Halibut Discard Mortality Rates

Halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) are reviewed each year as part of the Council's groundfish harvest specifications process and are used for in-season management of halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) relative to limits established for GOA and BSAI groundfish fisheries.

DMRs are currently specified for eleven operational groups that comprise unique combinations of area, gear, and handling characteristics that affect halibut mortality. Prior to Council specification, DMRs are calculated by an interagency workgroup (staff from AKFIN, the Council, IPHC, and NMFS) and are reviewed by the Council's BSAI and GOA Groundfish Plan Teams and the SSC.

Beginning in the late 1990s, halibut DMRs were calculated by IPHC staff, who provided the estimates to NMFS for in-season management. In 2015 responsibility for calculating DMRs moved from the IPHC to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Additionally, methods for calculating DMRs were updated to be consistent with the statistical design of fishery observer sampling. The revised methods were described in reports provided by the interagency workgroup and reviewed by the Groundfish Plan Teams and SSC. Subsequently, methods have remained stable and annual updates are reviewed through the annual specification process through brief summary documents. Background documents for halibut DMRs by year

Specification Year	Source Document
1997	1996 IPHC RARA
1998	1997 IPHC RARA
1999	1998 IPHC RARA
2000	1999 IPHC RARA
2001	2000 IPHC RARA
2002	2001 IPHC RARA
2003	2002 IPHC RARA
2004-2006	2003 BSAI/GOA Groundfish SAFE
2007-2009	2006 BSAI/GOA Groundfish SAFE
2010-2012	2009 BSAI/GOA Groundfish SAFE
2013-2015	2012 BSAI/GOA Groundfish SAFE
2016	Halibut DMR WG Report
2017	Halibut DMR WG Report
2018	Halibut DMR WG Report
2019	Halibut DMR WG Report
2020	Halibut DMR WG Report
2021	Halibut DMR WG Report