

REVIEW OF PACIFIC HALIBUT BYCATCH ESTIMATES FOR USE BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

Dr. Elizabeth Clarke, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), will brief the Council on the status of bycatch estimates for Pacific halibut in the Council-area groundfish trawl fishery.

The halibut bycatch estimates for the 2003 groundfish trawl fishery in International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Area 2A waters include information from the groundfish observer program and effects of the groundfish area closures in 2003. A supplemental report was provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for review with the intent of providing estimates to the IPHC to use in establishing the 2005 halibut fisheries (Supplemental Attachment 1).

**Council Task:**

**Utilizing input from the SSC, provide any needed Council guidance to the completion of the bycatch assessment and its transmittal to the IPHC.**

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agendum F.3, Supplemental Attachment 1: Pacific Halibut Bycatch in IPHC Area 2A in 2003.

**Agenda Order:**

- a. Agendum Overview
- b. NMFS Report
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Guidance on Bycatch Estimation Issues

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