

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO CATCH
SHARING PLAN AND 2009 ANNUAL REGULATIONS

General

The GAP supports public review of all proposed regulations presented by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in their supplemental reports presented to the Council.

Port Orford Request

As several requests have come before the Council in recent years to examine a regulation which allows retention of halibut bycatch in the sablefish fishery and preliminary observer data is indicating a large amount of bycatch in the sablefish fishery, the GAP is recommending a “white paper” to help inform decision making for future years.

The GAP would like to see, at a minimum, the following information contained in the report:

1. What sectors would be affected by a regulation which allows retention of halibut in the blackcod fishery – at the very least the GAP believes that the limited entry fixed gear fleet, the open access fixed gear fleet and the directed halibut fishery will be affected.
2. What bycatch levels are projected based on observer information.
3. What effect does this type of regulation have on the directed halibut fishery?

PFMC
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