

PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR ESTIMATING PACIFIC HALIBUT BYCATCH  
IN THE GROUND FISH FISHERIES

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will brief the Council on the status of bycatch estimates for Pacific halibut in the Council-area groundfish trawl and fixed gear fisheries.

The halibut bycatch estimates for the 2009 groundfish trawl and fixed gear fisheries in International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Area 2A waters include information from the groundfish observer program and effects of the groundfish area closures in 2009. A report documenting the methods used to derive bycatch estimates was provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for review and comment (Agenda Item D.2.b, NMFS Report). NMFS will provide bycatch estimates to the IPHC prior to the November 30 interim meeting of the IPHC for use in establishing the 2011 halibut total allowable catch (TAC).

The IPHC also convened a Halibut Bycatch Work Group, which met August 11, 2010. Ms. Michele Culver, as the Council's representative to IPHC, attended on behalf of Area 2A interests and will provide a summary of the meeting (Agenda Item D.2.c, WDFW Report).

**Council Action:**

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

**Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item D.2.b, NMFS Report: Pacific Halibut Bycatch in the U.S. West Coast Groundfish Fishery from 2002 through 2009.
2. Agenda Item D.2.c, WDFW Report: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Report on the International Pacific Halibut Commission's Bycatch Work Group.

**Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
  - b. Northwest Fisheries Science Center Report
  - c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
  - d. Public Comment
  - e. **Council Action:** Review and Provide Guidance on Appropriate Bycatch Estimation Procedures
- Chuck Tracy**  
**Eliza Heery, Janell Majewski**

PFMC  
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