

Table 7 - Final 2003 Pacific Halibut Discard Mortality Rates for Vessels Fishing in the GOA. (Listed Amounts are percent of halibut bycatch assumed to be dead)

Gear and Target	Mortality Rate
<u>HOOK-AND-LINE</u>	
Other species	14
Pacific cod	14
Rockfish	8
Sablefish	24
<u>TRAWL</u>	
Arrowtooth Flounder	62
Atka mackerel	70
Deep-water flatfish	60
Flathead sole	58
Nonpelagic pollock	61
Other species	61
Pacific cod	61
Pelagic pollock	72
Rex sole	61
Rockfish	69
Sablefish	66
Shallow-water flatfish	69
<u>POT</u>	
Other species	14
Pacific cod	14

Non-exempt American Fisheries Act (AFA) Catcher Vessel Groundfish Harvest and PSC Limitations

Regulations at § 679.64 established groundfish harvesting and processing limitations, also called sideboards, on AFA catcher/processors and catcher vessels in the GOA. These sideboard limits are necessary to protect the interests of fishermen and processors, who have not directly benefitted from the AFA, from fishermen and processors who have received exclusive harvesting and processing privileges under the AFA. Under the AFA regulations, listed AFA catcher/processors (§ 679.4(l)(2)(i)) are prohibited from harvesting any

species of fish in the GOA (§ 679.7(k)(1)(ii)) and from processing any pollock harvested in a directed pollock fishery in the GOA and any groundfish harvested in Statistical Area 630 of the GOA (§ 679.7(k)(1)(iv)). The Council recommended, and NMFS concurs, that certain AFA catcher vessels in the GOA be exempt from groundfish sideboard limits. The AFA regulations exempt AFA catcher vessels in the GOA less than 125 ft (38.1 m) LOA whose annual Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) pollock landings totaled less than 5,100 mt and that made 30 or more GOA groundfish landings from 1995 through 1997 (§ 679.64(b)(2)(i)(A)).

For non-exempt AFA catcher vessels in the GOA, sideboard limits are based upon their traditional harvest levels of TAC in groundfish fisheries covered by the GOA FMP. The AFA regulations base the groundfish sideboard limits in the GOA on the retained catch of non-exempt AFA catcher vessels of each sideboard species from 1995 through 1997 divided by the TAC for that species over the same period (§ 679.64(b)(3)(iii)). These amounts are listed in Table 8. All catch of sideboard species made by non-exempt AFA catcher vessels, whether as targeted catch or incidental catch, will be deducted from the sideboard limits in Table 8.