

SALMON ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
COMMERCIAL FISHERY REGULATION CHANGES:
VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS, SEABIRD AVOIDANCE AND CATCH REPORTING –
RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES, PRELIMINARY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) discussed the proposed non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut (DC halibut) fishery management measures (Agenda Item F.2) and appreciates the opportunity to comment.

The SAS reiterates their comments made in June 2023 ([Agenda Item E.1.a, Supplemental SAS Report 1](#)) on the vessel monitoring systems (VMS) and modifications to catch reporting, and provides the following additional considerations:

Vessel Monitoring Systems:

- The SAS **supports *No Action / Status Quo***. The SAS opposes requiring VMS on vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery. The salmon troll fleet sees little benefit in pursuing this topic when compared to purchasing and operating VMS and this would impose significant costs on potential new entrants. Area closures are well defined and should be easy to patrol.

Regarding seabird avoidance measures:

- The SAS sees little biological need to require streamer lines on bottom longline vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery and only retaining halibut. A need to minimize take of birds by vessels only retaining halibut has not been identified through any biological opinion and there would be additional costs associated with the purchasing and deploying of the lines. However, **the SAS defers to the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP)** on this item.

Catch Reporting:

- The SAS **supports *No Action / Status Quo***. The SAS opposes modifications to landing requirements for Pacific halibut. All of the required information is already being recorded. There is no clear benefit or additional biological or fishery information that would be gained by this action.

The SAS thanks the Council for the opportunity to provide comments on the above items.