



Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Gulf of Alaska salmon and halibut committee Thursday, April 14, 1:00 pm (AST) Meeting Minutes

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87067508550?pwd=WDZSa2ljU2gva1YxMm44U21kMDJpQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 6750 8550

Passcode: 41422

Committee members: Brian Gabriel, Kevin Delaney, Mike Flores, Raymond May, Duncan Fields

1. Call to order
2. Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Gulf of Alaska halibut and salmon committee meeting called to order at 1:04 PM by Chair Brian Gabriel
3. Roll call: introduction of committee and committee members
Committee members present: Brian Gabriel (Chair), Kevin Delaney, Mike Flores (left at 3pm)
ABRT Members present: John Jensen, Linda Kozak, Stephanie Madsen
4. Approve agenda: Approved
5. Old business: Review Administrative Order
Committee Chair reviewed administrative order and spoke to what it means to this committee and how it relates to the topics to be covered by the committee. Committee member requested examples of what final deliverables as asked for in the order might look like. ABRT Chair Jensen responded with some clarification to final processes as related to the AO.
6. New business:
 - a. Presentations from Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff on GOA Chinook salmon and estimates of Chinook salmon taken in groundfishtrawl fisheries.
 - i. Committee questions on information
 - ii. Made available in the ABRT reference library on the webpage here:
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.reference>
 - b. Discuss committee work plan – salmon issues then halibut issues
 - i. Public input was provided in regard to the draft work plan
 - ii. Committee discussed possible future meeting dates and what those meetings would be in regards to based on the draft work plan.

7. Public comment: three-minute (3) limit to individual comments
 - a. Paddy O'Donnell, Gulf of Alaska white fish trawlers: Provided general size of Chinook in various years. Requested information on Sport harvest level of Chinook.
 - b. Julie Bonnie, Alaska Groundfish Databank represents Kodiak processors and trawlers: Noted that presentation was missing hatchery production overlay and how those releases impact bycatch. Commented on funding for Katie Howard and funding in general for ocean survival studies. Noted that the Bering Sea works in co-ops while GOA is a race of a fishery wants to change GOA to something closer to the Bering Sea to create more accountability.
 - c. Chris Woodley Executive director of Groundfish Forum: Followed up on Julie Bonnie comments, appreciated the presentations today on Chinook and requests something similar in length to what was presented today. Requested these be made by the IPHC staff. Look at bycatch and wastage in the directed commercial halibut fishery and possibly recommending lowering size of harvestable halibut from 32in to 30in. NPFMC just went through multiple year effort abundance-based management for halibut in the Bering Sea only, mentioned to recommend data from this effort to be pulled for this committee "draft environmental impact statement for the abundance-based management of halibut PSC in the Bering Sea"
 - d. Rebecca Skinner, Alaska whitefish trawlers association: Noted trawl fisheries very important to Kodiak, allow almost year-round processing to occur. Noted bycatch impacts to chinook is important as we know something is going on in the ocean but not what that is. When looking at halibut bycatch numbers in recent years wants committee to remember that they will be particularly low due to Kodiak not really having a flat fish season. Also, pacific cod has been closed to trawl. Due to those fisheries not occurring that is about a 30-40% loss of income to each vessel. Requests additional research from other sources not just SOA to contribute to figuring out these problems.
8. Committee comments:
9. Next Meeting Date: May 3rd, 2022, at 9am
10. Adjournment at 3:28 pm