

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WDFW) PROPOSED 2002
INCIDENTAL CATCH REGULATIONS FOR THE FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERY

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is proposing the following options for 2002 incidental catch regulations for the fixed gear sablefish fishery North of Point Chehalis:

Option 1a

Restrict incidental halibut landings to 80 pounds (dressed weight) of halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed, and up to two additional halibut in excess of the 80 pounds per 1,000 pound ratio per landing.

Option 1b

Restrict incidental halibut landings to 200 pounds (dressed weight) of halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed, and up to two additional halibut in excess of the 200 pounds per 1,000 pound ratio per landing.

Option 2

Restrict the incidental halibut landings to a trip limit of 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of halibut.

Option 3

Close the halibut "hotspot" area as defined in the Pacific Council Halibut Catch Sharing Plan in the North Coast subarea (WA Marine Area 3), and extend the closure south to 48°00'00"N latitude, for protection of yelloweye rockfish areas.

NOTE: Options 2 and 3 may be combined with either Option 1a or 1b.

Under any selected option, halibut retention in the sablefish fishery would begin on May 1, after the IPHC licensing application period is concluded.