

PROPOSED INCIDENTAL HALIBUT CATCH IN THE TROLL SALMON FISHERY

Situation: Regulations governing the incidental harvest of halibut in the salmon troll fishery require the Council to adopt recommended halibut landing restrictions to allow incidental harvest while assuring the quota is not exceeded.

The halibut regulations allocate 15% of the non-Indian commercial halibut allocation in Area 2A to the salmon troll fishery as an incidental catch during May and June (with provision for later harvest if quota remains after the July directed fishery). The table below provides the number of licenses, allocation, harvest, and landing restrictions for the incidental halibut fishery since the initial season in 1995. The Council has successfully used landing ratios and a total trip limit to assure a manageable progression of the fishery in past years. By the April meeting, the Council should have a good estimate of the number of trollers with incidental harvest permits (applications for a permit must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2000). The landing restrictions may be modified during the season if necessary.

Incidental Halibut Fishery in Area 2A

Year	Licenses Issued ^{1/}				Total	Pounds of Halibut			Restriction	
	WA	OR	CA	AK-2A		Allocation	May-June Harvest	Total Harvest	Halibut per Chinook	Trip Limit
1995	-	-	-	-	124	16,068	2,125	2,125	1 per each 20	none
1996	22	74	4	14	114	16,068	9,521	9,521	1 + 1 per each 15	20
1997	57	184	10	20	271	21,635	17,570	17,570	1 + 1 per each 10	20
1998	42	188	15	18	263	25,344	9,123	13,124	1 + 1 per each 8	25
1999	54	197	12	25	288	23,490	9,955	9,955	1 + 1 per each 5	35
2000	-	-	-	-	-	24,464	-	-	-	-

Council Action: Adopt a range of landing restrictions for halibut caught incidentally in the May/June troll season to match with the troll salmon management options and assure a reasonable utilization of the incidental catch while not exceeding the quota.

Reference Materials: None.

PFMC
02/22/00

i/ Licenses are issued by vessel number in the following order: AK, WA, OR, CA (i.e., if a vessel has both Alaska and Washington vessel numbers, the licensed would be issued to the Alaska vessel number.