

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

Regulations governing the incidental harvest of Pacific halibut in the non-Indian commercial troll salmon fishery and the primary limited entry fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington require the Council to adopt Pacific halibut landing restrictions. At the March 2013 meeting, the Council adopted for public review the following options for the salmon troll and the primary sablefish fisheries:

Salmon Troll Fishery

Status Quo: Beginning May 1, 2013 license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each **four** Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:4 ratio requirement, and no more than **20** Pacific halibut may be landed per trip. Pacific halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

Option 1: Beginning May 1, 2013 license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each **three** Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:3 ratio requirement, and no more than **20** Pacific halibut may be landed per trip. Pacific halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

Option 2: Beginning May 1, 2013 license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each **four** Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:4 ratio requirement, and no more than **15** Pacific halibut may be landed per trip. Pacific halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

Option 3: Beginning May 1, 2013 license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each **five** Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the 1:5 ratio requirement, and no more than **10** Pacific halibut may be landed per trip. Pacific halibut retained must be no less than 32 inches in total length (with head on).

In 2013, the primary objective for the landing restrictions is to harvest the incidental Pacific halibut quota in the May/June salmon troll fishery. The secondary objective is to harvest any remaining quota during July through the end of the salmon season.

Starting in 2014, Pacific halibut may be retained starting April 1. The landing restrictions adopted for 2013 would be in effect April 1, 2014 for the pre-May 1 fisheries unless modified by the Council through inseason action at the March 2014 meeting. The Council would adopt landing restrictions for the rest of the year at the March and April meetings.

Commercial Sablefish Fishery North of Point Chehalis, Washington

Status Quo: Beginning May 1, 2013, restrict incidental Pacific halibut landings to 50 pounds (dressed weight) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed and up to 2 additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 50 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

Option 1: Beginning May 1, 2013, restrict incidental Pacific halibut landings to 75 pounds (dressed weight) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed and up to 2 additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 75 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

Option 2: Beginning May 1, 2013, restrict incidental Pacific halibut landings to 100 pounds (dressed weight) of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed and up to 2 additional Pacific halibut in excess of the 100 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

The objectives for the annual landing restrictions are to attain the Pacific halibut allocation at about the same time as the end of the primary sablefish season (October 31) and to ensure an equitable sharing of the Pacific halibut landings among the fishers.

The Council also adopted for public review changes to the 2014 season dates for retaining Pacific halibut in the primary sablefish north of Point Chehalis. If adopted, starting in 2014, Pacific halibut could be retained starting April 1. The landing restrictions adopted for 2013 would be in effect April 1, 2014 unless modified by the Council through inseason action at the March 2014 meeting (i.e., a one meeting process).

Council Action:

- 1. Adopt final landing restrictions for Pacific halibut caught incidentally in the non-Indian salmon troll fishery for 2013 and the early season (pre-May 1) fisheries in 2014.**
- 2. Adopt final season dates for incidental Pacific halibut harvest in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington for 2014 and beyond.**
- 3. Adopt final landing restrictions for Pacific halibut caught incidentally in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington for 2013 and 2014, if necessary.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.c, Public Comment.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Kelly Ames
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Incidental Catch Recommendations for 2013 and April 2014

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

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) considered input from sablefish industry representation and the Salmon Advisory Subpanel.

GAP recommendations:

Salmon Troll

No recommendation.

Fixed Gear Sablefish

With the sablefish fixed gear fishery, harvestable amount of halibut is enough to allow retention in the north of Point Chehalis fishery for 2013. The GAP recommends Option #1 from agenda item G.1 Situation Summary.

Beginning May 1, restrict incidental halibut landings to **75** 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 75 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing.

Rationale: The allocation for 2013 is similar to 2012. Roughly 1/5 of the 2012 allocation was taken using 50 pounds per 1000 in 2012. Much, but not all, of the shortage was due to licensing issues preventing majority participation. Therefore it is believed an increase in halibut/sablefish ratio is justified.

Starting Date

The GAP supports moving the halibut retention starting date for both fisheries to April 1 beginning in 2014

PFMC
04/08/13

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON Final Incidental Catch Recommendations
for Salmon Troll and
Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries

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

PFMC
04/08/13



Washington Trollers Association

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March 5, 2013

Dr. Donald McIsaac
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Pl, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Dear Dr. McIsaac,

The Washington Trollers Association represent over 100 active salmon trollers and associate members that reside in the State of WA or fish off of the WA Coast. As you know there is an incidental landing allowance of halibut that can be retained and sold along with our targeted troll salmon catch. The annual allowance of incidental catch of halibut is limited to 15% of the annual commercial allocation of harvestable halibut for the 2A area as determined by the International Pacific Halibut Commission. The Coastal area 2A is shared by the States of WA, OR, and CA. Prior to the action at the November PFMC meeting, all three states had the same opportunity to retain halibut incidental to the troll fishery as it was it was not permitted to retain incidentally hooked halibut prior to May 1 which has been the traditional opening date for the WA/OR salmon troll fishery north of Cape Falcon. At the Nov. meeting, the record showed that incidental caught halibut during April salmon troll may be retained and sold. The Oregon fishermen will be landing halibut pounds against a given quota and WA salmon trollers will be disadvantaged because their season does not start until May 1. The WA salmon trollers are not happy about having this disadvantage and can see the potential for Oregon salmon trollers of removing a significant portion of the allowed quota before the WA salmon fishermen wet a hook. At a minimum, the WA salmon trollers request that the April salmon halibut incidental landing allowance is restricted to a maximum of 1500 pounds. If the 1500 pound landing limit is achieved prior to April 30, no more halibut would be allowed to be retained by the Oregon salmon fishermen.

Sincerely,

Greg Mueller
President
Washington Trollers Association

cc. Jim Olson, WA Troll Advisor
cci. Phil Anderson
ccii. Michele Culver

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Agenda Item G.1.c
Supplemental Public Comment 2
April 2013

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OREGON SALMON COMMISSION

MAR 22 2013

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PFMC

3-7-13

INCIDENTAL HALIBUT TO THE OCEAN TROLL FISHERY

The following Salmon Permit Holders would like to see the following catch guidelines adopted for the 2013 Ocean Salmon season in Area 2A.

One Pacific halibut per each four Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be possessed or landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 10 halibut may be possessed or landed per trip.

FV April
[Signature]

FV WB
[Signature]

FV Lady Jane -
[Signature]

FV The Bahron
[Signature]

FV Cindy E
[Signature]

FV Apache
[Signature]

FV Donna L
[Signature]

FV Petra Marie
[Signature]

FV Trade Wind
[Signature]

FV North Shore
[Signature]

FV Silver Girl
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FV Sea Q
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FV Hi Tide
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FV Blanco Girl
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FV Dellene
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FV Slogun
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FV Merkur
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FV Native Son
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FV Quantum Leap
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FV Sitka
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FV Sea Way
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FV Warrior Bride
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FV Barhopper
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FV Bay Ocean
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