

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON
INCIDENTAL CATCH RECOMMENDATIONS IN SALMON TROLL AND
FIXED GEAR SABLEFISH FISHERIES

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) recommends the Pacific halibut incidental landing limit for the primary sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis be 75 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut (this limit was last used in 2015). This is a reduction from the 150 pounds of halibut per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish in 2024. The reduction is recommended due to the large increase in sablefish harvest limits of about 238 percent. The 2025 allotment of Pacific halibut is 70,000 pounds and could be quickly harvested by just a few top primary tier vessels if a reduction in incidental halibut is not implemented. Lowering the halibut limit will allow more vessels to participate and for the fishery to continue throughout the year without exceeding the halibut allocation.

Should the recommended level of 75 pounds per 1,000 pounds of dressed sablefish plus two halibut be too low, the Council can make inseason adjustments at the June or September meetings.

PFMC
03/05/25