

# 2019 IPHC Annual Meeting

Alaska Seafood Cooperative  
and Groundfish Forum

# Overview

2018 Performance

Halibut Avoidance Plan

Decksorting

# Amendment 80

## Halibut Performance 2018

YEAR	4A and 4B	4CDE
2014	319	1,860
2015	272	1,361
2016	198	1,203
2017	219	950
2018	191	1,153

# 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 vessel specific performance standards
- create reduction incentives

# 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

# Performance Components

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

- Annual standard in each target (FH/ATF, RS, YFS)
- Fourth quarter standard in HAP targets combined

## Penalties

- Monetary penalties for failing Annual or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter standard
  - \$25,000- \$100,000 per penalty
  - Penalty money will be used for bycatch research
- Quarterly monitoring of vessels who fail Annual Standard
  - Halibut 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

Target Species	2016	2017	2018
Yellowfin sole	11.7	10.2	8.7
Rock sole	14.3	12.6	10.8
Flathead sole/Arrowtooth flounder	21.0	19.2	17.5

# 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



# 2018 HAP RESULTS

- Annual Outlier Test Results
  - 1 vessel of the 19 vessels meeting the groundfish catch threshold failed to meet the halibut rate standard in one target fishery
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Outlier Test Results
  - All 11 vessels meeting the groundfish catch threshold achieved the halibut rate standard

# Halibut Decksorting

- Objective: Reduce mortality of bycaught halibut while accurately accounting for the amount of halibut sorted from the deck and its condition
  - Deck sorting vessels are required to work within a complex set of monitoring and data collection protocols
  - The time needed for deck sorting and data collection results in roughly 20% loss of catch/daily production (e.g. one less haul per day) for participants
  - Through a suite of EFPs, a set of workable protocols have been developed with NMFS, expected to go into regulation in 2020

# Halibut Decksorting Performance

Year	Total Groundfish Catch (MT)	Halibut Catch (Encounter) Rate	Halibut Mortality (MT)	Mortality Rate	Halibut Mortality at 84% (MT)	Halibut Savings (MT)
2015	38,561	1.3%	234	49%	409	176
2016	79,905	0.9%	331	45%	620	290
2017	253,032	0.8%	1,108	55%	1,707	599
2018	270,436	1.1%	1,457	49%	2,483	1,027

\*Differences in numbers of boats, timeframe for EFP operations, changes in target fisheries, and inclusion of GOA in 2018 should be kept in mind when comparing performance between years

# Stakeholder Questions on Halibut Survival

With deck sorting expanding over several years, many asked:  
Is estimated halibut survival actually realized?

2016 field study compared actual survival to current observer viability assessment methods:

Cooperative research deploying ~ 200 satellite accelerometer tags on deck sorted halibut compared the viability assessments on deck (using current observer methods) with observed mortality post-release

This study concluded that observer viability assessments work well for predicting survival of halibut after release



## Testing Automated Systems to Speed up and Improve Data Collection

- Trial of electronic length board carried out in 2018 with FMA
- Assess speed- and work-saving potential of device
- Data entered by touching magnetic wand to length strip
- Data communicated from board to tablet via Bluetooth
- Further testing is planned for 2019, with possibility of implementation in 2020





Thank You