

Council motion

June 8, 2012

C-1 (b) Final action on GOA Halibut Prohibited Species Catch (PSC)

The Council adopts the following preferred alternative:

Alternative 2. Amend the GOA Groundfish FMP to remove setting GOA halibut PSC limits from the annual groundfish harvest specifications process. GOA halibut PSC limits would be established (and amended) in federal regulation.

Option 2. Revise the current GOA halibut PSC limits and write the new limits into regulation

Suboption 1. Reduce the halibut PSC limit for hook and line gear CP sector by:
c) 7%

Suboption 2. Reduce the halibut PSC limit for hook and line gear CV sector by:
c) 15%

Suboption 3. Reduce the halibut PSC limit for trawl gear sector by:
c) 15% (267 mt)

The PSC limit for HAL demersal shelf rockfish in SE Outside District would also be reduced to 9 mt (1 mt reduction).

The 15% reduction for the trawl and non-DSR hook-and-line CV sectors would be phased in over three years, as follows: 7% (first year); additional 5% (second year); and additional 3% (third year). All reductions are reflected in the attached tables. In the third year and after, the revised total non-DSR hook-and-line halibut PSC limit would be reduced and the total trawl limit would be 1,705 mt.

Suboption 3.1 AFA/Am 80/Rockfish Program sideboard limits will be:

- a) Applied as percentage against the GOA halibut PSC limit

Suboption 3.2.

Allow the Amendment 80 sector to roll unused halibut PSC from one season to the subsequent season (similar to the non-Amendment 80 sectors).

Suboption 3.3

Allow available trawl halibut PSC in the second season deep water and shallow water complexes to be aggregated and made available for use in either complex from May 15th through June 30th. Halibut PSC sideboards for the Amendment 80 and AFA sectors would continue to be defined as deep water and shallow water complexes in the second season.

NMFS will accomplish this by re-specifying halibut between the deep and shallow water complexes after the second season is complete to capture actual use.

Note: Any unused PSC will be rolled over to the complex to which it was initially assigned.