

F.2 Commercial Fishery Regulation Changes:  
Vessel Monitoring Systems, Seabird  
Avoidance, and Catch Reporting – Range of  
Alternatives, Preliminary Preferred  
Alternative

Council Action:

Adopt a Range of Commercial Fishery Regulation Alternatives  
and Preliminary Preferred Alternative

DRAFT - NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

## **Agenda Item F.2. Commercial Halibut Regulations— ODFW Motion 1 (As Amended)**

I move the Council adopt the below range of alternatives for the directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery, with a PPA for Action 2 only.

### **ACTION 1. Vessel Monitoring System**

- No Action: Status Quo
- Alternative 1: Require VMS on vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery
  - Component 1. Applicable waters
    - A. EEZ
    - B. Convention waters of IPHC Area 2A (0nm – 200nm)
  - Component 2. VMS ping rate requirement
    - A. Four times per hour (i.e. once every 15 minutes)
    - B. Once per hour
  - Component 3: VMS status requirement (when VMS unit must be turned on and transmitting location)
    - A. 24 hours a day, 365 days a year
    - B. When participating in the DC halibut fishery

and fishing during an open period

## ACTION 2. Seabird Avoidance Measures

- No Action: Status Quo
- **Alternative 1: Require vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery using bottom longline gear to deploy streamer lines when setting gear.**
  - **Component 1. Applicable waters**
    - **A. PPA- EEZ**
    - B. Convention waters of IPhC Area 2A (0nm – 200nm)

## ACTION 3. Catch Reporting on Fish Tickets

- No Action: Status Quo
- Alternative 1: Require that fish receiving tickets for landings of Pacific halibut from vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery and only landing Pacific halibut include both weight (pounds) and number (count).
- New Alternative 2: Require fish receiving tickets for landings of Pacific halibut from any vessels landing Pacific halibut to include both weight (pounds) and number (count) of Pacific halibut landed.

And, modify the problem statement to include: Closed areas are related to concerns with overfished species and essential fish habitat and effectiveness of maintaining those closed areas for groundfish species and habitat protections. Streamerlines are related to conservation of ESA listed seabirds, particularly shor-tailed

albatross. Although data regarding seabird interactions with the Pacific halibut fishery are limited, this action is intended to reduce risk to seabirds as the vessels use similar gear, fish in similar areas, and at the same times as longline groundfish fisheries, where documented seabird interactions occur. Accurate catch accounting of both pounds and number of fish landed helps managers better track sector catches and inseason management of halibut, as well as better understand how the fisheries are operating, and may ease future modifications of regulations as the fishery evolves.

Moved by Lynn Mattes  
Seconded by Sharon Kiefer  
Motion as amended passes unanimously

### **Amendment to the motion by Frank Lockhart**

I move to amend the problem statement:

And, modify the problem statement to include: Closed areas are related to concerns with overfished species and essential fish habitat and effectiveness of maintaining those closed areas for groundfish species and habitat protections. Streamerlines are related to conservation of ESA listed seabirds, particularly short-tailed albatross. ~~Groundfish longline fisheries have been subject to biological opinions, however the halibut fishery was not.~~ Although data regarding seabird interactions with the Pacific halibut fishery are limited, ~~t~~This action is intended to reduce risk to seabirds ~~proactive~~ as

the vessels use similar gear, fish in similar areas, and at the same times as longline groundfish fisheries, where documented seabird interactions occur. – Accurate catch accounting of both pounds and number of fish landed helps managers better track sector catches and inseason management of halibut, as well as better understand how the fisheries are operating, and may ease future modifications of regulations as the fishery evolves.

Seconded by Aja Szumylo

Motion to amend passes unanimously

DRAFT - NOT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES