

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
FINAL INCIDENTAL CATCH RECOMENDATIONS FOR SALMON TROLL AND FIXED
GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered input from sablefish industry representation and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel.

GAP recommendations:

Salmon Troll

No recommendation.

Fixed Gear Sablefish

With the sablefish fixed gear fishery, harvestable amount of halibut is enough to allow retention in the north of Point Chehalis fishery for 2013. The GAP recommends Option #1 from agenda item G.1 Situation Summary.

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

Rationale: The allocation for 2013 is similar to 2012. Roughly 1/5 of the 2012 allocation was taken using 50 pounds per 1000 in 2012. Much, but not all, of the shortage was due to licensing issues preventing majority participation. Therefore it is believed an increase in halibut/sablefish ratio is justified.

Starting Date

The GAP supports moving the halibut retention starting date for both fisheries to April 1 beginning in 2014

PFMC
04/08/13