

complex consists of sablefish, rockfish, shallow-water flatfish, flathead sole, deep-water flatfish, and arrowtooth Atka mackerel, and "other species." The flounder. The shallow-water species apportionment for these two complexes complex consists of pollock, Pacific cod, is presented in Table 7.

TABLE 7.—FINAL 1995 APPORTIONMENT OF PACIFIC HALIBUT PSC TRAWL LIMITS BETWEEN THE DEEP-WATER SPECIES COMPLEX AND THE SHALLOW-WATER SPECIES COMPLEX. VALUES ARE IN METRIC TONS

Season	Shallow-water	Deep-water	Total
Jan. 20–Mar. 31	500	100	600
Apr. 1–Jun. 30	100	300	400
Jul. 1–Sep. 30	200	400	600
Oct. 1–Dec. 31	No apportionment between shallow and deep for the 4th quarter.		

Except as noted below, the Council proposed that revised halibut discard mortality rates recommended by the IPHC be adopted for purposes of monitoring halibut bycatch mortality limits established for the 1995 groundfish fisheries. These assumed halibut mortality rates are based on an average of mortality rates determined from NMFS-observer data collected during 1992 and 1993, except for the GOA hook-and-line rockfish, for which 1992/93 rates were not available and the rates from 1990 and 1991 were used. For most fisheries, the 1992–93 averages, on which the 1995 mortality rates are based, are somewhat higher than the assumed rate used in 1994. This occurs because the rates used in 1994 were a rollover of the 1993 rates, which had been derived from data for 1990 and 1991.

The Council recommended establishing two separate mortality rates

for the GOA bottom trawl pollock fishery: 63 percent for shoreside processors and 74 percent for at-sea processors. The different rates for at-sea and shoreside processors result from analyses by the IPHC that showed that at-sea processing vessels had a significantly higher discard mortality rate than the shorebased operators. The rates for the bottom trawl pollock fishery are revised from the proposed specifications. The rates recommended by the Council are adopted and will be used in calculating halibut mortality. However, NMFS notes that directed fishing for GOA pollock by the offshore component is prohibited under § 672.20(a)(2)(v) and that at-sea processing of pollock would be unlikely.

The Council proposed adjusting the IPHC's recommendation for GOA Pacific cod hook-and-line and trawl mortality rates. The IPHC recommended assumed

mortality rates of 20 percent and 58 percent, respectively. The Council recommended setting the Pacific cod hook-and-line halibut mortality rate at 12.5 percent and the trawl rate at 55 percent. NMFS has evaluated the Council's recommendation but adopts mortality rates suggested by the IPHC for 1995, which is the best information available on assumed mortality rates.

The IPHC determined that the careful release measures implemented for vessels using hook-and-line gear did not show appreciable improvements in mortality rates and has recommended one rate for both observed and unobserved vessels in the hook-and-line fisheries. This action was approved by the Council and is adopted by NMFS. The halibut mortality rates are listed in Table 8.

TABLE 8.—1995 ASSUMED PACIFIC HALIBUT MORTALITY RATES FOR VESSELS FISHING IN THE GULF OF ALASKA. TABLE VALUES ARE PERCENT OF HALIBUT BYCATCH ASSUMED TO BE DEAD

Gear and Target	
Hook-and-Line:	
Sablefish	25
Pacific cod	20
Rockfish	18
Trawl:	
Midwater pollock	66
Rockfish	66
Shallow-water flatfish	64
Pacific cod	58
Deep-water flatfish	59
Bottom pollock:	
Shoreside	63
At-sea	74
Pot:	
Pacific cod	18

Opening Date of the Directed Fishery for Sablefish for Hook-and-Line Gear

Under new regulations implementing the IFQ program (50 CFR part 676) in 1995, the opening of the sablefish fishery is March 1.

Comments

Written comments on the proposed 1994 specifications and other management measures were requested until January 20, 1995 (59 FR 65990;

December 22, 1994). No written comments were received.

Classification

This action is authorized under 50 CFR 611.92 and 672.20; and is exempt from review under E.O. 12866.