



## Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) GOA Salmon and Halibut Subcommittee May 3, 2022 9:00 a.m. (AST) Meeting Minutes

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81844789691?pwd=ZXo0UFN2VklnaTRCYzE4OG05SjRSUT09>

- o Meeting ID: 818 4478 9691
- o Passcode: 050322

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

1. Call to order at 9:00 a.m Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Gulf of Alaska halibut and salmon committee meeting called to order at 9:02 AM by Chair Brian Gabriel
2. Roll call of committee and ABRT members  
Committee members present: Brian Gabriel (Chair), Kevin Delaney, Mike Flores, Duncan Fields, Raymond May  
ABRT Members present: John Jensen, Linda Kozak, Stephanie Madsen, Tommy Sheridan, Jim Anderson for DCCED Commissioner
3. Approve agenda: May 3, 2022, Approved
4. Approve minutes: [April 14, 2022](#), Approved
5. Old business:  
Discussion of future presentations:  
Observer and electronic monitoring program in GOA groundfish fisheries – for larger ARBT group.
  - ABRT chair Jensen suggested this would be done after the NPFMC meeting in June to the ABRT as a whole. Committee chair concurred this would be the best course of action to provide information to all ABRT members at the same time.
6. New business:
  - a. Presentation by International Pacific Halibut Commission from Ian Stewart.
    - Committee questions on information
    - Made available in the ABRT reference library on the webpage here: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.reference>

- b. Presentation on deck sorting of halibut in GOA catcher process or trawl fisheries and monitoring requirements from John Gauvin and Jennifer Ferdinand.
    - Committee questions on information
    - Made available in the ABRT reference library on the webpage here:  
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.reference>
  - c. [Pacific Halibut Bycatch flyer](#) and updated bycatch mortality in GOA through 2021.
    - Committee questions on information
    - Made available in the ABRT reference library on the webpage here:  
<https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=bycatchtaskforce.reference>
7. Public comment: three-minute (3) limit to individual comments
- Chris Woodley: Provided information on economic value of amendment 80 fisheries, this info is compiled on an annual basis by NOAA in the annual SAFE reports. Total catch that is halibut bycatch is less than one half of one percent of the total catch. 2021 abundance-based management finalized by the council and a rationalization of cod in the Bering Sea. Amendment 80 fleet did do a tag study of deck sorted halibut; results showed remarkable consistency with discard mortality rates. Responded to early question about relationship to halibut stock vs. bycatch was covered extensively during NPFMC abundance-based management. Amendment 80 fleet found that bycatch reduction was independent of declines in Halibut biomass. Based on what we encounter on ground vs. Stock assessment it is not the same.
  - Julie Bonney: NMFS in season reports halibut usage by each sector for bycatch on an annual basis. The provided these NMFS numbers by ton this was based on observer data. Halibut discard mortality of catcher vessels is selected on an annual basis most recently it was 69%. Reminded everyone that rationalization leads to more cooperative work between fishermen. Observer coverage in terms of IFQ at sea coverage ranges from 10-15% no coverage for vessels under 40 ft. EM is used in the fixed gear sector at a 30% selection, this is unique that you go through odds and odds determines whether you turn on your camera or not. Some have the camera on 100% of the time and the observers only choose 30% of the footage.
8. Committee comments:
- Chair Gabriel noted that observer program information would be heard by the ABRT in June following the NPFMC meeting
  - Duncan Fields: Noted that discards in 2021 were due to market factors not catch factors and thanked everyone for the presentations
  - ABRT member Tommy Sheridan noted this was an excellent meeting
9. Next Meeting Date: May 24, 2022 at 9:00 am
10. Adjournment by 11:32.