

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON
HALIBUT INCIDENTAL GROUND FISH REGULATIONS FINAL ACTION

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service Report 1 on Halibut incidental groundfish regulations and have the following comments.

The EC appreciates the efforts of National Marine Fisheries Service to use an automatic action to close the retention of halibut in the limited entry fixed gear sablefish primary fishery upon posting notice of a Halibut retention closure by the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

The EC relies on these timely actions to effectively enforce any management closures. We support alternative 2 modifying groundfish regulations at §660.60 to close halibut retention in the limited entry fixed gear sablefish primary fishery when the retention is closed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission.

Without this automatic action we would have two conflicting rules that would hamper enforcement efforts.

PFMC
03/12/16