

## FINAL INCIDENTAL CATCH REGULATIONS FOR THE 2012 SALMON TROLL AND FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERIES

Regulations governing the incidental harvest of halibut in the non-Indian commercial troll salmon fishery and the primary, limited entry longline sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis require the Council to adopt recommended halibut landing restrictions to allow incidental harvest while assuring the quotas are not exceeded. At the March meeting, the Council adopted the following options for both the salmon troll fishery and the sablefish fishery for public review:

### **Salmon Troll Fishery**

- Option 1: Status quo – Beginning May 1, license holders may land no more than one halibut per each **three** Chinook, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:3 ratio requirement, and no more than **35** halibut may be landed per trip. Halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).
- Option 2: Beginning May 1, license holders may land no more than one halibut per each **four** Chinook, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:4 ratio requirement, and no more than **20** halibut may be landed per trip. Halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).
- Option 3: Beginning May 1, license holders may land no more than one halibut per each **five** Chinook, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:5 ratio requirement, and no more than **15** halibut may be landed per trip. Halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

The primary objective for the annual landing restrictions is to harvest the incidental halibut quota in the May/June salmon troll fishery, and a secondary objective is to harvest any remaining quota during July through the end of the salmon season.

### **Commercial Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis**

The Council adopted three public review options for landing limits on incidental halibut harvest in the fixed gear primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis:

- Option 1: Beginning May 1, restrict incidental halibut landings to 100 pounds (dressed weight) of halibut per landing.
- Option 2: Beginning May 1, restrict incidental halibut landings to 50 pounds (dressed weight) of halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed and up to 2 additional halibut in excess of the 50 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

The objectives for the annual landing restrictions are to reach the halibut allocation at about the same time as the sablefish season ends and to ensure an equitable sharing of the halibut landings among the fishers.

**Council Action:**

- 1. Adopt incidental halibut landing restrictions for implementation by the National Marine Fisheries Service in the 2012 non-Indian commercial troll salmon fishery.**
- 2. Adopt incidental halibut landing restrictions for implementation by NMFS in the 2012, primary, limited entry longline sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington.**

**Reference Materials:**

None.

**Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Incidental Catch Recommendations for 2012

Chuck Tracy

PFMC  
03/16/12

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FINAL INCIDENTAL CATCH  
RECOMENDATIONS FOR THE 2012 SALMON TROLL AND FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH  
FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommends for the Salmon troll fishery option #2 from agenda item F.1 Situation Summary

Beginning May 1, license holders may land no more than one halibut per each **four** Chinook, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:4 ratio requirement and no more than **20** halibut may be landed per trip. Halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

Rationale: A desire by many participants to pursue a more equal landing distribution between north and south and a longer season was expressed to GAP members. It is believed that the above option would move the fishery in that direction.

With the sablefish fixed gear fishery, harvestable amount of halibut is enough to allow retention in the north of Point Chehalis fishery for 2012. The GAP recommends option #2 from Agenda Item F.1 Situation Summary.

Beginning May 1, restrict incidental halibut landings to **50** pounds (dressed weight) of halibut for every **1,000** pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed and up to **2** additional halibut in excess of the 50 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

Rationale: This option is calculated from the 2001 fishery where the harvest was 26,945 lb at 80 lb per 1000 lb. 50 lb per 1000 should result in a harvest close to 21,173.

PFMC  
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SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON  
FINAL INCIDENTAL CATCH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2012 SALMON TROLL AND  
FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERIES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) recommends the incidental halibut trip limit of 20 halibut. The SAS also recommends a retention ratio of one halibut per four Chinook with one halibut in possession in excess of the ratio but not to exceed 20 the trip limit.

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel also requests the Council direct that the SAS explore language to amend the halibut catch sharing plan to add halibut retention in months prior to May, contingent on IPHC generally opening halibut.

PFMC  
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SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON FINAL  
INCIDENTAL CATCH REGULATIONS FOR 2012 IN THE SALMON TROLL AND FIXED  
GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERY

For the incidental halibut catch regulations in the salmon troll fishery, the Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) recommends a ratio of no more than one halibut per each three Chinook, except one halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 15 halibut may be landed per trip.

It should be noted that inseason action may be necessary to ensure the incidental Pacific halibut allocation is utilized in an appropriate and fair manner.

PFMC  
04/2/12