

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

Regarding the primary (tier) sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, Washington, the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommends the incidental catch limit be set at 130 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut for 2024 (2 + 130 lbs. per 1,000 lbs.).

Last year, the landing limit was 150 pounds of halibut for every 1,000 pounds of sablefish (dressed weight), plus up to two additional halibut when the allocation was 70,000 pounds. It was the same in 2022, when the allocation was 50,000 pounds. The sablefish fishery exceeded its 50,000 pound allocation at that time. Therefore, the GAP suggests changing the ratio to 130 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut for 2024, which should be adequate. However, should this ratio be light, the Council has an opportunity later this year to adjust this ratio during inseason action.

PFMC  
03/07/24