

ESTIMATE OF HALIBUT BYCATCH IN 1999

Situation: Ms. Cyreis Schmitt, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), will review the final bycatch estimates for Pacific halibut in the Council-area groundfish and shrimp trawl fisheries. NMFS and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff have completed a revised bycatch estimation method using data collected from the Oregon Enhanced Data Collection Program. This recent sampling information may be used by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) to update estimates from earlier studies. The bycatch estimates are important inputs in the process of establishing the final harvest allocations for the 2001 halibut fisheries in Area 2A waters. The actual bycatch estimates will be provided in a supplemental report at the Council meeting.

Council Action: Provide guidance for further use or development of halibut bycatch estimates.

Reference Materials:

1. Estimates of Pacific halibut bycatch in IPHC Area 2A (Exhibit D.1, Supplemental NMFS/ODFW Bycatch Report).

PFMC
10/16/00