Staff Summary for December 10-11, 2025

23. Recreational Take of Ocean Salmon and Pacific Halibut

Today's Item **Information ☒** **Action ☐**

Receive and discuss an update on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) process and timeline for recreational ocean salmon and Pacific halibut, automatic conformance of state regulations to federal regulations.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- **Today's update** **December 10-11, 2025**
- Next update February 11-12, 2026

Background

Section 1.95 identifies the process to auto-conform state ocean salmon and Pacific halibut recreational fishing regulations to federal regulations (Exhibit 1). This agenda item informs the public of the Commission's intent to auto-conform state regulations to federal regulations for ocean salmon and Pacific halibut recreational fishing for 2026, as ultimately recommended by PFMC and adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Under the auto-conformance process, no action is necessary by the Commission; staff works with the Office of Administrative Law and the California Secretary of State's Office to file the necessary documentation.

Ocean Salmon

Each year at its March and April meetings, PFMC establishes management measures for salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. The management year for ocean salmon fisheries begins on May 16 and lasts for 12 months (i.e., from May 16, 2026 through May 15, 2027). Exhibit 2 contains an overview of the PFMC pre-season process and general timeline for developing recommendations for federal salmon regulations.

At PFMC's March 4-9, 2026 meeting, California's representatives will work together to develop a range of recommended salmon fishing season alternatives. At its April 7-12, 2026 meeting, PFMC will adopt final season recommendations. A detailed pre-season calendar of events for 2026 ocean salmon is available on the Department's website and in Exhibit 3.

To help facilitate public engagement and understanding of the process, the Department annually hosts a public salmon information meeting to present topics such as the previous year's salmon escapement, estimates of forecasted ocean abundance, and management objective for the coming ocean salmon seasons; the 2026 meeting will be held in February in person in Sacramento and via webinar, on a date to be determined (see Department's website for schedule updates).

Pacific Halibut

Pacific halibut management involves a shared United States/Canada total allowable catch set annually by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). PFMC then allocates its U.S. share among West Coast states based on a catch-sharing plan, with California's area percentage unchanged since 2019. California's harvest amount depends on the IPHC annual

total allowable catch decision made at its annual meeting. IPHC will meet on January 19-22, 2026. Exhibit 4 contains an overview of the PFMC and IPHC processes.

If the Commission determines it is necessary, it may adopt ocean salmon and Pacific halibut recreational fishing regulations that are different from federal regulations; in such cases, the Commission would need to take emergency action in April 2026 for the regulations to be effective by the beginning of the recreational fisheries' seasons in May 2026.

Significant Public Comments

1. A recreational fisherman expressed concern that the 2025 ocean salmon boundary at Point Reyes excluded smaller boats from Bay Area launch sites from participating due to the significant travel distances and safety challenges, and suggests extending the management boundary southward to Bodega Head (Exhibit 5).

Recommendation

Commission staff: Use the auto-conformance process for ocean salmon and Pacific halibut recreational fishing regulations for 2026, in which case no action is necessary by the Commission.

Exhibits

1. Staff summary from August 16, 2017 Commission meeting, Agenda Item 17 (*for background purposes only*).
2. PFMC salmon fact sheet, updated July 23, 2024
3. Department's 2026 salmon pre-season process calendar of events and contact information, accessed November 24, 2025
4. PFMC Pacific halibut fact sheet, updated June 1, 2022
5. Email from Guy Kilburn, received October 20, 2025

Motion (N/A)

STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 16, 2017
For background purposes only

17. FISHERIES AUTOMATIC CONFORMANCE PROCESS

Today's Item **Information** ☐ **Action** ☒

Adopt proposed regulation for a process to automatically conform state recreational fishing regulations to federal regulations.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions

- Notice hearing — Apr 26-27, 2017; Van Nuys
- Discussion hearing — Jun 21-22, 2017; Smith River
- **Today's adoption hearing** — **Aug 16, 2017; Sacramento**

Background

For species managed under federal fishery management plans or regulation, FGC usually takes concurrent action to conform State recreational regulations to federal regulations adopted by the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS); this dual process is redundant and inefficient. The proposed regulation, Section 1.95, Title 14, will establish a process through which State recreational fishing regulations for salmon and Pacific halibut will automatically conform to federal regulations, unless FGC adopts regulations for said species using the regular rulemaking process.

For annual regulations or corrections to annual regulations for salmon and Pacific halibut, the proposed regulation would require, no later than 10 days after federal regulations are published in the Federal Register, that:

- FGC submit amended State regulations to the Office of Administrative Law for publication in the California Code of Regulations, and file the amended State regulations with the Secretary of State;
- DFW issue a news release announcing the Federal Register in which the federal regulations are published and the effective date of the conformed State regulations;
- FGC mail or email the news release to interested parties;
- To the extent practicable, DFW provide information on any changes to the State regulations via public contact, electronic notification, and online and printed publications.

The proposed regulation would also require that an update on the conformed State regulations be included on the agenda of the next regularly-scheduled FGC meeting.

For in-season changes to regulations for salmon and Pacific halibut, the proposed regulation indicates that State regulations shall conform to the applicable federal regulations publicly noticed through the NMFS ocean salmon hotline and NMFS Area 2A Pacific halibut hotline, respectively.

STAFF SUMMARY FOR AUGUST 16, 2017
For background purposes only

Significant Public Comments

1. One oral comment in support of the proposed regulation was received at the Jun 22, 2017 FGC meeting.

Recommendation

FGC staff: Adopt the regulation as proposed.

Exhibits

1. DFW memo, received Apr 11, 2017
2. Initial statement of reasons
3. Draft notice of exemption

Motion/Direction

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ that the Commission adopts proposed Section 1.95, related to a process to conform State recreational fishing regulations to federal regulations and that the Commission has determined, based on the record, this approval is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to the guidelines in Title 14 sections 15307 and 15308.

Fact Sheet: Salmon

2 February 2021, *Modified 23 July 2024*

Salmon fry. Photo: Vladimir Zykov/Shutterstock.com

Salmon species

The Council manages Chinook and coho salmon. In odd-numbered years, the Council may manage pink salmon near the Canadian border. Sockeye, chum, and steelhead are rarely caught in the Council's ocean fisheries.

Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) ("king" or "tyee") are the largest and most highly prized of the Pacific salmon. Like all salmon, Chinook are anadromous, which means they hatch in freshwater streams and rivers, migrate to the ocean for feeding and growth, and return to their natal waters to spawn. Chinook salmon can live up to seven years. They return to their natal waters after 1-5 years in the ocean.

Chinook from Washington, Oregon, and California range widely throughout the Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea, and as far south as the U.S. border with Mexico.

Some wild Chinook populations have disappeared from areas where they once flourished, and several "evolutionarily significant units" (distinct populations) have been listed as at risk for extinction under the Endangered Species Act.

Coho or "silver" salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) are found in streams and rivers throughout much of the Pacific Rim. Coho have a life history similar to Chinook. Coho

in Council-managed waters typically spend only one year in the ocean. North of central British Columbia, they tend to spend two years in the ocean.

Coho generally use smaller streams and tributaries than Chinook. They are most abundant in coastal areas from central Oregon to southeast Alaska. Like Chinook, Some wild coho populations have disappeared from areas where they once flourished, and several populations are listed as at risk for extinction under the Endangered Species Act.

Management

Because salmon migrate so far in the ocean, managing ocean salmon fisheries is extremely complex.

Salmon are affected by many factors in the ocean and on land, including ocean and climate conditions, dams, habitat loss, urbanization, agricultural and logging practices, water diversion, and predators (other fish, birds, marine mammals, and humans).

Several different regions and groups are involved in the salmon fishery:

Recreational fisheries take place in the ocean, Puget Sound, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, coastal bays, and in freshwater (including Columbia River Buoy 10). The Council manages recreational catches in the ocean but works closely with states on management in other areas.

Commercial fisheries include treaty tribal and non-tribal ocean troll and various treaty tribal and non-tribal net fisheries in Puget Sound, Washington coastal bays, and the lower and mid-Columbia River. The tribes manage tribal fisheries in coordination with the Council. The Council manages fisheries in Federal (ocean) waters, but works closely with states and tribes on fisheries in other areas.

Tribal Ceremonial and Subsistence fisheries occur in Puget Sound, Washington coastal rivers and bays, Columbia River and tributaries, and in the Klamath and Trinity Rivers. The tribes manage these fisheries in coordination with the Council.

Council process

The Council's Salmon Fishery Management Plan guides the management of commercial and recreational salmon fisheries off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. The Council works with treaty tribes and its member states (Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California) on salmon management issues.

Management tools such as season length, quotas, and bag limits vary depending on how many salmon are present. There are two central parts of the fishery management

plan: *conservation objectives*, which are annual goals for the number of spawners of the major salmon stocks ("spawner escapement goals"), and *allocation provisions* of the harvest among different groups of fishers (commercial, recreational, tribal, various ports, ocean, and inland). The Council must also comply with laws such as the Endangered Species Act.

Every year the Council follows a preseason process to develop recommendations for management of the ocean fisheries (below).

Date	**Salmon management action**
January	Salmon Technical Team and Council documents become available. Dates and locations of the two Council meetings, public hearings announced. Detailed schedule published. Salmon Technical Team meets to draft the review of ocean salmon fisheries for the previous year.
February – early March	Salmon Technical Team meets in February to draft preseason report with stock abundance forecasts, harvest and escapement estimates. State and Tribal management meetings take place. Salmon Technical Team reports summarizing the previous salmon season (Review), and projections of expected salmon stock abundance for the coming season (Preseason I) are posted online.
First or second full week in March	Council meeting. Typically, three alternatives are adopted for review at public hearings. These alternatives are initially developed by the Salmon Advisory Subpanel, refined by the Salmon Technical Team, then considered along with public comment by the Council. Council also considers any emergency actions needed.
Week following March Council meeting	Public hearings announcement released. Preseason Report II released, outlining Council-adopted alternatives.
Prior to April Council meeting	Agencies, tribes, and public meet to agree on allowable ocean and inside waters harvest levels north of Cape Falcon. The Council's ocean fishery options are refined.
Last week of March and first week of April	General time frame for formal public hearings on the proposed salmon management alternatives.
First or second full week of April	Council meeting. Final management measures recommended to National Marine Fisheries Service for adoption.
Second week of May	Final notice of Commerce decision. Final management measures published in Federal Register.

How are salmon counted?

Correctly judging the size of salmon populations is a constant challenge. Salmon are affected by many natural and human-caused factors, so their numbers can vary widely. Estimating the effects of changes in ocean conditions, weather, and freshwater habitat on salmon is difficult. Most models rely on the age structure of a given brood (the various ages of fish that make up the population) in combination with knowledge about environmental conditions over time.

Various methods are used to estimate salmon abundance. For adult salmon, fish trapped in weirs or passing dams are counted as they migrate upstream. Biologists count salmon carcasses and redds (nests) while doing stream surveys. Creel surveys help estimate catch in sport fisheries, and commercially-caught salmon are counted using fish tickets from the sale of fish. As juvenile fish move downstream and migrate to the ocean, smolts are counted in rotary screw traps, snorkel surveys, and electrofishing (using electric current to temporarily stun young fish, which are then captured in a net).

Juvenile salmon may be marked with an internal tag, either a coded wire tag (CWT) or a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag. CWTs are placed in the snout of the fish and are used mainly in hatchery fish. They are recovered from dead adult salmon. PIT tags are usually placed in the body cavity of the fish and are recovered from dead adults, but they can also be tracked electronically when a fish passes a receiver (for example at a bridge or dam) as it migrates. Both types of tags provide population and distribution data.

Artificial Production

Pacific salmon hatcheries support artificial production programs that serve multiple purposes but are mainly used to help increase harvest opportunity or supplement declining natural salmon abundance. Hatchery enhancement programs can also be used to provide a coded-wire tag 'indicator stock' for natural runs, and for mitigation purposes. The Council relies on federal, tribal, and state policies to ensure that hatchery production plays a positive role in salmon fisheries management. To assure the effectiveness and maximize the benefits of these programs, the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan (FMP) includes Council-recommended objectives, which are briefly described here: 1) maximize production consistent with harvest management and stock conservation objectives, 2) minimize adverse ecological and genetic impacts of mitigation and enhancement programs on natural salmon stocks and support hatchery practices that promote high survival and contribution rates to the fisheries while meeting the conservation goals for natural stocks, 3) if a hatchery program is developed to perpetuate or rebuild a stock, the program should be designed to be as short in duration as possible until the stock can sustain itself naturally, and 4) support efforts to review and improve the effectiveness of artificial

production. For a detailed description of these objectives, please refer to section 4.3 of the current salmon FMP.

Advisory bodies

The **Salmon Technical Team** (STT) helps the Council by summarizing data from the previous season, estimating the number of salmon in the coming season, and analyzing the effects of the Council's recommendations and amendments. The STT is made up of eight people drawn from state, Federal, and tribal fisheries management agencies, all of whom have technical expertise in salmon management. STT meetings, like all Council advisory body meetings, are open to the public.

The **Salmon Advisory Subpanel** is made up of 16 members who represent commercial, recreational, and tribal interests, as well as a conservation representative. These advisors play a large role in developing the Council's annual salmon management options in March and April.

The **Model Evaluation Workgroup** (MEW) reviews and modifies models used to predict the effects of harvest on conservation objectives and allocation provisions. The MEW is made up of scientists from state, tribal, and Federal management agencies.

The **Habitat Committee** tracks habitat issues for the Council. Many (though not all) of these issues involve salmon habitat. For example, the Habitat Committee has developed several Council comment letters on Klamath and Columbia River dam and habitat issues.

How to get involved

There are a few ways to get involved in the Federal salmon management process. First, read up on how salmon are managed and become aware of current salmon fishery issues. Listen in on the salmon agenda items during the March and April Council meetings (see our website, www.pcouncil.org, for details). Provide public comment by using our e-Portal (see the Council website for link and comment deadlines). Attend a salmon season hearing in a coastal community (usually held in March), or sit in on a Salmon Advisory Subpanel, Salmon Technical Team, or Habitat Committee meeting. If you have time, volunteer to serve on an advisory body.

Challenges in salmon management

Besides counting the fish, challenges include coordinating with international, regional, and local agencies and groups; judging the effects of regional fisheries on salmon

stocks; recovering salmon under the Endangered Species Act; dividing the harvest fairly; and restoring freshwater habitat.

Current hot topics relating to salmon include offshore aquaculture, offshore wind energy, salmon bycatch in other fisheries, the differences between wild and hatchery salmon, and the role salmon play as forage for predators such as killer whales.

Council Staff

Robin Ehlke is the Council staff officer responsible for salmon (robin.ehlke@noaa.gov, 503-820-2280 or toll free 866-806-7204)

Salmon Preseason Process: Calendar of Events and Contact Information

https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Regulations/salmon/preseason

Calendar of Events

- January 20-23, 2026
  PFMC Salmon Technical Team Work Session
  Portland, OR
  The Salmon Technical Team (STT) meets to draft the Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation (SAFE) document, Review of 2025 Ocean Salmon Fisheries. This report summarizes seasons, quotas, harvest, escapement, socio-economic statistics, achievement of management goals, and impacts on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. This report will be available online in mid-February at www.pcouncil.org(opens in new tab).

- February 11-12, 2026
  California Fish and Game Commission Meeting
  Sacramento, CA
  The Commission will receive an update on and discuss the PFMC process and timeline for developing ocean salmon seasons, and automatic conformance of state regulations to federal regulations. The public may address and/or ask questions of the Commission relating to the implementation of its policies or any other matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Agenda and live audio or video streaming available online at fgc.ca.gov(opens in new tab).

- February 17-20, 2026
  PFMC Salmon Technical Team Work Session
  Portland, OR
  The STT meets to complete Preseason Report I: Stock Abundance Analysis and Environmental Assessment Part 1 for 2026 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations. This report provides abundance forecast estimates for key salmon stocks, and other information pertinent to the development of management options. This report will be available online in early March at www.pcouncil.org(opens in new tab)

- February TBD, 2026 (10:00am)
  CDFW Annual Salmon Information Meeting
  Sacramento, CA
  This annual information meeting covers 2025 spawner abundances returning to the Central Valley and Klamath Basins, 2026 abundance forecasts, and management context guiding the development and implementation of 2026 ocean salmon fisheries. The public are invited to learn about pertinent data and management context shaping the upcoming ocean salmon season. The

meeting will be hosted in person and as a webinar. The meeting link, agenda and other materials will be posted here as they become available.

- March 4-9, 2026
  PFMC March Meeting
  Sacramento, CA
  The Council will determine whether any in-season actions are required for fisheries scheduled to open prior to May 16. They will also craft three regulatory alternatives for ocean salmon fisheries in effect on or after May 16. Final adoption of alternatives for public review is tentatively scheduled for March 9. Preseason Report II: Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for 2026 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations will be available online in late March at www.pcouncil.org(opens in new tab).

- March 23, 2026 (7:00pm)
  PFMC Public Hearing
  Santa Rosa, CA
  The Council will receive comments from the public on the three California ocean salmon fishery regulatory alternatives adopted by the Council in March. More information is available at www.pcouncil.org(opens in new tab).

- April 7-12, 2026
  PFMC April Meeting
  Portland, OR
  The Council will adopt final regulatory measures for analysis by the STT. Final adoption of recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service will also occur and is tentatively scheduled for April 12.
  Preseason Report III: Council-Adopted Management Measures and Environmental Assessment Part 3 for 2026 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations will be available online in late April at www.pcouncil.org(opens in new tab).

- April 15-16, 2026
  California Fish and Game Commission Meeting
  Sacramento, CA
  The Commission will receive an update on ocean salmon sport fishery regulations in effect in 2026. The public may address and/or ask questions of the Commission relating to the implementation of its policies or any other matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Agenda and audio available online at fgc.ca.gov(opens in new tab).

Fact sheet: Halibut

3 February 2021Modified 1 June 2022

Pacific halibut

The fish

Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) are large flatfish found on the continental shelf from California to the Bering Sea. Halibut have flat, diamond-shaped bodies, can weigh up to 500 pounds, and can grow to eight feet long. The oldest halibut on record, both male and female, is 55 years old. The stock status of these fish is tracked by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), which reports on the status every year at its annual meeting, and provides detailed life history information on their webpage.

REPRODUCTION

Female halibut mature at around 12 years, while males mature at around 8 years. Adult fish tend to remain in the same area year after year, except for their migration to spawning grounds. Adult halibut will migrate long distances from shallow summer feeding grounds to deeper winter spawning grounds. The number of eggs they lay depends on the female's size. A 50-pound female can produce about 500,000 eggs, while a female over 250 pounds can produce four million eggs. The eggs float freely and drift in deep ocean currents and are fertilized externally. The eggs hatch 12-15 days after fertilization, and the larvae drift to shallow waters on the continental shelf. Larvae begin life in an upright position with eyes on both sides of their head. When they are about an inch long, the left eye migrates over the snout to the right side of the head, and the color of the left side fades. When the young fish are about six months old, they settle to the sea floor, where the protective coloring on their "eyed" side effectively camouflages them.

PREY AND FEEDING

Larval halibut feed on zooplankton, while juvenile and adults prey on cod, pollock, sablefish, rockfish, turbot, sculpins, other flatfish, sand lance, herring, octopus, crabs, clams, and occasionally smaller halibut. Adult halibut are sometimes eaten by marine mammals and sharks, but are rarely preyed upon by other fish.

The Management Context

Date	Halibut management action
January	International Pacific Halibut Commission sets the total allowable catch.
September Council meeting	Council solicits proposed changes to the Catch Sharing Plan.
Between Sept. & Nov. meetings	Council takes comments on proposed changes to Catch Sharing Plan.
November meeting	Council makes final recommendations for changes.

Halibut management schedule

Halibut have been fished for hundreds of years by native Americans on the west coast of the U.S. The U.S. commercial fishery started in 1888, when halibut were first landed in Tacoma, Washington.

Because halibut can be kept for long periods of time without spoiling, they soon became a popular target for commercial harvesters. In the 1890s, a fleet of sailing vessels with two-man dories fished for halibut from the west coast. Large steam-powered vessels soon entered the industry, and by the 1910s it became clear that halibut stocks were suffering from overfishing. In 1923 the U.S. and Canada signed a convention on halibut, creating what was eventually called the International Pacific Halibut Commission. In 1924 the Commission implemented a three-month winter closure – the first management action to affect halibut. The convention was revised several times over the years to allow the Commission to meet new conditions in the fishery. The most recent change occurred in the Protocol of 1979, which allowed each government to establish more restrictive regulations. Canada implemented a limited entry system at that time and an individual vessel quota system in 1991. In the U.S., Alaska implemented an individual fishing quota system in 1995, similar to the individual vessel quota program in Canada except that shares were issued to individuals instead of vessels. Also in 1995, non-tribal commercial fishers in Oregon, Washington, and California had to make a choice: participate in the sport charter industry for halibut, the commercial directed fishery, or the halibut incidental fishery in the salmon troll fishery.

Each year the IPHC conducts a stock assessment to estimate the abundance and trends of the Pacific halibut stock using commercial fishery data and scientific surveys. The Commission utilizes a decision table to report the results of the annual stock assessment, effectively separating the science from policy. The decision table, prepared annually by IPHC staff, presents the Commissioners with a range of coastwide harvest levels, each with accompanying estimates of potential risk in terms of stock and fishery trend and status metrics. The Commissioners consider the coastwide assessment, and the current harvest policy in determining the final catch targets for each year.

Total catch is set by the IPHC, and the Council then allocates that total among Area 2A fisheries (treaty Indian, commercial non-tribal, and recreational). For more information on how IPHC sets halibut catch limits, see the IPHC document "How are Halibut Catch Limits Determined?" To learn more on how harvest is divided off the west coast (Area 2A), see the

Halibut Catch Sharing Plan described below and found under 'Key Documents'.

The Fishery and Gear

The commercial halibut fishery on the West Coast was pioneered by fishers of Norwegian ancestry, many of whom had fished halibut in Norway. Many Nova Scotians and Newfoundlanders have also participated in the West Coast halibut fishery.

Halibut are one of the most valuable fish species in the northern Pacific. Pacific halibut fishing is an important part of several tribal cultures, and many tribal members participate in commercial, ceremonial and subsistence fisheries. Longlining is the main commercial gear used to target halibut, although there is some allowance for incidental catch in the commercial salmon troll and the primary sablefish fisheries. Vessel, trip and landing limits are all used to manage halibut harvest in non-tribal commercial fisheries.

Halibut is also a very popular target for sport fishers in Washington, Oregon, and California. Because halibut fishing is so popular, managers use closed seasons, bag limits, and possession limits to extend the halibut sport season as long as possible.

In 1995, the U.S. prohibited directed non-tribal commercial fishing north of Pt. Chehalis, Washington in order to allow the tribes to harvest their allocation of halibut.

Halibut Catch Sharing Plan

The Halibut Catch-Sharing Plan is a framework that dictates how the IPHC and NMFS will divide the total allowable catch (TAC) for Oregon, Washington, and California halibut fisheries (Area 2A). The total TAC is set each January by the IPHC, who also endorses the Catch Sharing Plan allocations set by the Council. Allocations between some recreational areas are subject to inseason and other changes. For a description of how the halibut harvest is shared, see the halibut catch sharing plan under "key documents" on this page.

Each year the Council solicits proposed changes to the Catch Sharing Plan for its September meeting and takes comments on proposed changes

between its September and November meetings. The Council then makes final recommendations for changes at its November meeting. The proposed changes are described in the Council Newsletter and in the annual September decision document. If you would like to propose a change or comment on proposed changes, you can submit comments by mail, fax, or email, marked to the attention of Robin Ehlke, Pacific halibut staff officer.

Regulations

- NMFS Area 2A Halibut Hotline (for sport fishing): 1-800-662-9825, press 5
- Commercial catch information from the International Pacific Halibut Commission
- Sport catch information from the International Pacific Halibut Commission
- Oregon sport halibut fishery regulations
- Washington sport halibut fishery regulations
- California sport halibut fishery regulations

For more information on halibut management, please contact Robin Ehlke.

Outlook

Salmon fishing boundary

From Guy Kilburn [redacted]
Date Thu 10/30/2025 01:42 PM
To FGC <FGC@fgc.ca.gov>

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Greetings from Vallejo,

Dear Commissioners,

From the hatchery returns this year it looks like we might have an expanded ocean salmon season in 2026. This last year the northern boundary for fishing was Point Reyes and this line effectively eliminated any opportunity for owners of small boats to participate. The distance from any of the Bay launch sites to the GG Bridge is 9 miles. Add another nine or ten miles to reach the fishing areas, plus the hazards of the Gate itself, and it becomes impossible for the small boater to have an opportunity to fish. North of the Gate, the nearest launch sites are in Tomales Bay and Bodega Bay. May I suggest that if, indeed, there is an expanded season in 2026 that the line of demarcation be Bodega Head where there is already a well-established line for the MLPA. By launching in Bodega harbor, the owners of small boats can get out and fish when the weather permits. From the current line at Point Reyes to Bodega Head is only 19 miles and to Tomales Point, 16 miles. Please consider this change.

Thank you,
Guy Kilburn
Vallejo, CA
[redacted]