

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON WORKLOAD AND NEW
MANAGEMENT MEASURE PRIORITIES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) offers the following for consideration as a workload and new management priority. The SAS asks the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to prioritize the evaluation of an increased incidental lingcod trip limit in the salmon troll fishery as part of the incidental open access fishery.

The troll fishery has experienced erratic salmon harvests and the retention of additional lingcod caught incidentally could buffer the adverse effects of variable salmon harvests across the troll fleet. Adding diversity to the troll harvest increases the flow of product and marketing opportunities adding value to the fleet, processors, and coastal communities. These increases in community effects will be welcome, particularly in Washington state where the coastal counties experience some of the highest poverty rates and are among the most reliant on commercial fishing income.

The proposed increase in the incidental lingcod trip limit is not intended to change the overall quota available to the open access sector. This proposed increase in lingcod retention is limited to vessels equipped with vessel monitoring systems and geographically limited to waters north of 40° 10' N. lat., where lingcod are above their population target. The SAS requests that the Council prioritize this important new management measure and is interested in further coordination with the Council and the groundfish advisory bodies on implementation.

PFMC
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