

FINAL INCIDENTAL CATCH REGULATIONS FOR
SALMON TROLL AND FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERIES

Regulations governing the incidental harvest of Pacific halibut in the non-Indian commercial troll salmon fishery and the primary limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington require the Council to adopt Pacific halibut landing restrictions. At the March 2013 meeting, the Council adopted for public review the following options for the salmon troll and the primary sablefish fisheries:

Salmon Troll Fishery

Status Quo: Beginning May 1, 2013 license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each **four** Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:4 ratio requirement, and no more than **20** Pacific halibut may be landed per trip. Pacific halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

Option 1: Beginning May 1, 2013 license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each **three** Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:3 ratio requirement, and no more than **20** Pacific halibut may be landed per trip. Pacific halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

Option 2: Beginning May 1, 2013 license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each **four** Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:4 ratio requirement, and no more than **15** Pacific halibut may be landed per trip. Pacific halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

Option 3: Beginning May 1, 2013 license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each **five** Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:5 ratio requirement, and no more than **10** Pacific halibut may be landed per trip. Pacific halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

In 2013, the primary objective for the landing restrictions is to harvest the incidental Pacific halibut quota in the May/June salmon troll fishery. The secondary objective is to harvest any remaining quota during July through the end of the salmon season.

Starting in 2014, Pacific halibut may be retained starting April 1. The landing restrictions adopted for 2013 would be in effect April 1, 2014 for the pre-May 1 fisheries unless modified by the Council through inseason action at the March 2014 meeting. The Council would adopt landing restrictions for the rest of the year at the March and April meetings.

Commercial Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis, Washington

Status Quo: Beginning May 1, 2013, restrict incidental Pacific halibut landings to 50 pounds (dressed weight) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed and up to 2 additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 50 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

Option 1: Beginning May 1, 2013, restrict incidental Pacific halibut landings to 75 pounds (dressed weight) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed and up to 2 additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 75 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

Option 2: Beginning May 1, 2013, restrict incidental Pacific halibut landings to 100 pounds (dressed weight) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed and up to 2 additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 100 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

The objectives for the annual landing restrictions are to attain the Pacific halibut allocation at about the same time as the end of the primary sablefish season (October 31) and to ensure an equitable sharing of the Pacific halibut landings among the fishers.

The Council also adopted for public review changes to the 2014 season dates for retaining Pacific halibut in the primary sablefish north of Point Chehalis. If adopted, starting in 2014, Pacific halibut could be retained starting April 1. The landing restrictions adopted for 2013 would be in effect April 1, 2014 unless modified by the Council through inseason action at the March 2014 meeting (i.e., a one meeting process).

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt final landing restrictions for Pacific halibut caught incidentally in the non-Indian salmon troll fishery for 2013 and the early season (pre-May 1) fisheries in 2014.**
- 2. Adopt final season dates for incidental Pacific halibut harvest in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington for 2014 and beyond.**
- 3. Adopt final landing restrictions for Pacific halibut caught incidentally in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington for 2013 and 2014, if necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kelly Ames
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Incidental Catch Recommendations for 2013 and April 2014