

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS  
FOR 2024 AND TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS FOR 2025-2026 – FINAL ACTION

Incidental halibut in the sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) supports an increase in incidental halibut in the sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, for the remainder of 2024, as follows:

Status Quo: 130 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut for the rest of 2024 (2 + 130 lbs. per 1,000 lbs.)

**Alt. 1 (increase): 150 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut** for the rest of 2024 (2 + 150 lbs. per 1,000 lbs.)

Neither the halibut nor sablefish allocation has been reached or is close to being attained, due to a combination of factors (weather, sablefish market, etc.). This increase will help sablefish fishermen north of Pt. Chehalis increase the utilization of their sablefish allocation without exceeding the halibut allocation.

Vermilion rockfish south of 40° 10' N. lat.

Recreational members of the GAP requested an analysis looking at increasing the bag limit from two to three fish for vermilion south of 40° 10' N. lat. The GAP understands that both the recreational and commercial fleets are tracking lower than last year, but there is a proposed recreational deep-water season for later this year, which may increase vermilion catch. The GAP appreciates the GMT analyzing the option and looks forward to considering this measure again in the future after more data becomes available from this current season structure.

Harvest Specification Corrections

The GAP acknowledges that there will be corrections made to the 2025-2026 final specifications.

PFMC  
09/20/24