

GROUND FISH MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT ON THE COMMERCIAL DIRECTED HALIBUT FISHERY TRANSITION PLANNING

The Groundfish Management Team (GMT) received an overview from Ms. Robin Ehlke of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff, reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) report ([Agenda Item F.3.a NMFS Report 1](#)) on transition planning for the non-tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery, and offer the following comments.

The Council does not have a Pacific halibut advisory subgroup. Although the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) and Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) have members who participate in Pacific halibut fisheries, they may not be active participants in the non-tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery. To ensure adequate representation as transition proceeds, the Council may consider adding representatives who participate in the directed fishery to one or both of these subpanels.

Additionally, the Council does not have a Pacific halibut management team. Therefore, there are questions about who is going to complete the analysis for the transition and who will be responsible for the eventual inseason and annual management actions. The GMT anticipates that at least some of that workload will fall to the GMT. While several members of the GMT also work on Pacific halibut as part of their regular non-GMT duties, the GMT may not have all of the expertise needed, and does not currently have the workload capacity to take on the directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery management as well. Additionally, the GMT does not include a NMFS regional Pacific halibut staff member, someone who is familiar with the Pacific halibut regulations. Therefore, the Council should give careful consideration when assigning workload, and ensure there is adequate expertise and capacity to cover directed commercial Pacific halibut management issues.

PFMC
11/15/19