

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON COMMERCIAL FISHERY  
REGULATION CHANGES: VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEMS, SEABIRD AVOIDANCE,  
AND CATCH REPORTING

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) discussed the three proposed actions under this agenda item and continues to support the alternatives as delineated in our [September 2024 Supplemental GAP Report 1](#). While we recognize there might be a high cost for relatively few numbers of participants, the GAP believes these actions would streamline regulations. There is a high degree of overlap between the non-tribal directed commercial (DC) halibut fishery and the groundfish fishery and these changes will benefit the broader fleet. In summary, the GAP continues to support the following actions for the non-tribal DC halibut fishery:

**ACTION 1. Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)**

**Alternative 1:** Require VMS on vessels participating in the DC halibut fishery

- **Component 1.** Applicable waters
  - A. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**
  - B. Convention waters of International Pacific Halibut Commission (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
  - 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**

**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. EEZ**
  - B. Convention waters of IPHC Area 2A

For Action 3, catch reporting, the GAP also continues to not see a need to include the DC halibut fishery in the alternative. From our September 2024 statement: “For the DC halibut fishery, there is no need to count the number of halibut for non-tribal DC halibut landings as it is managed only in pounds. This will only increase the burden for processors (although likely minimal) without any management or enforcement benefit.”