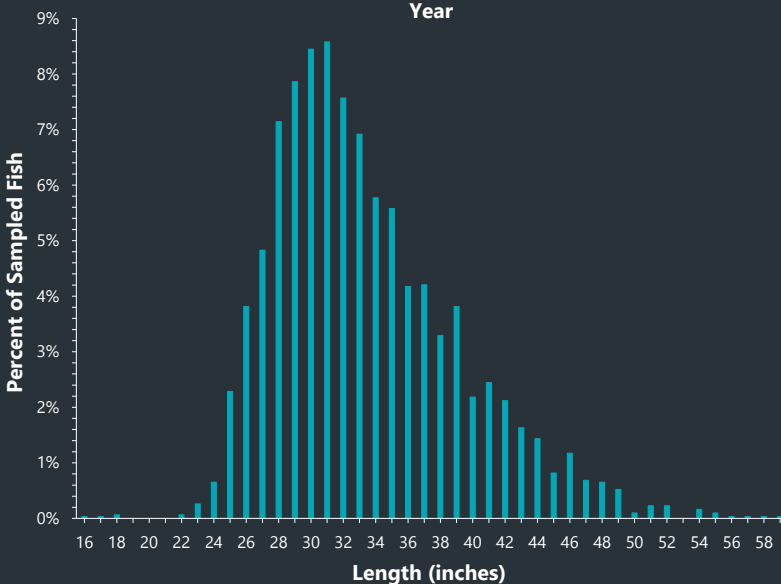


Figure 6 (top left): The average length of sampled recreational halibut from 2001 through 2025.

Figure 7 (bottom left): Length frequency distribution of sampled recreational halibut in 2025.

Pacific Halibut Management

International Pacific Halibut Commission



The [International Pacific Halibut Commission](http://www.iphc.int) (IPHC) oversees all things halibut in the Eastern North Pacific Ocean. This includes Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California. IPHC conducts research and stock assessments and sets harvest levels (allocations/quotas) for these areas including Regulatory Area 2A, which is Washington, Oregon, and California.

During the IPHC Annual Meeting in January 2026, a summary of the data and stock assessment results and stock projections were provided. The recent spawning biomass estimate was 155 million pounds, similar to that estimated during the 2024 stock assessment. Overall fishing mortality in 2025 decreased by 12 percent compared to 2024. The 2025 modeled Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) showed that the coastwide Numbers-Per-Unit-Effort decreased by two percent compared to 2024. The modeled coastwide FISS Weight-Per-Unit-Effort of legal sized Pacific halibut - the most comparable metric for commercial catch rates - remained unchanged from 2024 to 2025. Data from commercial fishery logbooks showed a one percent decrease in the WPUE. Biological information from both the commercial fishery and the FISS showed a shift from the 2012 year-class to the smaller, younger fish from the 2016 and 2017 year-classes. Because of these decreases and some concern with the halibut stock, there have been reductions to the IPHC Convention Area total mortality limits the last few years. See page 8 for more details. More information on the latest stock assessment can be found at www.iphc.int/research/stock-assessment/.

Pacific Fishery Management Council



The **Pacific Fishery Management Council** (PFMC) divides Regulatory Area 2A's quota (set by the IPHC) between Tribal, commercial, and recreational fisheries. This information is outlined in the **2025 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan**. PFMC considers changes to the Catch Sharing Plan annually at its September and November meetings. Anglers can propose changes through that process.

ODFW holds public meetings each year in late July or early August to get angler input on how the fishery has gone so far that year and to discuss any proposed changes for the following year. These meetings tend to have lively discussions with participation from charter captains, individual anglers, fishing-related businesses, and sometimes even port officials. This public input helps form the recommendations for the following year's halibut fishery

How and When to Get Involved?

PFMC, IPHC, and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) meetings are open to the public and provide time and opportunity for public comments (see Figure 8 below).

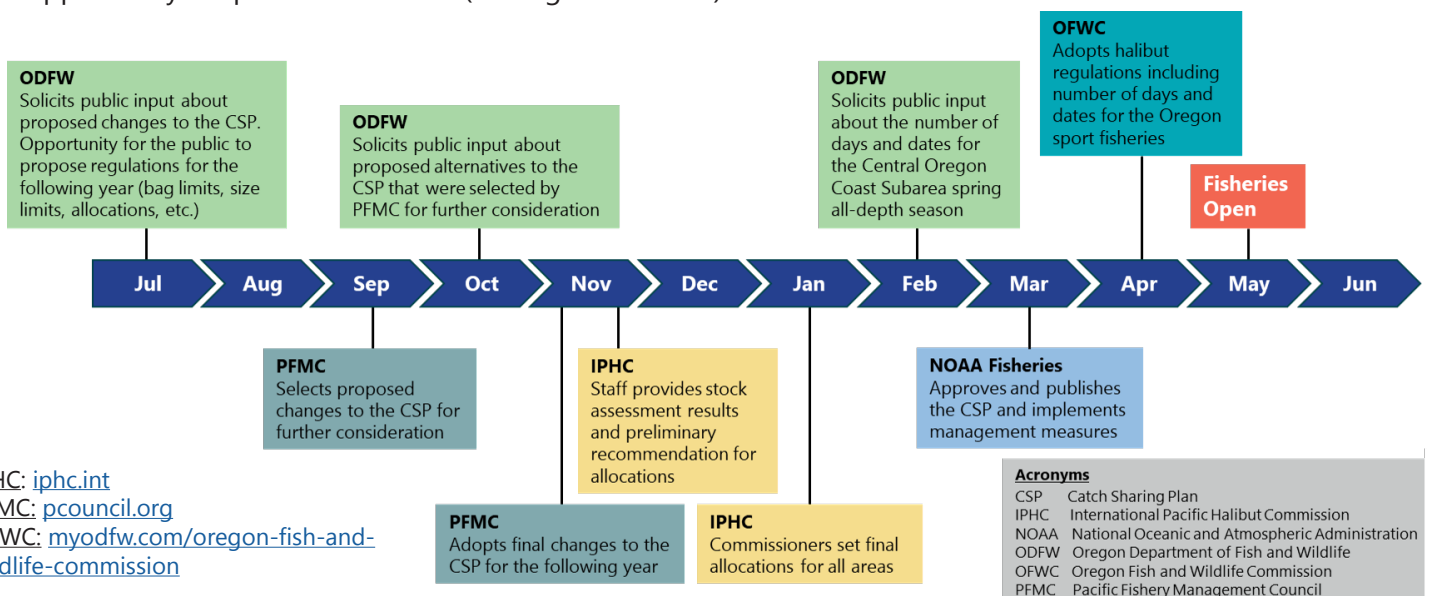


Figure 8: Timeline, with agencies involved, during the annual Pacific halibut regulatory process.

Other Updates and Reminders

Want More Information?

Visit Our Website



For current information about Pacific halibut & in-season changes please visit:

myodfw.com/pacific-halibut-sport-regulations

Or scan this QR code with your smart phone



Marine Resources

We are always interested in hearing from you about your fishery and the issues that are important to you.

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Reductions in Other IPHC Regulatory Areas

Through negotiations with the three west coast states and the Washington Treaty Tribes, IPHC has allocated 1.65 million pounds of Pacific halibut to Regulatory Area 2A from 2019 through 2025. However, starting in 2023, there have been annual reductions to the total mortality limit for the entire IPHC Convention Area (Table 2). This has caused other regulatory areas to reduce their mortality limits. The regulatory areas most impacted by these reductions are Canada (Area 2B) and the central Gulf of Alaska (Area 3A). These two areas have the highest allocation of the total mortality limit and catch more halibut.

Table 2: Adopted mortality limits for all IPHC regulatory areas from 2022-2025.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality Limit (mlbs)			
	2022	2023	2024	2025
Canada: 2B	7.56	6.78	6.47	5.45
USA: 2A	1.65	1.65	1.65	1.65
USA: 2C	5.91	5.85	5.79	5.22
USA: 3A	14.55	12.08	11.36	9.08
USA: 3B	3.90	3.67	3.45	2.86
USA: 4A	2.10	1.73	1.61	1.34
USA: 4B	1.45	1.36	1.25	1.04
USA: 4CDE	4.10	3.85	3.70	3.08
Total IPHC Convention Area	41.22	36.97	35.28	29.72

PACIFIC HALIBUT TAGGING REMINDER

IMMEDIATELY upon landing and keeping a Pacific halibut or salmon, you need to **record the fish on your Combined Angling Tag**



Immediately means:

- Prior to rebaiting and putting the rod back out to fish
- Before taking a snack or drink break
- Not 5, 10, or 15 minutes later
- Do not wait until you are on the way back to the dock



If using electronic tagging, make sure to download the MyODFW app and **log in before you leave the dock:** myodfw.com/ELS

- If you are in an area with poor cell service, toggle the app to field mode (under Settings) or put your phone in Airplane mode
- Once the app is open, you can record your fish
- When you get back into cell service, toggle field mode in the app, and it will upload tagged fish to the system

For more info on tagging Pacific halibut, see: myodfw.com/articles/tips-tagging-fish-and-game