

per week until the subquota is estimated to have been taken, or September 30, whichever is earlier. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with no size limit. Sport fishing for halibut is prohibited in the area south of the Queets River (47°31'42" N. lat.), west of 124°40'00" W. long. and north of 47°10'00" N. lat. This closure may be removed through inseason action by NMFS under § 301.21(b)(3) of this part after September 1, for 1 day each week on Tuesday only, if NMFS determines that sufficient subarea quota remains to allow for 1 day of fishing without geographic restriction.

(iv) *Columbia river subarea.* This sport fishery subarea is allocated 2.0 percent of the Washington sport allocation plus 2.0 percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation, which combined equals 0.89 percent of the Area 2A TAC. This subarea is defined as waters south of Leadbetter Point, WA (46°38'10" N. lat.) and north of Cape Falcon, OR (45°46'00" N. lat.). The structuring objective for this subarea is to provide for a non-directed halibut sport fishery of not more than 5 months duration out of the Columbia River ports. The fishery will open on May 1 and continue 7 days per week until the subquota is estimated to have been taken, or September 30, whichever is earlier. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with a 32-in (81.3 cm) minimum size.

(v) *Oregon central coast subarea (Applicable through December 31, 1995).* If the Area 2A TAC is 388,350 lb (176.2 mt) and above, this subarea extends from Cape Falcon to the Siuslaw River at the Florence north jetty (44°01'08" N. lat.) and is allocated 88.4 percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation which is 18.21 percent of the Area 2A TAC. If the Area 2A TAC is below 388,350 lb (176.2 mt), this sport fishery subarea extends from Cape Falcon to the California border and is allocated 95.4 percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation. The structuring objectives for this subarea are to provide one or two periods of fishing opportunity in productive deeper water areas along the coast, principally for charter and larger private boat anglers; and provide a period of fishing opportunity in nearshore waters in June and July, especially for small boat anglers. Any poundage remaining in this subarea quota from earlier seasons will be added to the last season in this subarea. This subarea has three seasons as set out in paragraphs (f)(2)(v)(A) through (C) of this section. The daily bag limit for all seasons is two halibut per person, one with a minimum 32-in (81.3 cm) size limit and the

second with a minimum 50-in (127.0 cm) size limit.

(A) The first season is an all-depth fishery that begins on May 4, and continues 3 days per week (Thursday through Saturday) until 71.5 percent of the subarea quota is taken.

(B) The second season opens the day following closure of the first season, only in waters inside the 30-fathom (55 m) curve, and continues every day until 3.5 percent of the subarea quota is taken, or August 2, whichever is earlier.

(C) The last season begins on August 3, with no depth restrictions, and continues 3 days per week (Thursday through Saturday), until the combined Oregon subarea quotas south of Falcon are estimated to have been taken, or September 30, whichever is earlier.

(vi) *Oregon south coast subarea (Applicable through December 31, 1995).* If the Area 2A TAC is 388,350 lb (176.2 mt) and above, this subarea extends from the Siuslaw River at the Florence north jetty (44°01'08" N. lat.) to the California border (42°00'00" N. lat.) and is allocated 7.0 percent of the Oregon/California sport allocation which is 1.44 percent of the Area 2A TAC. If the Area 2A TAC is below 388,350 lb (176.2 mt), this subarea will be included in the Oregon Central sport fishery subarea. The structuring objective for this subarea is to create a south coast management zone designed to accommodate the needs of both charterboat and private boat anglers in this area where weather and bar conditions very often do not allow scheduled fishing trips. This subarea has three seasons as set out in paragraphs (f)(2)(vi)(A) through (C) of this section. The daily bag limit for all seasons is two halibut per person, one with a minimum 32-in (81.3 cm) size limit and the second with a minimum 50-in (127.0 cm) size limit.

(A) The first season is an all-depth fishery that begins on May 4, and continues 3 days per week (Thursday through Saturday) until 80 percent of the subarea quota is taken.

(B) The second season opens the day following closure of the first season, only in waters inside the 30-fathom (55 m) curve, and continues every day until the subarea quota is estimated to have been taken, or August 2, whichever is earlier.

(C) The last season begins on August 3, with no depth restrictions, and continues 3 days per week (Thursday through Saturday), until the combined Oregon subarea quotas south of Falcon are estimated to have been taken, or September 30, whichever is earlier.

(vii) *California subarea.* This sport fishery subarea is allocated 2.6 percent

of the Oregon/California subquota, which is 0.54 percent of the Area 2A TAC. This area is defined as the area south of the California border (42°00'00" N. lat.). The structuring objective for this subarea is to provide anglers in California the opportunity to fish in a continuous, fixed season that is open from May 1 through September 30. The daily bag limit is one halibut per person, with a minimum 32-in (81.3 cm) size limit. Due to inability to monitor the catch in this area inseason, a fixed season will be established by NMFS, pre-season, based on projected catch per day and number of days to achievement of the subquota; no inseason adjustments will be made, and estimates of actual catch will be made post season.

(2) *Port of landing management.* All sport fishing in Area 2A (except for fish caught in the Washington north coast subarea and landed in Neah Bay) will be managed on a "port of landing" basis, whereby any halibut landed into a port will count toward the quota for the subarea in which that port is located, and the regulations governing the subarea of landing apply, regardless of the specific area of catch. The one exception is for halibut caught west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line and landed in Neah Bay, which are counted against the Washington north coast subarea quota, and are governed by the regulations governing the Washington north coast subarea.

(3) *Possession limits.* The sport possession limit on land north of Cape Falcon, OR is two daily bag limits, regardless of condition, but only one daily bag limit may be possessed on the vessel. The possession limit on land south of Cape Falcon is the same as the bag limit.

(4) *Ban on sport vessels in the commercial fishery.* Vessels operating in the sport fishery are prohibited from operating in the commercial fishery. Charterboat operators must choose, prior to May 1 of each year, whether they will obtain a charterboat license from the Commission or a commercial license, but cannot obtain both. Sport fishing for halibut is prohibited from a vessel licensed to fish commercially for halibut in Area 2A.

(g) *Procedures for implementation.* Each year, NMFS will publish a proposed rule with any regulatory modifications necessary to implement the Plan for the following year, with a request for public comments. The comment period will extend until after the Commission's annual meeting, so that the public will have the opportunity to consider the final Area 2A TAC before submitting comments.