

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

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) 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 2024.

**Incidental catch in fixed gear sablefish fisheries**

Regarding the tiered sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA the GAP recommends a halibut bycatch ratio of 150 lbs. of halibut per 1,000 lbs. of dress sablefish and up to 2 additional halibut in excess of the ratio requirement. This is the same ratio and provisions from 2022 ([Agenda Item C.2, Attachment 1](#)). Since the sablefish harvest limits will be increased about 28 percent in 2023 and the halibut bycatch allotment will be increased from 50,000lbs to 70,000lbs, GAP members believe keeping the ratio at 150 lbs of halibut per 1,000 lbs of dressed sablefish should be adequate. Should this ratio be light, the Council has an opportunity at their September 2023 meeting to adjust this ratio.

PFMC  
03/04/23