

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON SCOPING TOPICS FOR CATCH SHARING PLAN AND REGULATIONS CHANGES

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) met June 21 and discussed the halibut topic (Agenda Item E.1) and appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the scoping report (Attachment 1).

Section 3.1 – Enforcement Consultants (EC) suggested regulatory changes

3.1.1 – Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) - The EC recommends adding a requirement for vessels participating in any non-tribal commercial halibut sector to carry VMS.

- The SAS opposes moving this scoping topic forward. The salmon troll fleet sees little benefit in pursuing this topic when compared to the cost to the participant to implement VMS. There are area closures within the fishing area, but they are well-defined and should be easy to patrol.

3.1.2 – Logbooks - The EC recommends removing the logbook exemption for incidental Pacific halibut fishing during the commercial salmon troll season.

- The SAS opposes moving this scoping topic forward. Harvest information is provided through landing tickets which can be used to determine compliance with the landing ratios. There is little if any additional biological or fishery information to be gained by the additional vessels this would affect and would put an additional burden on the fisherman for little gain.

Section 3.2 – Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and Area 2A allocation utilization

The SAS views this topic seriously for both the recreational and commercial sectors with the goal of more fully utilizing the entire 2A Pacific halibut quota. The SAS supports further investigating ways to achieve the goal of full attainment of the Area 2A allocation.

All SAS members support inseason flexibility to attain the Area 2A allocation. However, there was a difference in opinion among the SAS members in how to best approach the topic. Some SAS members would like a two-pronged approach - one to address the flexibility in the CSP to shift unused quota inseason between various sectors/states to more fully utilize the overall 2A quota, and secondly to investigate the fixed allocations. Some SAS members would like to focus solely on scoping ideas for inseason flexibility in the CSP to access the 2A allocation.

The SAS looks forward to actively participating in the process on this issue in whatever manner the Council chooses.