2019 IPHC Annual Meeting

Alaska Seafood Cooperative and Groundfish Forum
Overview

2018 Performance
Halibut Avoidance Plan
Decksorting
## Amendment 80

### Halibut Performance 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>4A and 4B</th>
<th>4CDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>1,860</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>1,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>1,203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>1,153</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 4th 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target Species</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellowfin sole</td>
<td>11.7</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock sole</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>12.6</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flathead sole/Arrowtooth flounder</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>19.2</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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

• 4th 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

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

*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