

Initial Consideration of Proposed Changes to Pacific Halibut Allocation for Bycatch and Catch Sharing in the Groundfish Fisheries

Purpose

- Not intended to be full scoping of issue
- Provide background to the Council to determine if this should go forward
 - Fishery regulations, quotas and open periods
 - Fleet characteristics
- Estimate of total bycatch from the fixed gear fisheries
- Things to consider if this moves forward

Background

2A TAC

Tribal

(35% of TAC)

Non-Tribal

(65% of TAC)

WA Sport

(36.6% of Non-tribal)

Commercial

(31.7% of Non-tribal)

OR/CA Sport

(31.7% of Non-tribal)

Incidental Sablefish N of Pt. Chehalis

(portion of the WA rec quota if TAC is > 900,000 lbs)

Directed

(85% of Commercial)

Salmon Troll

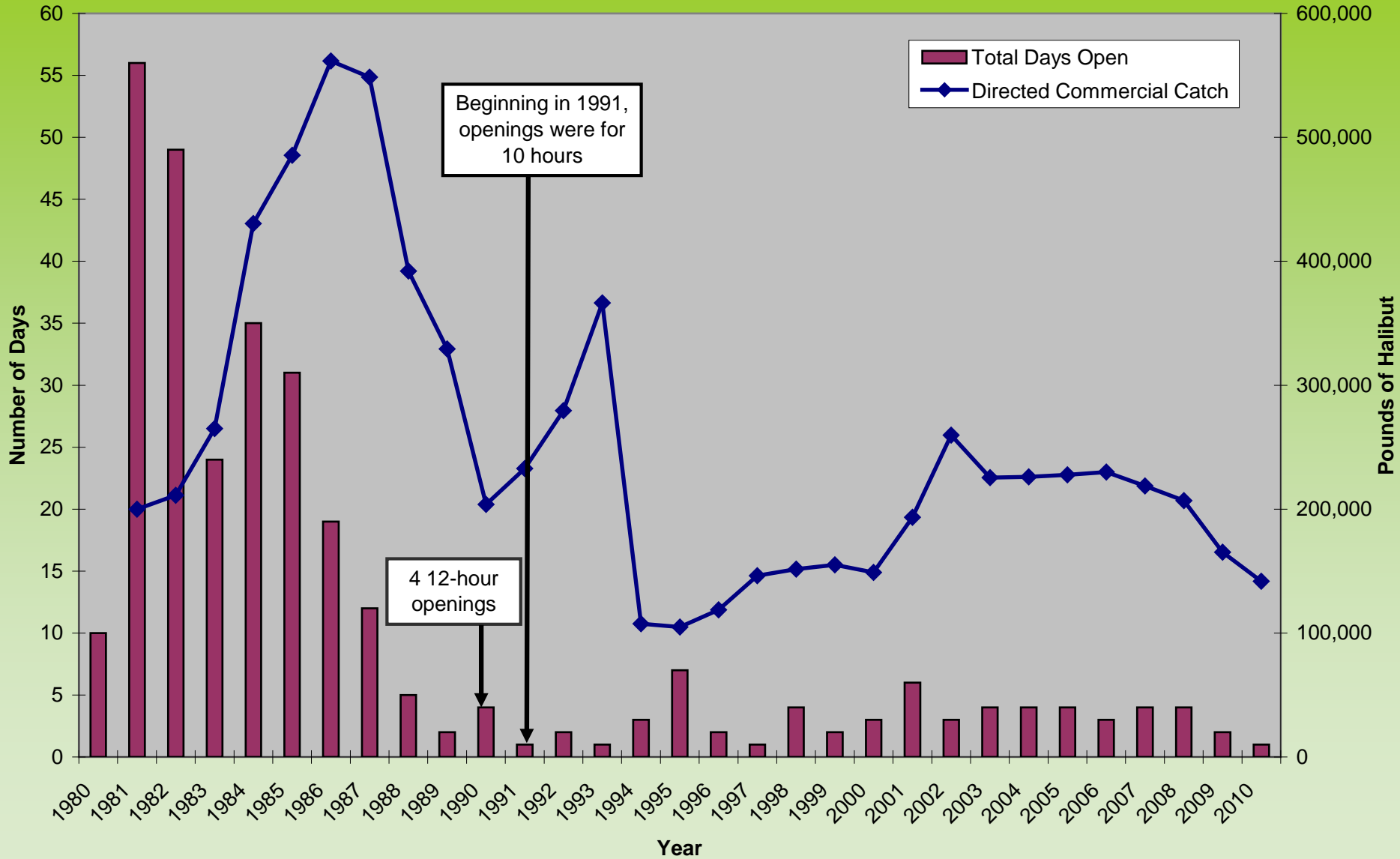
(15% of Commercial)

Area 2A Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and commercial allocations 2000-2010

Year	2A TAC (lbs)	Allocations (lbs)				
		Non-Tribal (65% of TAC)	Commercial (31.7% of Non-Tribal)	Directed (85% of Commercial)	Salmon Troll (15% of Commercial)	Incidental Sablefish N of Pt. Chehalis ¹
2000	830,000	514,500	163,097	138,632	24,464	
2001	1,140,000	716,000	226,972	192,926	34,046	47,946
2002	1,310,000	826,500	262,001	222,700	39,300	88,389
2003	1,310,000	826,500	262,001	222,700	39,300	70,000
2004	1,480,000	937,000	297,029	252,475	44,554	70,000
2005	1,330,000	839,500	266,122	226,203	39,918	70,000
2006	1,380,000	872,000	276,424	234,960	41,464	70,000
2007	1,340,000	846,000	268,182	227,955	40,227	70,000
2008	1,220,000	793,000	251,381	213,674	37,707	70,000
2009	950,000	617,500	195,748	166,385	29,362	11,895
2010	810,000	526,500	166,901	141,865	25,035	0

¹ If the Area 2A TAC is greater than 900,000 lbs, the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis will be allocated the WA sport allocation that is in excess of 214,110 lbs, provided a minimum of 10,000 lbs is available; up to 70,000 lbs.

Area 2A Directed Commercial Halibut Fishery, Days Open and Catch, 1980-2010



The allocation, total harvest, landing restrictions, and season dates for the incidental halibut catch in the fixed-gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, 2001-2010

Incidental Halibut Management in the Area 2A Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis, WA

Year	Pounds of Halibut		Restrictions	
	Allocation	Total Harvest	Halibut per Sablefish (dressed weight)	Season Dates
2001	47,946	26,945	2+80 lb per 1,000 lb	Aug.15-Oct.31
2002	88,389	66,599	2+150 lb per 1,000 lb	May 1-Oct.31
2003	70,000	65,325	2+150 lb per 1,000 lb	May 1-Oct.31
2004	70,000	67,837	2+100 lb per 1,000 lb	May 1-Oct.31
2005	70,000	68,013	2+100 lb per 1,000 lb	May 1-Oct.23
2006	70,000	64,624	2+100 lb per 1,000 lb	May 1-Oct.31
2007	70,000	45,780	2+100 lb per 1,000 lb	May 1-Oct.31
2008	70,000	39,729	2+100 lb per 1,000 lb	May 1-Oct.31
2009	11,895	6,154	100 lb per trip	May 1-Oct.31
2010	N/A	-	-	-

The number of vessels and landings, and the amount of quota and catch for the incidental sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis is described in the table below. (taken from WDFW report)

Year	# Vessels	# Landings	Quota	Catch	% of Quota
2010	0	0	0	0	---
2009	17	79	11,895	6,154	51.7%
2008	36	58	70,000	39,729	56.8%
2007	24	84	70,000	45,780	65.4%
2006	27	130	70,000	64,624	92.3%
2005	27	124	70,000	68,013	97.2%
2004	30	148	70,000	67,837	96.9%
2003	---	---	70,000	60,356	86.2%
2002	---	---	88,389	88,389	---
2001	---	---	47,946	47,946	---

(Note: Catches in 2001 and 2002 were included as part of the total non-tribal commercial landings.)

Number of commercial-permitted vessels that made landings during January 1 – December 31, 2009 for Pacific halibut, limited entry fixed gear (LEFG) with sablefish endorsement (LEFG-sable endorsed), LEFG – sable without endorsement (LEFG-not endorsed) and open access fixed gear sablefish (OAFG-sable) north of 40° 10' N lat.

	Halibut	LEFG-sable endorsed ^a	LEFG-not sable endorsed	OAFG-sable	Total
Halibut	106	18		73	197
LEFG-sable endorsed ^a		62			62
LEFG-not sable endorsed			3		3
OAFG-sable				83	83
Total	106	80	3	156	345

^aVessels that were reported to hold both OAFG-sable and LEFG-sable permits were tallied under the LEFG-sable_endorsed column.

Number of sablefish landings by port during Jan 1 – Dec 31, 2009

- Only landings north of 40° 10' N latitude are shown.
- Only 17 landings were made for LEFG without sablefish endorsements, and are therefore not shown in the table.
- ^aVessels that were reported to hold both OAFG-sable and LEFG-sable permits were tallied under the LEFG-sable_endorsed column.
- ^bLandings by LEFG vessels that were not endorsed are not shown by port because of confidentiality reasons (i.e., fewer than 3 vessels per port).

Port	LEFG-sable_endorsed ^a	LEFG-not sable endorsed ^b	OAFG-sable
Bellingham Bay	47		--
Neah Bay / Port Angeles	86		13
La Push	65		37
Westport	53		26
Illwaco / Willapa Bay	49		120
Astoria / Tilamook	49		55
Newport / Winchester Bay / Florence	189		125
Coos Bay	49		317
Port Orford	289		357
Brookings	24		20
Crescent City/Trinidad	63		68
Eureka	134		148
Total	1,097	17	1,519

Number of sablefish landings by port during Apr 1 – Oct 31, 2009

- Only landings north of 40° 10' N latitude are shown
- No landings were made for LEFG without sablefish endorsements
- ^aVessels that were reported to hold both OAFG-sable and LEFG-sable permits were tallied under the LEFG-sable_endorsed column.

Port	LEFG-sable_endorsed ^a	LEFG-not sable endorsed	OAFG-sable
Bellingham Bay	46		--
Neah Bay / Port Angeles	61		13
La Push	51		23
Westport	48		23
Illwaco / Willapa Bay	47		120
Astoria / Tilamook	46		51
Newport / Winchester Bay / Florence	177		110
Coos Bay	49		252
Port Orford	196		255
Brookings	23		20
Crescent City/Trinidad	62		64
Eureka	97		123
Total	903		1,054

Estimate of Total Bycatch in the Fixed Gear Fisheries

Estimated discard mortality (gross weight mt and lbs) from each sector of the non-nearshore fixed gear fishery from 2002 through 2009

		Estimated discard mortality (gross weight)			
		LE Sablefish Primary	LE Sablefish Non-primary	OA Fixed Gear	All Sectors
2002	<i>mt</i>	23.1	0.0	0.0	23.1
	lbs	50,927	0	0	50,927
2003	<i>mt</i>	32.5	0.0	0.0	32.5
	lbs	71,650	0	0	71,650
2004	<i>mt</i>	39.5	0.0	0.0	39.5
	lbs	87,082	0	0	87,082
2005	<i>mt</i>	36.6	0.0	0.0	36.6
	lbs	80,689	0	0	80,689
2006	<i>mt</i>	106.9	0.0	0.0	106.9
	lbs	235,674	0	0	235,674
2007	<i>mt</i>	21.0	0.2	2.9	24.1
	lbs	46,297	441	6,393	53,131
2008	<i>mt</i>	39.3	0.4	6.6	46.3
	lbs	86,642	882	14,550	102,074
2009	<i>mt</i>	49.7	0.0	6.4	56.1
	lbs	109,570	0	14,110	123,679

modified from Heery and Bellman, 2009 and Heery, Bellman and Majewski, 2010

Number and percentage of sampled Pacific halibut lengths by size

	Pacific halibut lengths	
	Number	Percentage
Actual Length		
< 80cm	56	66.7%
≥ 80 cm	28	33.3%
Visual Estimate		
0-74 cm	3,196	38.6%
75-84 cm	1,887	22.8%
85-150 cm	3,200	38.6%

From 2009 report

	Pacific halibut lengths	
	Number	Percentage
Actual Length		
< 80cm	88	63.8%
≥ 80 cm	50	36.2%
Visual Estimate		
0-74 cm	4,873	38.4%
75-84 cm	3,090	24.3%
85-150 cm	4,729	37.3%

From 2010 report

Information on how these estimates were made are available in the WCGOP documents, along with a number of caveats on the data.

Estimated legal and sub-legal discard mortality (gross weight) for the LE sablefish primary, LE sablefish non-primary and OA fixed gear fisheries, 2002-2009

		Estimated discard mortality (legal vs sub-legal) in lbs.			
		LE Sablefish Primary	LE Sablefish Non-primary	OA Fixed Gear	All Sectors
2002	sub	33,968	0	0	33,968
	legal	16,959	0	0	16,959
2003	sub	47,791	0	0	47,791
	legal	23,859	0	0	23,859
2004	sub	58,084	0	0	58,084
	legal	28,998	0	0	28,998
2005	sub	53,820	0	0	53,820
	legal	26,869	0	0	26,869
2006	sub	157,194	0	0	157,194
	legal	78,479	0	0	78,479
2007	sub	30,880	294	4,264	35,439
	legal	15,417	147	2,129	17,693
2008	sub	57,790	588	9,705	68,083
	legal	28,852	294	4,845	33,991
2009	sub	73,083	0	9,411	82,494
	legal	36,487	0	4,698	41,185

Estimated legal and sub-legal discard mortality (net weight) for the LE sablefish primary, LE sablefish non-primary and OA fixed gear fisheries, 2002-2009

New table, from ODFW
supplemental report

		Estimated discard mortality (<u>net weight lbs</u>) <i>net weight = gross weight x 0.75</i>			
		LE Sablefish Primary	LE Sablefish Non-primary	OA Fixed Gear	All Sectors
2002	sub	25,476	0	0	25,476
	legal	12,719	0	0	12,719
2003	sub	35,843	0	0	35,843
	legal	17,895	0	0	17,895
2004	sub	43,563	0	0	43,563
	legal	21,749	0	0	21,749
2005	sub	40,365	0	0	40,365
	legal	20,152	0	0	20,152
2006	sub	117,896	0	0	117,896
	legal	58,860	0	0	58,860
2007	sub	23,160	221	3,198	26,579
	legal	11,563	110	1,597	13,270
2008	sub	43,342	441	7,279	51,062
	legal	21,639	220	3,634	25,493
2009	sub	54,812	0	7,058	61,871
	legal	27,365	0	3,524	30,889

Estimated legal and sub-legal total discards (net weight) for the LE sablefish primary, LE sablefish non-primary and OA fixed gear fisheries, 2002-2009

New table, from ODFW supplemental report

Previous table values divided by mortality rate (0.16)

		Estimated <u>total weight</u> of discards (legal vs. sub-legal) in lbs. (<i>total weight = discard mortality/ discard mortality rate</i>)			
		LE Sablefish Primary	LE Sablefish Non-primary	OA Fixed Gear	All Sectors
2002	sub	159,226	0	0	159,226
	legal	79,493	0	0	79,493
2003	sub	224,019	0	0	224,019
	legal	111,841	0	0	111,841
2004	sub	272,269	0	0	272,269
	legal	135,930	0	0	135,930
2005	sub	252,279	0	0	252,279
	legal	125,951	0	0	125,951
2006	sub	736,849	0	0	736,849
	legal	367,872	0	0	367,872
2007	sub	144,751	1,379	19,989	166,118
	legal	72,267	688	9,980	82,935
2008	sub	270,890	2,757	45,493	319,140
	legal	135,242	1,377	22,712	159,331
2009	sub	342,576	0	44,114	386,691
	legal	171,031	0	22,024	193,055

*Items for Consideration by the Council
when determining if this should go forward:*

- Which fisheries will be allowed to retain incidental halibut
 - LE sablefish primary
 - LE sablefish non-primary
 - OA fixed gear sablefish
- Season structure
- Season dates
 - throughout the year
 - only during the primary season
- Amount of Pacific halibut allocated for the retention of incidental catch
 - the entire directed commercial allocation
 - something smaller

*Items for Consideration by the Council
when determining if this should go forward:*

- Trip limit structure
- Who will track landings
- Who and how will biological data be collected from these halibut landings
- Can/will processors purchase and process small amounts of halibut over the course of the season rather than large quantities over short periods of time