**HALIBUT WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**APRIL 24-25, 2012**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1113 6th Avenue, Seattle, Washington**

Facilitators: **Dr.** **Jonathan Raab (Raab Associates, Ltd., Boston, MA)**

**Ms. Stephanie Stern (CONCUR, San Francisco, CA)**

**DAY 1: TUESDAY APRIL 24**

8:00 Welcome: Dr. Jim Balsiger

8:10 Workshop Agenda and Ground rules—Dr. Jonathan Raab (facilitator)

8:20 Presentations on Halibut Ecology

10:15 Break

10:30 Presentations on Impacts of Halibut Bycatch

11:45 Lunch Break (participants on own for lunch)

1:00 Presentations on Impacts of Halibut Bycatch (continued)

2:00 Break

2:15 Management of Halibut Bycatch

4:55 Wrap-Up and Overview of Next Day

5:00 Adjourn

5:30 - 7:00 Cocktail Reception – Sponsored by the North Pacific Seafood Industry

(Crowne Plaza Hotel)

**DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25**

8:30 Review of Previous Day, Agenda, and Ground rules -- Dr. Jonathan Raab

8:40 Participant Feedback/ Panel Responses: Halibut Ecology

10:00 Break

10:15 Participant Feedback/ Panel Responses: Impacts and Management of Halibut Bycatch

12:00 Lunch Break

1:15 Panel Discussion: Halibut Ecology

2:45 Break

3:00 Panel Discussion: Impacts and Management of Halibut Bycatch

4:45 Next Steps and Closing Remarks: Dr. Jim Balsiger

5:00 Adjourn

**HALIBUT WORKSHOP AGENDA**

**APRIL 24-25, 2012**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1113 6th Avenue, Seattle, Washington**

Facilitators: **Dr.** **Jonathan Raab (Raab Associates, Ltd., Boston, MA)**

**Ms. Stephanie Stern (CONCUR, San Francisco, CA)**

**DAY 1: TUESDAY APRIL 24**

8:00 **Welcome: Dr. Jim Balsiger** (National Marine Fisheries Service/North Pacific Fishery Management Council/International Pacific Halibut Commission)

8:10 **Agenda, Ground rules, and Panel Introductions:** **Dr. Jonathan Raab**

* **Ground rules**:
* Presenters will stick to their pre-specified time allotments
* Clarifying questions only (no commentary) will be allowed, at the end of each presentation, time allowing
* Questions will be allowed from Panelists only (other participants will have the opportunity to both make comments and ask questions tomorrow morning)
* Panelists will signal that they have a question for a presenter by turning their table tent (name tag) on end, and facilitator will keep queue and call on Panelists, time allowing
* Additional questions from Panelists will be allowed after all presenters on each of the 3 topic areas are finished, time allowing
* All attendees (Panelists, presenters, and all other attendees to be civil and respectful (only talk when called upon, no personal attacks, no booing/cheering))
* People disrupting the proceedings will be asked to simmer down or leave
* **Panelists:**
  + **Dr. Michelle Allen** (Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute, Northern Ireland)
  + **Mr. Bob Clark** (Alaska Department of Fish and Game/ NPFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee)
  + **Ms. Jane DiCosimo** (North Pacific Fishery Management Council/ NPFMC Bering Sea-Aleutian Island Groundfish Plan Team)
  + **Dr. Robyn Forrest** (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
  + **Dr. Steven Hare** (International Pacific Halibut Commission)
  + **Dr. Jim Ianelli** (National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Fisheries Science Center/ NPFMC Gulf of Alaska Groundfish Plan Team)
  + **Mr. Tom Jagielo** (Tom Jagielo Consulting)
  + **Dr. Gordon Kruse** (University of Alaska-Fairbanks/NPFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee)
  + **Dr. Bruce Leaman** (International Pacific Halibut Commission)
  + **Dr. Steve Martell** (University of British Columbia)
  + **Dr. John Neilson** (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)
  + **Ms. Tory O’Connell** (Sitka Sound Science Center)

8:20 **Presentations**: **Halibut Ecology**

* *Historical overview and results of the 2011 halibut assessment* by **Dr. Steven R. Hare**, IPHC
* *Review of IPHC halibut diet studies* by **Dr. Bruce M. Leaman**, IPHC
* *Halibut in an ecosystem context: 30 years of diet collections and food web modeling* by**Dr.** **Kerim Aydin**, NMFS AFSC
* *Growth and observed size-at-age in eastern Pacific halibut: Thoughts on potential mechanisms and investigation* by **Dr. Tim L. Loher**, IPHC
* *Synopsis of theoretical and empirical evidence concerning the causes of halibut slow growth and potential differences in natural mortality by sex* by **Mr. Tom Jagielo**, TJC
* Additional Topic Q&A from the Panelists (if time)

10:15 **Break**

10:30 **Presentations**: **Impacts of Halibut Bycatch**

* *Catch estimation in the Alaskan groundfish fisheries* by **Ms. Jennifer Cahalan**, PSFMC and **Ms.** **Jennifer Mondragon**, NMFS Alaska Region
* *Estimation of commercial halibut fishery wastage, and accounting for bycatch and wastage mortality in the IPHC harvest policy* by **Dr. Steven R. Hare**, IPHC
* [*Potential yield and female spawning biomass gains from proposed Pacific halibut prohibited species catch limit reductions in Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea groundfish fisheries*](http://www.iphc.int/publications/rara/2011/2011.233.Potentialyieldandfemalespawning.pdf) by **Dr. Steven R. Hare**, IPHC
* *Impacts of halibut bycatch and wastage in the Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea Aleutian Islands on halibut coastwide yield and spawning biomass* by **Dr.** **Steve Martell**, UBC

11:45 **Lunch Break (participants on own for lunch)**

1:00 **Presentations**: **Impacts of Halibut Bycatch (continued)**

* [*Current understanding of Pacific halibut migration patterns*](http://www.iphc.int/publications/rara/2011/2011.341.CurrentunderstandingofPacifichalibutmigrationpatterns.pdf) by **Dr. Juan Valero**, IPHC
* *Current understanding of halibut migration* by **Mr. Tom Jagielo**, TJC
* Additional Topic Q&A from the Panelists (if time)

2:00 **Break**

2:15 **Presentations**: **Management of Halibut Bycatch**

* *Efficacy of changes in catch handling procedures to reduce halibut mortality rates* by **Mr. John Gauvin**, Groundfish Forum and **Mr. Kenny Down**, Freezer Longline Conservation Cooperative
* *Management programs and industry initiatives to reduce halibut mortality rates and amounts in North Pacific groundfish fisheries* by **Ms. Lori Swanson**,Groundfish Forum, **Ms. Julie Bonney**, Alaska Groundfish Data Bank, and **Mr. Kenny Down**, Freezer Longline Conservation Cooperative
* *Harvest policy considerations for re-evaluating the minimum size limit in the Pacific halibut commercial fishery* by **Dr. Juan Valero**, IPHC
* *Effects of reduced minimum-size limits on halibut biomass, yield, spawning biomass, and wastage* by **Dr.** **Steve Martell**, UBC
* *Planned Changes in the Alaskan Observer Program* by **Mr. Martin Loefflad** and **Dr.** **Craig Faunce**, NMFS AFSC
* *Halibut individual bycatch quota in the Northwest trawl Catch Shares Program* by **Ms. Sarah Williams**, NMFS Northwest Region
* *Management and monitoring of Pacific halibut bycatch in B.C.'s trawl commercial groundfish fishery* by **Mr. Barry Ackerman**, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and **Mr. Bruce Turris**, Pacific Fisheries Management, Inc.
* *Management and monitoring of Pacific halibut bycatch in the Hook & Line/Trap commercial groundfish fishery in British Columbia* by **Ms. Chantelle Caron**, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
* Additional Topic Q&A from the Panelists (if time)

4:55 **Wrap-Up and Overview of Next Day**

5:00 **Adjourn**

5:30-7:00 **Cocktail Reception** – Sponsored by the North Pacific Seafood Industry (Crowne Plaza Hotel)

**DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25**

8:30 **Agenda and Ground rules:** Dr. Jonathan Raab

* Review agenda and ground rules for second day
* Morning Session Ground rules:
  + Participants interested in speaking or asking questions, should sign up at the registration table.
  + Each speaker will be limited for their initial feedback (as determined by the facilitator depending on number of participants that want to comment)
    - Feedback can include comments, recommendations, and questions
    - Feedback must stick to the agenda topic/questions
  + Speakers should identify themselves before speaking (Name/Organization)
  + If speakers have questions, they should address them to specific panelists where possible
  + Panelists can respond to speaker comments, if they wish, and time allowing or respond during the Panelist discussion in the afternoon (Note: This is not intended to be a back-and-forth discussion between speakers and Panelists.)
  + Time allowing after all interested attendees have spoken, speakers may be allowed to make additional brief (amount of time TBD by the facilitator) comments
  + All parties to be civil and respectful (only talk when called upon, no personal attacks, no booing/cheering)
  + People disrupting the proceedings will be asked to simmer down or leave

8:40 **Participant Feedback/ Panel Responses**: **Halibut Ecology**

* Facilitated discussion where workshop attendees are asked to provide their views on any of the topics (see detailed questions of interest for each topic below under Panel Discussion for afternoon) for the session and the panel members can provide feedback and/or answer questions.
* Topics/ questions for discussion:

1. Size at Age
2. Causes of the Decline
3. Near-term Expectations
4. Future Research

10:00 **Break**

10:15 **Participant Feedback/ Panel Responses**: **Impacts and Management of Halibut Bycatch**

* Facilitated discussion where workshop attendees are asked to provide their views on any of the topics (see detailed questions of interest for each topic below under Panel Discussion for afternoon) for the session and the panel members can provide feedback and-or answer questions.
* **Topics/ questions for discussion**:

1. Accuracy of Halibut Bycatch Estimates
2. Biological Impacts and Migration
3. Fishing Practices
4. Management Programs/Approaches
5. Future Research

12:00 **Lunch Break**

1:15 **Panel Discussion**: **Halibut Ecology**

* A facilitator led discussion and synthesis of the implications of the results and stakeholder views for halibut (and halibut bycatch) management in the North Pacific by a workshop Panel constituted in advance of the workshop. The entire afternoon discussion will take place only among Panelists. (A couple of Panelists have volunteered to begin the discussion on each sub-topic by providing some initial observations and comments. Other Panelists can then join in.)
* **Size at Age** – How long has decline in halibut size (i.e., weight) at age been observed, and is it spatially isolated, or a coast-wide phenomenon? Has this been observed previously?
* **Causes of the Decline** – What are the contributing factors to the decline in size at age (e.g., expanded Arrowtooth flounder biomass, changes in diet, spatial competition)? Are these natural phenomena or human-induced factors, and how well are these contributing factors understood?
* **Near-term Expectations** – Can the decline in size at age be expected to continue?
* **Future Research -** Suggestions you have for future research on halibut ecology?

2:45 **Break**

3:00 **Panel Discussion**: **Impacts and Management of Halibut Bycatch**

* **Accuracy of Halibut Bycatch Estimates** – How accurate are bycatch estimates (does it differ by region/jurisdiction), and how can the accuracy be improved upon? Can the accuracy be measured/reported?
* **Biological Impacts and Migration** –How well are biological impacts quantified, and how well are the effects of migration on biological impacts understood and quantified? Is coast-wide data and analysis sufficient or is a finer spatial scale possible? How reliable or accurate would a finer scale be?
* **Fishing Practices** – What changes in fishing practices have been made to reduce bycatch and how effective have they been?
* **Management Programs/Approaches** – What management programs/approaches to reduce bycatch have been effective, and what have we learned from less successful efforts? What alternative or additional management programs/approaches should be considered for overcoming on-going halibut bycatch challenges (e.g., lowering the commercial size limit, set maximum size limits for sport charter harvests)?
* **Future Research - S**uggestions you have for future research on the impacts and management of halibut bycatch?

4:45 **Next Steps and** **Closing Remarks**: **Dr. Jim Balsiger**

5:00 **Adjourn**