

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
C6 GOA Sablefish Longline Pots
Motion 4/12/15

The Council adopts the following Elements and Options as its preferred alternative for Agenda item C-6.

The Council adopts the Purpose and Need statement.

Alternative 2. Allow the use of pot longline gear in the GOA-Sablefish IFQ fishery.

Element 1 Limit of 120 pots per vessel in WY and SEO.

Limit of 300 pots per vessel for WGOA and CGOA.

Option 1. Require identification tags for each pot.

Pot tags must be attached to the vessels pots before leaving port. Pots registered to one vessel must be returned to shore before being registered to another vessel

Element 2. Gear retrieval.

Option 2. Gear cannot be left for more than 5 days without being moved in the CGOA and WY.

Gear cannot be left for more than 7 days without being moved in the WGOA.

In SEO gear cannot be left on the fishing grounds when the vessel to which the pots are registered leaves the grounds to make a delivery.

All sablefish pots set in GOA must be removed prior to the end of the season and cannot be set before the beginning of the season.

Element 3. Gear specifications.

Require both ends of the sablefish pot longline set to be marked with a 4-bouy cluster including a hard ball with "PL" (pot longline) marking on one buoy, flagpoles, and radar reflectors, including ADF&G number or federal fisheries permit number on buoys.

Element 4. Retention of incidentally caught halibut.

Require the retention of halibut caught incidentally in sablefish pots, provided the sablefish IFQ holder also holds sufficient halibut IFQ, and provided that the IPHC adopts complementary regulations that would allow NMFS to authorize retention of halibut caught incidentally in the sablefish longline pot fishery under the requirements of regulations implementing this program.

Additionally, all vessels using longline pot gear are required to use logbooks and VMS. Add a data field, or fields, to the Prior Notice of Landing for a pot longline vessel to declare the number of pots fished, lost, and/or still fishing.

IFQ holders fishing sablefish pots are encouraged to work co-operatively to develop electronic reporting protocols for reporting the location of pots being fished and/or pots left on the fishing grounds as well as any other methods or methodology that may enhance the sablefish pot longline fishery.

A review on the effects of allowing GOA Sablefish longline pot gear will be conducted 3 years after implementation and that NMFS include pot gear effort in their management report to the Council.