

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) reviewed the reports under this agenda item, specifically the primary (tier) fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA.

The GAP recommends the incidental catch of halibut in the tiered fishery north of Point Chehalis be set at 225 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut for 2021 (2 + 225 lb. per 1,000 lbs.).

This number “splits the difference” between the 2019 recommendation of 2 fish + 200 lbs. of halibut per 1,000 lbs. of dressed sablefish and the 2020 recommendation of 2 fish + 250 lbs. of halibut per 1,000 lbs. of sablefish. In 2020, the fishery landed 63,358 pounds of its 70,000-pound harvest limit. There was less participation in the sablefish fishery due to the COVID-19 situation. The price of sablefish remains depressed for 2021 and is expected to be so through at least mid-summer. Thus, the GAP recommends moving the bycatch number down from 250 pounds to 225 pounds to enable some efficiency without exceeding the harvest limit.

The GAP defers to the Salmon Advisory Subpanel regarding recommendations for halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery for 2021.

PFMC
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