

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL STATEMENT ON  
PUBLIC REVIEW OPTIONS FOR THE 2004 INCIDENTAL CATCH REGULATIONS IN  
THE SALMON TROLL AND FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed the options for allowing retention of halibut in the fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis.

The GAP believes the current allowance of halibut retention in this fishery is reasonable and provides sufficient opportunity for incidental catch. The GAP supports retaining the status quo for incidental catch in the fixed gear fishery.

A minority of the GAP believes halibut incidentally taken in the trawl fishery should be retained up to a reasonable level which would prevent targeting of halibut in the trawl fishery in order to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements to reduce bycatch (in the form of discards) to the extent practicable.

PFMC  
03/09/04