

Workgroup Meeting Summary-Halibut  
Pribilof Islands Collaborative Halibut Workgroup  
June 30, 2004, 1:30PM

Present: Phillip Lestenkof (Chair), Larry Prokoprief, Larry Cotter, Heather McCarty, Thorn Smith, Lisa Butler, Evie Witten, Anthony B. Mercurieff, Astrid Scholz, Ed Luttrell, Robert Melovidov, Denise Woods, Claire LeClair.

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Introductions
3. Members comments and suggestions on organizing meetings and workgroup tasks
4. Discuss and prioritize halibut issues/tasks developed by participants at the April 2004 PIC meeting
5. Date and time of next meeting
6. Adjourn

Summary:

Workgroup members were reminded that the workgroups are not too formal in order to encourage people to participate and that participation is voluntary. For this meeting, Claire LeClair and Denise Woods both took notes, but Claire will prepare the summary since Denise is going on maternity leave starting July 1. Since Claire is also a seated stakeholder on the PIC and a member of the halibut workgroup, she will always preface any remarks made at workgroup meetings with a clarification as to whether she is speaking as a workgroup member or as a WWF employee tasked with note-taking.

**1-2. Call to Order and Introductions**

Phillip Lestenkof called the meeting to order at 1:45PM and asked for workgroup members to introduce themselves and then meeting participants to identify themselves.

Astrid Scholz, of Ecotrust, described her organization's work and its interest in the PIC. Ecotrust is a community development organization that works in the greater Pacific Northwest, from northern California to Alaska. Ecotrust supports community-based stewardship of natural resources and has extensive analytical capabilities. Ecotrust is participating in the PIC not as a stakeholder but as a resource in terms of providing information and analyses. APICDA and Ecotrust may be collaborating on a project to investigate the decline in halibut CPUE in Area 4.

**3. Members comments and suggestions on organizing meetings and workgroup tasks**

Phillip invited Tim Lohrer (IPHC) to the August PIC meeting since it will be helpful to have experts like him involved. It was also suggested that someone talk to Bruce Lehman about sending someone to the August meeting.

#### **4. Discuss and prioritize halibut issues/tasks developed by participants at the April 2004 PIC meeting (see “Halibut Workgroup Revised Notes”)**

##### ***Overarching***

CBSFA has hired Jack Taggart to analyze bycatch data from the BS/AI areas starting in 1990. The question he will seek to answer is whether incidental catch by other fishermen is impacting abundance of halibut in area 4C. Taggart will access as much bycatch information as he can, including time, location and size and then look for changes in any of these criteria and whether those changes correlate with changes in management actions, temperature or other variables. A scope of work for Taggart’s project was requested by the group and it was noted that Janet Smoker has the software to do a variety of analyses on bycatch data.

IPHC sets the overall halibut quota for each area, but the NPFMC splits it up amongst the subareas. CBSFA has made a proposal to the NPFMC to “permeate” the boundary between areas 4C and 4D by allowing both IFQ and CDQ holders to catch their quota in either area. Support of this proposal was suggested as an additional goal to the three already identified in the Halibut Workgroup Revised Notes.

##### ***Refined Goals Identified***

Overall goal of this workgroup could be what CrabWorkgroup agreed upon: to identify elements of issues that the PIC could/should work on, prioritize a list of research and information needs and bring list to full group in August for comment.

Goal #1 (no discussion specifically about prioritized research list, though it was noted throughout meeting that such a list would be valuable.)

Goal #2. suggested that the group stay focused on defining the issues first before pursuing solutions and that this goal should be re-written to reflect that.

Goal #3 suggested re-statement was to “Maintain and enhance the biological health of the halibut resource in and around the central Bering Sea in order for viable IFQ, CDQ and subsistence fisheries to proceed in a sustainable way.”

##### ***Refined Actions Identified***

1. Refine/revise problem statement: **Larry will do this** and try to incorporate goals into the problem statement. The halibut workgroup will try to make a summary of the different bycatch data efforts currently going on, help coordinate/exchange bycatch information and then share this summarized information with the entire PIC group.
2.
  - a. Refine problem/goal statement (see above)
  - b. Begin to clarify the role of the Halibut Workgroup:
    - Need more research done/compiled
    - Clearinghouse of ideas, concerns, activities—group these and then prioritize
    - Review research efforts and try to help coordinate/focus the information and activities. **Thorn will share Janet Smoker’s bycatch data and Astrid will summarize current bycatch research projects.**

c-d. no discussion

e. Review April notes and discuss, in particular, facilitator's questions.

Heather will try to edit the "Halibut Workgroup Revised Notes" down to a couple pages.

Larry Cotter agreed to co-chair the halibut workgroup with Phillip.

Both CDQ representatives at the meeting agreed that the action item under the "Economic Research Data and Information Needs/Goals and Concerns" that has to do with CDQs is not something that they support. The group will drop this from any future list of actions or goals and provide the greater PIC group with the rationale for this at the August meeting.

**5. Date and time of next meeting.**

The next meeting of the halibut workgroup is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14 at 1:30PM. A meeting notice and agenda will be sent beforehand.

**6. Adjournment**