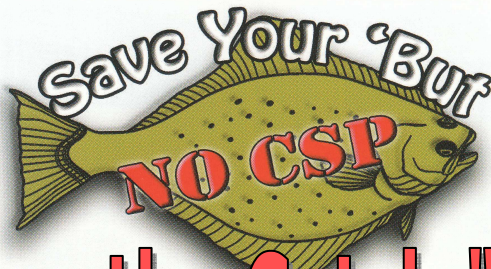


**WE NEED YOUR HELP! YOU ARE NOT BEING REPRESENTED AND YOU COULD LOOSE YOUR 2nd HALIBUT BAG LIMIT! WE MUST FIGHT THIS TOGETHER. SPORTFISHING ASSOCIATIONS ACROSS THE STATE ARE GOING TO FIGHT AS HARD AS WE CAN TO DEFEAT THE CSP AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO HEAR FROM YOU! IF PASSED THIS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED AS EARLY AS FEB 2014!**



# Understanding the Catch "Sharing" Plan

## Whose Fish is it Anyway? Halibut is a Public Resource

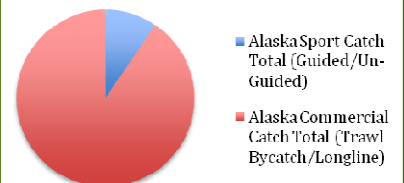
Halibut is a federally regulated **PUBLIC** resource. That means **YOU** own it. Sport anglers take around 10% of the annual halibut quota. Commercial fisherman harvest most of the remaining 90%. Unfortunately, they're still after a bigger piece of the pie!

## Not One Fish Saved: Is this an issue of Conservation?

### **No, it's Re-Allocation!**

Anglers care about maintaining a healthy resource. Would a reduction in the sport catch help to protect halibut? Absolutely not! Halibut would merely be taken from the sport sector and given to the commercial sector for harvest. In fact, biologists report that there are more halibut in Alaskan waters than there have ever been, but a high percentage are less than 32 inches long. Since the Commercial sector can only keep halibut over 32 inches, they face cut-backs in the amount of fish they can catch.

How Your Public Resource Has Been Used Over the Last 15 Years



## Sweet Cheeks and Small Buts: Where Are the Big Halibut?

Despite the many stories of big halibut being overfished by anglers, half of the halibut caught on rod and reel by all sport anglers are under 32 inches. By comparison, commercial longliners cannot legally keep a halibut under 32 inches. This means 100% of commercially caught halibut are over 32 inches, with premiums paid for larger fish.

# STOP THE CSP OR Get ready to PAY for the right to catch a 2nd halibut!

## GAF - A "Guided Angler Fish"

will become your 2nd halibut option **IF** the CSP becomes law. The commercially dominated North Pacific Fishery Management Council has voted to reduce the allocation for guided anglers on the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, Cordova and Valdez. This reduction will result in a one halibut bag limit at current harvest levels. Predicting a backlash from sport anglers, the Council created a provision allowing you to "rent-back" your 2nd halibut from commercial fishermen so you can catch "their" fish.

**Simply put: They take your fish away, then offer to RENT it back to you!**

**We don't need a Catch Sharing Plan! This plan is not designed to conserve the resource.** It is designed to shift your 2nd fish to the commercial sector through a charter operator. In this plan, the "guided angler" pays RENT for his right to catch a 2nd halibut— how is that fair? The guided harvest numbers are already way below the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL). The CSP will only take away more of what we now have. The original reason for the Catch "Sharing" Plan no longer exists.

# ACT NOW!

## What can the Recreational Angler Do?

### **NOW IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO PROTECT YOUR 2nd HALIBUT!!**

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has voted to approve the CSP, *but before the rule becomes a law*, it must go through the legal process. The CSP has been published in the Federal Register and public comments on the plan must be submitted by August 12th, 2013. Your comments must be responded to, then the plan is sent to the U.S Secretary of Commerce.

**Protect your 2nd HALIBUT NOW! Go to our websites to TAKE ACTION NOW!**

**Protect your 2nd Halibut by sending in comments on the proposed rule**

**by August 12, 2013, 11:59 pm.**

**Comment letters must be addressed to:**

**Mr. Glenn Merrill, Assistant Regional Administrator, Sustainable Fisheries Division, Alaska Region NMFS,  
Attn: Ellen Sebastian, and identified by FDMS Docket Number NOAA-NMFS-2011-0180**

*Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:*

**Electronic Submission: [www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetails;D=NOAA-2011-0180-2007](http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetails;D=NOAA-2011-0180-2007)**

**Mail Comments: P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1688**

**Fax Comments: 907-586-7557**