

INCIDENTAL CATCH LIMITS FOR 2018 SALMON TROLL FISHERY - FINAL ACTION

The 2018 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 is provided in Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 1.

On March 13, 2018, National Marine Fisheries Service took inseason action to rescind commercial ocean salmon fisheries that were scheduled to begin prior to May 1, 2018. As a result of this action, incidental halibut retention guidelines are not needed prior to May 1, 2018 since no salmon troll fisheries are in place during that timeframe. The Council adopted the following options for public review:

For all options: Effective May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon season, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land:

Option 1: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per three Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 20 halibut landed per trip.

Option 2: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per three Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 30 halibut landed per trip.

Option 3: May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll fishery, and April 1-30, 2019, license holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except two 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 2019 would be in effect from April 1-30, 2019 (pre-May 1 fisheries) unless modified by the Council through a recommendation for inseason action at the March 2019 meeting.

Final Council action is scheduled on the aforementioned limits at the April 2019 Council meeting.

Council Action:

Adopt final landing restrictions for Pacific halibut caught incidentally in the non-Indian salmon troll fishery May 1, 2018 through the end of the 2018 salmon troll season, and April 1-30, 2019.

Reference Materials:

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

Agenda Order:

- G.1 Incidental Catch Limits for 2018 Salmon Troll Fishery – Final Action
Fishery Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Incidental Catch Recommendations for 2018 and April 2019 Non-Indian Salmon Troll Fisheries

PFMC
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