



**Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force  
Gulf of Alaska Halibut and Salmon Committee  
Report - August 16, 2022**



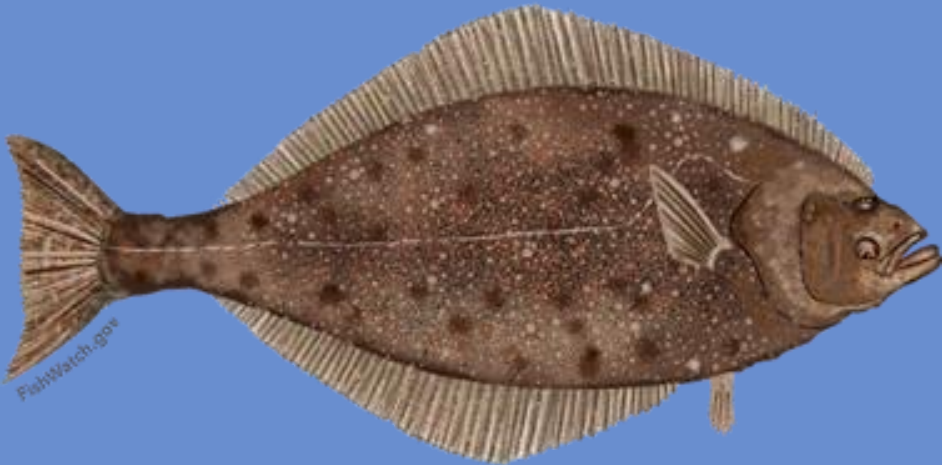
## Committee Members

Brian Gabriel, chair  
Kevin Delaney, Duncan Fields, Mike Flores,  
Raymond May, Linda Kozak (joined in July)



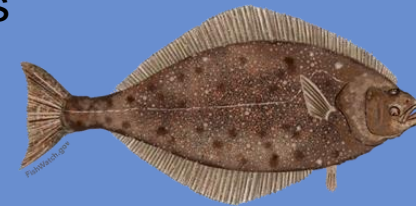
## Meeting Information

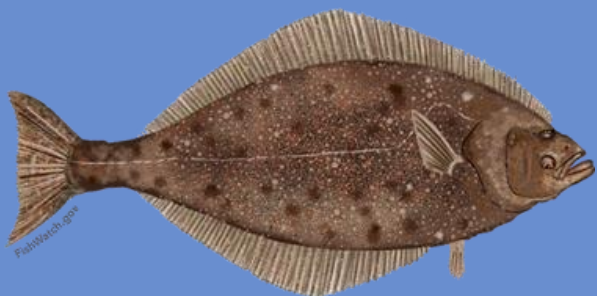
April 14 - GOA Chinook Salmon Focus  
May 3 - GOA Halibut Focus  
May 24 - History of Gulf Trawl Rationalization Efforts  
July 28 - GOA Halibut Focus  
August 10 - Industry Presentations



# Presentations

- Information on Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Status and Trends
- GOA Chinook Salmon Bycatch in Groundfish Trawl Fisheries
- NPFMC Halibut Bycatch 2020 Update
- IPHC Summary of 2021 Data and Stock Assessment Results
- Halibut Deck Sorting: A Tool for Amendment 80 to Reduce Halibut Mortality in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska Flatfish Fisheries
- Gulf of Alaska Shoreside Trawl Fleet and History of Trawl Rationalization Efforts
- Discard Mortality in the Directed Pacific Halibut Fisheries
- Alaska Charter Association Presentation
- Fishing Vessel Owners' Presentation
- Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, Alaska Whitefish Trawler's Association and Groundfish Forum Presentation





## Future Meetings

The Gulf of Alaska Halibut and Salmon Committee meets next on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> to address bycatch-related research priorities

At subsequent meetings the committee intends to develop recommendations for state engagement and management proposals



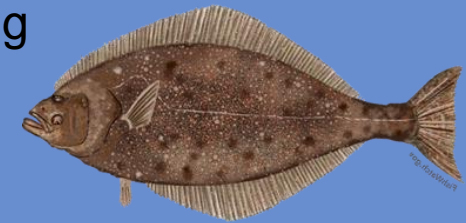
## Salmon Bycatch Research Priorities Recommended

- Continued funding for Dr. Katie Howard's work on ocean survival studies
- Additional funding for ecosystem studies
- Support funding that continues annual genetic reporting for the Gulf pollock fishery
- Better understand the interactions and impact of hatchery salmon, including pink and Chinook (from all areas) on wild-run Alaska salmon and ways to determine amount of hatchery salmon bycatch
- Support continued funding for age class assessments for Chinook bycatch in the GOA trawl fisheries
- Continued study/assessment of trawl speeds relative to salmon/halibut bycatch rates



## Halibut Bycatch Research Priorities Recommended

- Discard mortality rate studies need to be continued for halibut
- Better information is needed on total removals in the Gulf of Alaska, including bycatch (wastage)
- Research Gulf statistical areas to update/revise closed areas for trawling
- Habitat studies for fishing effects
- Increase tagging studies to better understand movement between areas
- Investigate halibut diet and growth rate to better understand changes in length at age
- Studies on size limit and trade-offs (ongoing at IPHC and report due in October 2022)
- Gear modification research including studies on using pots for halibut in the GOA
- Determine relative fecundity of halibut based on size and age, and estimate impact on halibut stock of removals from all sources



## **General Bycatch Research Priorities For Committee Review**

1. Develop state bycatch research priorities, possibly across departments, to share with funding entities that would help identify and acquire research funds.
2. Implement strategies to encourage and facilitate industry/agency cooperative research to reduce bycatch and associated mortality.
3. Create methods, such as an annual workshop, to collaborate with other research entities to better track bycatch research proposed or funded, along with collaboration opportunities and findings of funded research.