GROUNDFISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON INSEASON ADJUSTMENTS – FINAL ACTION

INCIDENTAL PACIFIC HALIBUT LIMIT FOR THE PRIMARY SABLEFISH FISHERY

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) reviewed Agenda Item E.1.a, NMFS Report 1, September 2025, specifically regarding the current incidental Pacific halibut catch during the primary sablefish fishery. The allocation is set at 70,000 pounds and the estimated harvest to date is 31,766 pounds. Many West Coast primary sablefish fishery vessels are still fishing in Alaska, thus halibut attainment has been low. The GAP recommends the incidental landing limits be modified from the current 75 pounds of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus 2 additional halibut, to a new limit of 100 pounds of Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds of sablefish plus 2 additional halibut until the commercial Pacific halibut season closure on December 7, or until the allocation is reached, whichever occurs first.

CALIFORNIA RECREATIONAL
Canary Rockfish Recreational Sub-Bag Limit

The California Fish and Game Commission took emergency action on August 14, 2025, in response to the latest California quillback rockfish stock assessment, which indicated the stock is not overfished. This action removes the constraints that were implemented to protect California quillback rockfish. By removing the constraints, recreational anglers will be allowed greater access into deeper waters where encounters with canary rockfish are more likely. Thus, the emergency action also included adoption of a new statewide two-fish sub-bag limit for canary rockfish, effective August 28, 2025. The two-fish canary sub bag limit is expected to keep the California recreational canary rockfish catch within limits. The GAP recommends the Pacific Fishery Management Council approve a two-fish sub-bag limit for canary rockfish off California in Federal regulations.

PFMC
09/20/25