



Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force
Gulf of Alaska Halibut and Salmon Committee
Report – October 12, 2022



Committee Members

Brian Gabriel, chair
Kevin Delaney, Duncan Fields, Mike Flores,
Raymond May, Linda Kozak



Meeting Information

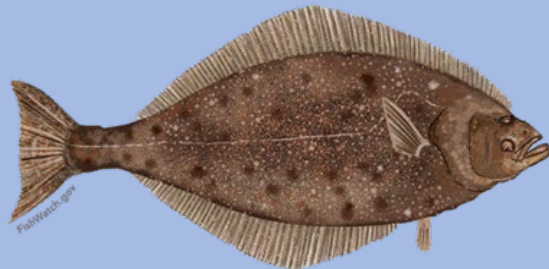
April 14 - GOA Chinook salmon focus
May 3 - GOA halibut focus
May 24 - History of Gulf trawl rationalization efforts
July 28 - GOA halibut focus
August 10 - Industry presentations
August 23 – Research recommendations discussed
August 31 – Research recommendations approved
September 7 – State engagement and management recommendations finalized



Presentations

Halibut

- North Pacific Fishery Management Council Halibut Bycatch 2020 Update
- International Pacific Halibut Commission Summary of 2021 Data and Stock Assessment Results
- International Pacific Halibut Commission Discard Mortality in the Directed Halibut Fisheries
- Alaska Seafood Cooperative and Alaska Fisheries Science Center

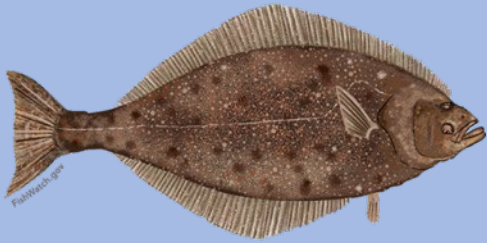


Presentations

Chinook Salmon

- Alaska Department of Fish & Game - Information on Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Status and Trends
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game – Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Bycatch in Groundfish Trawl Fisheries



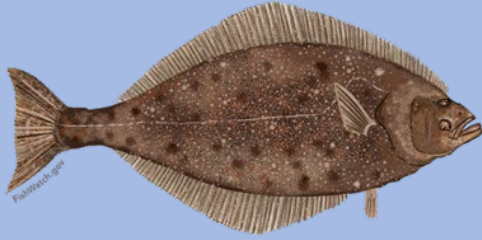


Presentations

Industry/Organization Presentations

- Alaska Groundfish Data Bank
- Alaska Charter Association
- Fishing Vessel Owners
- Alaska Whitefish Trawler's Association and Groundfish Forum
- Oceana





State Engagement Recommendations

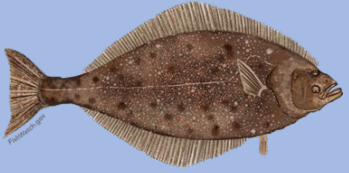
Two motions were approved unanimously

Motion: Recommend the State of Alaska create a process for providing bycatch-related information and resources for Alaskans in a way (or format) that is understandable and easily accessible.

Motion: Request the State of Alaska establish a permanent advisory committee.

Failed Motion:
Appoint a bycatch policy advisor to the governor.





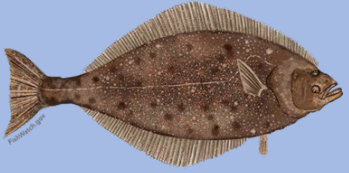
Management Recommendations

Four motions were approved unanimously

Motion: Recommendation of consideration of rationalization-type management tools as a means of possibly reducing and managing salmon and halibut bycatch.

Motion: Committee recommends a regulatory requirement that the Gulf of Alaska pelagic trawl fleet, including any tenders of pelagic trawl caught fish, have 100% electronic monitoring. The committee further recommends that the State of Alaska work with National Marine Fisheries Service, our federal delegation and others to work to acquire funding to install electronic monitoring equipment on all GOA catchers and tenders.





Management Recommendations Continued...

Motion: For a period of three years, the committee recommends 100% observer coverage be required on non-pelagic trawl vessels in the Gulf of Alaska. (The intent is for this to apply to catcher vessels)

Motion: Recommend the State of Alaska consider support of the development of an abundance-based management program for halibut bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska.

Tabled/Failed Motion:

Committee recommends that the state review spatial trawl patterns and halibut bycatch intensity as a basis to consider areas that should be considered to spatially reduce halibut bycatch.

