

Groundfish Forum

2017 IPHC Meeting

Overview

2016 Performance

Halibut Avoidance Plan

Alaska Seafood Cooperative

Halibut Performance 2016

Area 4CDE

Year	Rate	Usage
2008-2014 average	6.2	1,184
2015	5.6	1,060
2016	5.0	1,027

Alaska Seafood Cooperative

Halibut Performance 2016

Year	Use (mt)	Groundfish per tow (mt)	Groundfish catch (mt)	Rate (kg halibut per mt of groundfish)
2008-2014 average	1,510	24.5	248,339	6.1
2015	1,179	20.7	229,930	5.1
2016	1,108	19.2	245,930	4.5

Alaska Groundfish Cooperative

Halibut Performance 2016

Year	Usage
2014	696
2015	455
2016	277

Amendment 80

Halibut Performance 2016

Area 4CDE

2014	1,861
2015	1,362
2016	1,203

Areas 4A and 4B

2014	318
2015	272
2016	198

Halibut Avoidance Practices

Fishing target choice, location, time of day

Small test tows when entering an area

Excluders

Vessel to vessel communication

Weekly bycatch conference calls

Deck sorting -

- Quickly return halibut to the water

- All Amendment 80 vessels authorized to participate

2015 Council Halibut Action

Reduction of Amendment 80 cooperative cap by 25% (581 mt)

Directed Amendment 80 cooperatives to develop halibut avoidance plans

- define avoidance practices
- assess performance
- create reduction incentives

Halibut Avoidance Plan

Goal

“...ensure that Amendment 80 vessels use the best available operational practices to avoid halibut and reduce halibut mortality.”

Plan is agreed to by all Amendment 80 vessels

Key components

Vessels must meet halibut rate standard (kg hal/mt gf)

Annual standard in each target

Fourth quarter standard in targets combined

Monetary penalties - \$25,000-\$100,000 per violation

Quarterly monitoring applies to vessels failing an annual test in the following year

Halibut limit forfeitures

Annual test – Eliminate Outliers

Eliminate outliers in flatfish targets based on historical rates (kg halibut/mt of groundfish)

Vessels must achieve rates based on historical average fleet performance

Yellowfin sole – 2016 - 11.7
2017 - 10.2

Rock sole – 2016 - 14.3
2017 - 12.6

Flathead sole/Arrowtooth flounder – 2016 - 21.0
2017 - 19.2

Annual tests – Eliminate Outliers

Retrospective analysis (2008-2015)

4 vessels on average failed to meet the 2016 standards

Average annual fines would total over \$250,000

2016 results

All vessels met 2016 standard in all fisheries

One vessel failed to meet the 2017 standard in one fishery

Fourth quarter test

Maintains incentive for avoidance through year end

Applies an aggregate rate standard to all flatfish targets - 12.1 kg halibut/mt groundfish

Fourth quarter test

Retrospective analysis (2008-2015)

5 vessels on average failed to meet the standard each year

Average annual fines would total over \$140,000

2016 results

All vessels met 2016 standard in all fisheries