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C4: Halibut in Pots in the BSAI



Recent History of Action

Section 1.2, p14-17

- APRIL 2018: Initial Review on halibut retention in sablefish pots in the BSAI
 - Expanded scope
- JUNE 2018: 2nd Initial Review on halibut retention in pots in the BSAI
 - Identified PPA, released draft for public review
- OCTOBER 2018: Public review

Description of Alternatives

Section 2, p19

Alternative 1: No action

Alternative 2: Allow retention of legal-sized halibut in single or longline pot gear used to fish for halibut or sablefish IFQ/ CDQ in the BSAI provided the IFQ/ CDQ holder holds sufficient halibut IFQ. The PIHCZ will be closed to all fishing with pot gear.

Element 1: Gear retrieval

Element 2: Tunnel opening

Element 3: VMS/ Logbooks

Element 4: Escapement mechanisms

Element 5: Process for in-season closures

Expanded discussion & major changes

- EFH: Justification for “no effects...” (p29)
- Impacts of PIHCZ closure (p139-140)
- NMFS authority: In-season closures to limit overfishing- Element 5 (p165-167)
- Escapement mechanism- Element 4 (p154-159)
- Gear retrieval & impacts to existing sablefish pot fishery– Element 1 (p143-150)
- Vessel safety (p125, 171)
- List of possible topics for 3-year review (p167)

Decision Points for the Council

Identify a preferred alternative, Elements 1-5

- **Element 1: Gear retrieval**
 - Option 1: No gear tending requirements (status quo)
 - Option 2: A vessel cannot leave gear on the grounds untended for more than (sub-options) 5-10 days.
- **Element 2: Tunnel opening maximum size**
- **Element 3: Logbooks & VMS**
- **Element 4: Escapement mechanisms**
- **Element 5: In-season closures, PIHCZ**

3 year review