

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
INCIDENTAL 2009 CATCH REGULATIONS IN THE SALMON TROLL AND FIXED
GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered regulations involving incidental halibut harvest of the above fisheries.

After consideration of the overall situation for both the salmon troll and sablefish fisheries, the GAP recommends adopting the following options.

A. Salmon troll fishery

Option #1a. (Status Quo with YRCA) No more than one halibut in possession per each two Chinook, except one halibut may be in possession without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut may be in possession and landed per trip. Halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in length.

B. Sablefish fishery

Option #1 100# (dressed weight) of halibut in possession per landing. Retention of halibut allowed beginning May 1.

Salmon troll fishery rationale:

The GAP discussed the economics of the salmon fishery in favor of increasing the incidental halibut catch. On the other side some concern was expressed regarding a possible increase of impacts to species of concern such as yelloweye rockfish especially considering no vessel monitoring system requirements. A greater concern was setting a precedence of ever increasing incidental allowance perhaps reaching a condition of targeting bycatch. It was felt that bycatch reduction held a higher priority than economic opportunity.

Sablefish fishery rationale:

It was noticed by the GAP that the option listed in this agenda item as status quo is not what was in place in 2008. The status quo would be 2+100 lb per 1,000 lb. The GAP does not support the status quo as used in 2008, but does support Option #1.