

TABLE 6.—PROPOSED 2004 PROHIBITED SPECIES BYCATCH ALLOWANCES FOR THE BSAI TRAWL AND NON-TRAWL FISHERIES

Trawl fisheries	Prohibited species and zone					
	Halibut mortality (mt) BSAI	Herring (mt) BSAI	Red king crab (animals) Zone 1 ¹	<i>C. opilio</i> (animals) COBLZ ²	<i>C. bairdi</i> (animals)	
					Zone 1 ¹	Zone 2 ¹
Yellowfin sole	886	139	16,664	2,776,981	340,844	1,788,459
Rock sole/other flat/flathead sole ³	779	20	59,782	969,130	365,320	596,154
Turbot/arrowtooth/sablefish ⁴		9		40,238		
Rockfish: July 4–December 31	69	7		40,237		10,988
Pacific cod	1,434	20	13,079	124,736	183,112	324,176
Midwater trawl pollock		1,184				
Pollock/Atka mackerel/other ⁵	232	146	200	72,428	17,224	27,473
Red King Crab Savings Subarea (non-pelagic trawl)			20,924			
Total Trawl PSC	3,400	1,526	89,725	4,023,750	906,500	2,747,250
Non-Trawl Fisheries:						
Pacific cod—Total	775					
Other non-trawl—Total	58					
Groundfish pot & jig	exempt					
Sablefish hook-and-line	exempt					
Total Non-Trawl	833					
PSQ Reserve⁶	342		7,275	326,250	73,500	222,750
Grand Total	4,575	1,526	97,000	4,350,000	980,000	2,970,000

¹ Refer to § 679.2 for definitions of areas.

² *C. opilio* Bycatch Limitation Zone. Boundaries are defined at 50 CFR part 679, Figure 13.

³ "Other flatfish" for PSC monitoring includes all flatfish species, except for Pacific halibut (a prohibited species), greenland turbot, rock sole, yellowfin sole and arrowtooth flounder.

⁴ Greenland turbot, arrowtooth flounder, and sablefish fishery category.

⁵ Pollock other than pelagic trawl pollock, Atka mackerel, and "other species" fishery category.

⁶ With the exception of herring, 7.5 percent of each PSC limit is allocated to the CDQ program as PSQ reserve. The PSQ reserve is not allocated by fishery, gear or season.

To monitor halibut bycatch mortality allowances and apportionments, the Administrator, Alaska Region, NMFS (Regional Administrator), will use observed halibut bycatch rates, assumed discard mortality rates (DMR), and estimates of groundfish catch to project when a fishery's halibut bycatch mortality allowance or seasonal apportionment is reached. The assumed DMRs are based on the best information available, including information contained in the annual SAFE report.

The Council recommended and NMFS proposes that the recommended halibut DMRs developed by staff of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) for the 2003 BSAI groundfish fisheries be used for monitoring halibut bycatch allowances established for the 2004 groundfish fisheries (Table 7). Results from analysis of halibut release condition data for 2000 showed continued stability in halibut DMRs for many fisheries. Plots of annual DMRs against the 10-year mean indicated little change since 1990 for some fisheries, particularly the major trawl fisheries. DMRs were more variable for the smaller fisheries that typically take minor amounts of halibut

bycatch. For 2003 for most groundfish fisheries, DMRs were used based on long-term mean for a 3-year period before revisions were proposed. Annual DMRs were used for the BSAI hook-and-line Pacific cod fishery and CDQ fisheries. The IPHC will analyze observer data annually and recommend changes to the DMRs where a fishery DMR shows large variation from the mean. For 2003, the BSAI hook-and-line Pacific cod fishery DMR did not change; but the CDQ fishery DMRs were adjusted. The justification for these proposed DMRs is discussed in Appendix A of the final SAFE report dated November 2002. The proposed DMRs listed in Table 7 are subject to change pending the results of an updated analysis on halibut DMRs in the groundfish fisheries that IPHC staff is scheduled to present to the Council at its December 2003 meeting.

TABLE 7.—PROPOSED 2004 ASSUMED PACIFIC HALIBUT DISCARD MORTALITY RATES FOR THE BSAI FISHERIES

Fishery	Pre-season assumed mortality (percent)
Hook-and-line gear fisheries:	
Greenland turbot	18
Other Species	12
Pacific cod	12
Rockfish	25
Sablefish	22
Trawl gear fisheries:	
Atka mackerel	75
Flathead sole	67
Greenland turbot	70
Nonpelagic pollock	76
Pelagic pollock	84
Other flatfish	71
Other species	67
Pacific cod	67
Rockfish	69
Rock sole	76
Sablefish	50
Yellowfin sole	81
Pot gear fisheries:	
Other species	8
Pacific cod	8