



Washington Trollers Association

P. O. Box 799
Kingston, WA 98346
Ph: (360) 638-1135
E-Mail: jdazey@centurytel.net
March 5, 2013

Dr. Donald McIsaac
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Pl, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Dr. McIsaac,

The Washington Trollers Association represent over 100 active salmon trollers and associate members that reside in the State of WA or fish off of the WA Coast. As you know there is an incidental landing allowance of halibut that can be retained and sold along with our targeted troll salmon catch. The annual allowance of incidental catch of halibut is limited to 15% of the annual commercial allocation of harvestable halibut for the 2A area as determined by the International Pacific Halibut Commission. The Coastal area 2A is shared by the States of WA, OR, and CA. Prior to the action at the November PFMC meeting, all three states had the same opportunity to retain halibut incidental to the troll fishery as it was it was not permitted to retain incidentally hooked halibut prior to May 1 which has been the traditional opening date for the WA/OR salmon troll fishery north of Cape Falcon. At the Nov. meeting, the record showed that incidental caught halibut during April salmon troll may be retained and sold. The Oregon fishermen will be landing halibut pounds against a given quota and WA salmon trollers will be disadvantaged because their season does not start until May 1. The WA salmon trollers are not happy about having this disadvantage and can see the potential for Oregon salmon trollers of removing a significant portion of the allowed quota before the WA salmon fishermen wet a hook. At a minimum, the WA salmon trollers request that the April salmon halibut incidental landing allowance is restricted to a maximum of 1500 pounds. If the 1500 pound landing limit is achieved prior to April 30, no more halibut would be allowed to be retained by the Oregon salmon fishermen.

Sincerely,

Greg Mueller
President
Washington Trollers Association

cc. Jim Olson, WA Troll Advisor
cci. Phil Anderson
ccii. Michele Culver