

Agenda Item H.3.c
Public Comment
November 2013

From: Lou Ferrari salmonhead@live.com
To: jimseger@noaa.gov
CC: johndevore@noaa.gov
Subject: Reducing Sablefish discards
Date: Wed, 9 Oct 2013 20:35:50 -0700

If the primary sablefish season were year round and each fishermen with a tiered permit had a choice at the time he unloaded to designate his catch towards his tier limit or make it a DTL landing instead, it would significantly reduce sablefish discards. For example, when we set our longlines we never know how many fish will be on the gear. When fishing is slow, and the catch is at or below the DTL limit we could then make a DTL landing. When the catch is much greater, we can retain all the fish and make a landing towards our tier limit without any discards.

It is understood that the two month periods and limits on the DTL would still apply, and if we made a DTL landing we would have to wait for the new weekly period before we could make any more landings. If however we made a tier landing, we could go back out immediately providing we had more on our tier. I believe this system would be easy to comply with and would good the future of the fishery. There have been numerous times in the past when we had to discard a lot of fish when we could have retained them under the example explained above. The current regulations create a lot of waste, time, and money.