

Draft SSC Report February 2021



D2 EFP Applications and Reports

D2 Halibut Excluder EFP Application

- The Alaska Seafood Cooperative proposes a paired-trawl experiment to rigorously test a halibut excluder design
- The SSC ***finds*** the experiment is well-designed and could be quite valuable. The twin-trawl configuration is a powerful control for the experiment.
- The SSC ***recommends*** proceeding with the proposed work.
- The SSC ***suggests*** that the excluder be switched between sides more often than initially contemplated, and that an effort be made to investigate the potential bias arising from past use of excluders (non-experimental) so that these data might become more useful.



D-2 Report on AI Pollock EFP trials

- Three vessels participated in an experiment to determine what factors were associated with POP bycatch in pollock trawling. No strong predictors were identified, although captains did seem to have some ability to predict POP bycatch.
- The SSC ***supports*** the conclusions reached and appreciates the effort involved in the experiment.
- The SSC ***suggests*** that a multivariate investigation of the results has some chance of finding conditions affecting POP bycatch.
- Future work might focus on identifying captains' ability to predict POP bycatch

