

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

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received an overview from Mr. Bob Alverson and Mr. Steve Joner of the annual International Pacific Halibut Commission meeting.

The GAP was informed that Council action from the fall of 2017 for a new bycatch allocation for the sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis may or may not be approved for the 2018 season. The GAP recommends setting bycatch at a ratio that reflects the Council's fall recommendation. This would result in a total catch of 50,000 pounds for the sablefish tiered fishery north of Point Chehalis.

In 2017, the sablefish tiered fishery north of Point Chehalis was allowed 140 pounds per 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus two halibut. This resulted in a catch of 35,000 pounds. Using a ratio that could result in a harvest of 50,000 pounds, the GAP recommends setting a limit of 200 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of sablefish of plus two halibut for 2018.

The GAP defers to the Salmon Advisory Subpanel regarding recommendations for halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery for 2018.

PFMC
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