

PROPOSED PROCEDURES FOR ESTIMATING PACIFIC HALIBUT BYCATCH
IN THE GROUND FISH FISHERIES

Dr. Jim Hastie, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), will brief the Council on the status of bycatch estimates for Pacific halibut in the Council-area groundfish trawl and setline fisheries.

The halibut bycatch estimates for the 2008 groundfish trawl fishery in International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Area 2A waters include information from the groundfish observer program and effects of the groundfish area closures in 2008, while the most recent groundfish setline bycatch estimates are based on 2007 fishery information. A supplemental report was provided to the Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) for review with the intent of providing estimates to the IPHC to use in establishing the 2009 halibut fisheries (Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report).

Council Action:

Utilizing input from the SSC, provide any needed Council guidance to the completion of the bycatch assessment and its transmittal by NMFS to the IPHC.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.2.d, Public Comment.
2. Agenda Item H.2.b, Supplemental NMFS Report: Pacific Halibut Bycatch in IPHC Area 2A in 2007 and 2008.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
 - b. Northwest Fisheries Science Center Report
 - c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - d. Public Comment
 - e. **Council Action:** Review and Provide Guidance on Appropriate Bycatch Estimation Procedures
- Chuck Tracy
Jim Hastie

PFMC
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