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**JOINT SABLEFISH LOG COLLECTION PROGRAM
BETWEEN IPHC AND NMFS AUKE BAY LAB, ALASKA**

The IPHC has again been contracted by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Auke Bay Laboratory (ABL) to collect sablefish log sheets from skippers of vessels landing in the ports where IPHC samplers are located. The initial request for providing logbook data to ABL came from the sablefish fleet.

The fleet is voluntarily providing sablefish information to IPHC staff to be given to the NMFS ABL. Any logbook information provided to the NMFS ABL requires a skipper's signature acknowledging and agreeing to the following: 'IPHC will forward to Sablefish Assessment, Auke Bay Lab'. Only sablefish data that have this acknowledgement are provided to ABL.

The IPHC edited copies of the logs are protected from seizure or subpoena. The IPHC and the NMFS ABL scientists' goal is to facilitate capture of sablefish information for stock assessment purposes, while maintaining the strict IPHC confidentiality policy. To meet the confidentiality requirements, specific set and landing locations will be provided, but each vessel will be assigned a unique number code, thereby preventing the vessel from being identified. This allows ABL scientists to use the information for stock assessment. In addition to this, the data that are provided to the ABL scientists are not subject to and may not be requested under the Freedom of Information Act. All of these factors contribute to ensuring these data are treated and held under the strictest confidence.

The IPHC is asking the sablefish skippers for their continued cooperation in working with the IPHC port samplers on this project. Accurate and complete catch and set information is very important to ABL for determining CPUE and for stock assessment.