

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON INCIDENTAL CATCH
RECOMMENDATION OPTIONS FOR THE SALMON TROLL AND FINAL
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommends as final halibut restrictions for the fixed gear sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis a catch ratio of 140 dressed pounds of halibut per 1,000 dressed pounds of sablefish, plus two additional fish.

The GAP requested of the Groundfish Management Team (GMT) an analysis of several options, including 110-, 140- and 150-pound ratios per 1,000 lbs of dressed sablefish. Based on their analysis, it appears those permit holders who participate in this fishery harvest 50 to 70 percent of their total available sablefish harvest pounds north of Pt. Chehalis. The GMT report also indicates there were 14 vessels in 2016 that delivered halibut and sablefish north of Pt. Chehalis. It is anticipated that with an increased ratio of halibut from 2016, additional landings of sablefish will take place in this fishery. In years past, 17 vessels has been average when the halibut ratio has been high. The GAP recommends the ratio of 140 lbs at this time be reviewed for adjustment at the June Council meeting.

For incidental catch in the salmon troll fishery, the GAP agrees with the recommended alternatives contained in the supplemental Salmon Advisory Subpanel report under this agenda item.

PFMC
03/09/17