

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE (WDFW) PROPOSED 2003  
INCIDENTAL CATCH REGULATIONS FOR THE FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERY

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is proposing the following options for the 2003 incidental catch regulations for the fixed gear sablefish fishery North of Point Chehalis:

**Option 1a**

Restrict incidental halibut landings to 150 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 150 pounds per 1,000 pound ratio per landing.

**Option 1b**

Restrict incidental halibut landings to 100 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 150 pounds per 1,000 pound ratio per landing.

**Option 2**

Designate the "C-shaped" yelloweye rockfish conservation area, as defined in the Pacific Council Halibut Catch Sharing Plan in the North Coast subarea (WA Marine Area 3), as an area to be avoided for longline sablefish fishing to provide protection of yelloweye rockfish (i.e., voluntary closure).

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

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