

IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: Retention of Halibut in Trap Gear for Area 2B

Year Proposed For: 2007

Submission Information (Please print or type)

Name: Diana Trager/Terri Bonnet

Affiliation: Department of Fisheries and Oceans

Address: 200-401 Burrard Street

City: Vancouver State/Prov: B.C. Postal/ZIP Code: V6C 3S4

Telephone: 604 666 9033 / 604 666 3279 Fax: 604 666 8525

Email: TragerD@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca / BonnetT@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Signature: 

1. What is the definition and objective of the proposal?

Section 19 (1) & (2) note that “No person shall fish for halibut using any gear other than hook and line gear “ and “No person shall possess halibut taken with any gear other than hook and line gear.”

Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) recently implemented a 3 year pilot program (April 2006 to March 2009) to integrate the various commercial groundfish fisheries (allow by-catch to be retained where it could not be retained previously). In addition to 100% at-sea monitoring, the program requires all fishers to be accountable for their catch and by-catch by acquiring quota for all legal sized halibut encountered. Current regulations require sablefish vessels using trap gear to discard all halibut. Canada would like to allow these vessels to retain legal sized halibut caught in trap gear. This would be for by-catch purposes and various trip and vessels limits would be in place to help minimize targeting. Note: This could be done on a pilot program along with our 3 year pilot program.

2. Impacts: Describe who you think this proposed change might affect (include fishers, processors, agencies, and the public).

2a. Who might benefit from the proposed change?

Sablefish trap vessels could retain and land halibut where they could not previously. This would benefit the vessel owners, fishers, crew, and processors economically.

Rather than some halibut being caught and released with an associated mortality – these fish could be retained and removed from the total allowable catch for B.C..

2b. Who might suffer hardships or be worse off?

None known.

3. Are there other solutions to the problem described above? If so, why were they rejected?

None known.

Below is the link to the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Groundfish for your reference.
<http://www-ops2.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/xnet/content/MPLANS/MPlans.htm#Groundfish>