

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

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a report from Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) Staff Officer Robin Ehlke and reviewed the reports under this agenda item and offers the following recommendations.

Incidental catch in salmon troll fisheries

As in the past, the GAP defers to the Salmon Advisory Subpanel regarding recommendations for halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery for 2022.

Incidental catch in fixed gear sablefish fisheries

Regarding the primary (tier) sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA, the GAP recommends the incidental catch be set at 150 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut for 2022 (2 + 150 lbs. per 1,000 lbs.).

In 2021, the halibut rate was 225 lbs. of halibut per 1,000 lbs. of dressed sablefish in order to fill an allocation of 70,000 lbs. The allocation in 2022 will be reduced to 50,000 lbs. In 2018, when the allocation level was also 50,000 lbs., the catch rate was set at 140 lbs. of halibut per 1,000 lbs. of sablefish, resulting in a landing of 43,000 lbs. of halibut. The GAP believes the 150 lbs. of halibut per 1,000 lbs. of dressed sablefish should result in an incidental harvest close to the 50,000 lbs. allocation.

PFMC
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