

end of the fixed season. If sufficient catch remains for an additional day of fishing after the spring season or the summer season, the fishery may be reopened between May and June or August and October respectively. Additional opening dates for both the spring and summer seasons will be announced preseason. If a decision is made inseason to allow fishing on one or more additional days, notice of the opening will be announced on the NMFS hotline (206) 526-6667 or (800) 662-9825. No all-depth halibut fishing will be allowed on the additional dates unless the opening date has been announced on the NMFS hotline. If preseason catch and effort estimates determine catch rates and quotas allocated to the Oregon North Coast and South Coast subareas will result in spring seasons of differing durations, quota may be shifted pre- or inseason to ensure that the two subareas have the same number of fishing days. Any poundage remaining unharvested in the spring all-depth subquota will be added to the summer all-depth subquota. Any poundage that is not needed to extend the inside 30-fathom fishery through to October 31 will be added to the summer all-depth season if it can be used, and any poundage remaining unharvested from the summer all-depth fishery will be added to the inside 30-fathom fishery subquotas.

In section (f) of the Plan, Sport Fisheries, paragraph (1)(v)(A) is revised to read as follows:

The first season opens on May 1, only in waters inside the 30-fathom (55 m) curve, and continues daily until the combined subquotas for the North Central and South Central inside 30-fathom fisheries (7 percent of the North Central subarea quota plus 20 percent of the South Central subarea quota) are taken, or until October 31, whichever is earlier. Poundage that is estimated to be above the amount needed to keep this season open through October 31 will be transferred to the summer all-depth fishery if it can be used. Any overage in the all-depth fisheries would not affect achievement of allocation set aside for the inside 30-fathom curve fishery.

In section (f) of the Plan, Sport Fisheries, revise the fourth through the thirteenth sentence of paragraph (1)(vi) to read from the third sentence as follows:

Fixed season dates will be established preseason for the spring and summer openings and will not be modified inseason except that the summer openings may be modified inseason if the combined Oregon all-depth quotas are estimated to be achieved. Recent year catch rates will be used as a

guideline for estimating the catch rate for the spring fishery and summer fishery each year. The number of fixed season days established will be based on the projected catch per day with the intent of not exceeding the subarea season subquotas. ODFG will monitor landings and provide a postseason estimate of catch within 2 weeks of the end of the fixed season. If sufficient quota remains for an additional day of fishing after the spring season or the summer season, the fishery may be reopened from May to July and August to October respectively. Additional opening dates for both the spring and summer seasons will be announced preseason. If a decision is made inseason to allow fishing on one or more additional days, notice of the opening will be announced on the NMFS hotline (206) 526-6667 or (800) 662-9825. No all-depth halibut fishing will be allowed on the additional dates unless the opening date has been announced on the NMFS hotline. If preseason catch and effort estimates determine catch rates and quotas allocated to the Oregon North Coast and South Coast subareas will result in spring seasons of differing durations, quota may be shifted preseason to ensure that the two subareas have the same number of fixed season days. Any poundage remaining unharvested in the spring all-depth subquota will be added to the summer all-depth sub-quota. Any poundage that is not needed to extend the inside 30-fathom fishery through to October 31 will be added to the summer all-depth season, if it can be used, and any poundage remaining unharvested from the August all-depth fishery will be added to the inside 30-fathom fishery subquotas.

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In section (f) of the Plan, Sport Fisheries, paragraph (5)(i)(C) is revised to read as follows:

If any of the sport fishery subareas north of Cape Falcon, OR are not projected to utilize their respective quotas by September 30, NMFS may take inseason action to transfer any projected unused quota to another Washington sport subarea.

In section (f) of the Plan, Sport Fisheries, paragraph (5)(i)(D) is added to read as follows:

If any of the sport fishery subareas south of Leadbetter Point, WA are not projected to utilize their respective quotas by their season ending dates, NMFS may take inseason action to transfer any projected unused quota to another Oregon sport subarea.

In section (f) of the Plan, Sport Fisheries, paragraph (5)(ii)(E) is revised to read as follows:

Modification of subarea quotas north of Cape Falcon, OR.

Proposed 2003 Sport Fishery Management Measures

NMFS is proposing sport fishery management measures that are necessary to implement the Plan in 2003. The 2003 TAC for Area 2A was determined by the IPHC at its annual meeting January 21-24, 2003, to be 1,310,000 lb (594 mt), the same as in 2002. The proposed 2003 sport fishery regulations based on the Area 2A TAC of 1,310,000 lb (594 mt) are as follows:

Washington Inside Waters (Subarea Puget Sound and Straits)

This subarea would be allocated 63,278 lb (28.7 mt) at an Area 2A TAC of 1,310,000 lb (594 mt) in accordance with the Plan. According to the Plan, the structuring objective for this subarea is to provide a stable sport fishing opportunity and to maximize the season length. In 2002, the fishery in this subarea was 49 days long, from May 23 through July 26, held for 5 days per week (Thursday through Monday). For the 2003 fishing season, the fishery in this subarea would be set to meet the structuring objectives described in the Plan, possibly with separate seasons in eastern and western Puget Sound. The final determination of the season dates would be based on the allowable harvest level, projected 2003 catch rates and on recommendations developed in a public workshop sponsored by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife after the 2003 TAC is set by the IPHC. The daily bag limit would be one halibut of any size per day, per person.

Washington North Coast Subarea (North of the Queets River)

This subarea would be allocated 113,915 lb (52 mt) at an Area 2A TAC of 1,310,000 lb (594 mt) in accordance