

# News Release



P.O. Box 95009, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98145-2009

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## Halibut Commission Workshop

### Incorporating Impacts of Halibut Bycatch in Assessment and Management of Halibut Stocks

A one-day workshop on determining and incorporating the impacts of halibut bycatch mortality in non-target fisheries and mortality of sublegal fish in halibut fisheries in the assessment and management of halibut stocks will be held in Seattle, WA on **Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at the Hotel Deca** ([www.hoteldeca.com](http://www.hoteldeca.com)). Although current levels and estimation of bycatch mortality will be reviewed, the workshop will focus on how bycatch is incorporated into the halibut assessment and management, not on management of halibut bycatch mortality. The workshop was requested by the Commission to update our understanding of halibut bycatch mortality impacts both generally and by regulatory area, in light of improvements to the understanding of halibut movements over the last several years. **The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m. and extend to 5:00 p.m.** Among the topics to be covered at the workshop are:

- Review of current and historical levels of halibut bycatch mortality
- Review of historical methods by which the Commission has accounted for bycatch mortality in management of the halibut stock
- Methods of estimation of bycatch mortality in non-target fisheries
- Incorporation of bycatch mortality estimates and non-commercial removals in the halibut stock assessment and harvest policy
- General impacts of bycatch mortality from non-target fisheries on halibut productivity and yield
- Impacts of non-local bycatch mortality on fisheries yield of individual IPHC Regulatory Areas
- Progress on bycatch control and management in other jurisdictions
- Methods employed to reduce non-target halibut bycatch mortality in the northeast Pacific Ocean

**Presentations for the workshop as well as the link to a live webcast of the workshop will be posted as they become available on the Commission's website:**

<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/meetings/workshops.htm#bycatch>

In addition, the staff will host an online discussion forum prior to the workshop, similar to that hosted for the 2009 Biomass Apportionment Workshop. The forum website and instructions on participation can be accessed here:

<http://tundra.iphc.washington.edu/iphc/blog>

The results of the workshop will be made available to the participants and will be posted on the IPHC webpage following the conclusion of the workshop.

A block of rooms for the workshop will be held at the Hotel Deca ([www.hoteldeca.com](http://www.hoteldeca.com)) until September 7. The room rate is \$119 a night, or \$158 a night for a junior suite. To make a room reservation online, follow the steps below:

1. From the hoteldeca.com webpage, click the reservations link at the top left of the page.
2. Click the “enter negotiated rate code” located at the bottom left-hand side of the page.
3. Enter reservation dates and on the right hand side enter 42838 in the group/event id box. Then begin search.
4. Click view rates.
5. Enter all details needed to make reservation (name, address, etc.).

Rooms can also be reserved by calling the Hotel Deca at (800) 899-0251. Tell them you are attending the “Halibut Bycatch Workshop”.

If you have any questions concerning the workshop, please contact Laura Black ([laura@iphc.washington.edu](mailto:laura@iphc.washington.edu); voice: 206-634-1838 ext 201; fax: 206-632-2983).

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