FINAL INCIDENTAL LANDING RESTRICTIONS FOR THE 2017-2018 SALMON TROLL FISHERY

The 2017 Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 2A allocates 15 percent of the non-Indian commercial halibut allocation to the salmon troll fishery as incidental catch. The primary management objective outlined in the CSP is to harvest the incidental quota during the April through June salmon troll fishery, with a secondary objective to harvest any remaining quota from July through the remainder of the salmon troll fishery.

The Council has successfully used landing ratios and a total trip limit to ensure a manageable progression of the fishery in past years. A summary of management information for the incidental halibut fishery since the initial season in 1995 is provided in Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1. The April 1-30, 2017 landing restrictions limit is no more than one halibut per three Chinook, except one halibut may be possessed or landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 20 halibut may be landed per trip. For the rest of the season, the Council adopted the following options for public review:

Alternative 1 (Status Quo): May 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 and April 1-30, 2018, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each three Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 20 halibut landed per trip.

Alternative 2: May 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 and April 1-30, 2018, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each two Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 30 halibut landed per trip.

Alternative 3: May 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 and April 1-30, 2018, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per each two Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut landed per trip.

The landing restrictions adopted for the start of the season in 2018 would be in effect from April 1-30, 2018 (pre-May 1 fisheries) unless modified by the Council through a recommendation for inseason action at the March 2018 meeting.

Final Council action is scheduled on the aforementioned limits at the April 2017 Council meeting.

Council Action:

Adopt final landing restrictions for Pacific halibut caught incidentally in the non-Indian salmon troll fishery May 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 and April 1-30, 2018.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1: Summary of Pacific Halibut Incidental Catch Management.

Agenda Order:

- H.1 Final Incidental Landing Restrictions for the 2017-2018 Salmon Troll
 Fishery
 Kelly Ames
 - a. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Incidental Catch Recommendations for 2017 and April 2018 Non-Indian Salmon Troll Fisheries

PFMC 03/17/2017