



Halibut-Sablefish Committee Meeting
All Hands, Anchorage, Alaska, Captain Cook Hotel
Tuesday, October 25, 2016
1:30 pm

Draft minutes

Chair Peggy Parker called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. A quorum was established.

Members present: Chair Peggy Parker, Vice Chair William Sullivan, Mark Callahan, John Jensen, Joe Childers and Bob Barnett.

Absent: Sara Chapman

Guests present: Nicole Stangeland ASMI), Tom Gemmell (Halibut Coalition), Chantae Kochuten (APICDA), Buck Laukitis (Bering Sea Halibut Fishery)

An amendment to the agenda was made, to add the three empty seats on the committee under New Business.

A motion as was made to approve the agenda as amended by Barnett, seconded by Childers; the motion passed unanimously.

An amendment to the minutes from October 21, 2015 was made, an item under Old Business should read as ***Black cod nomenclature***.

A motion to approve the minutes as amended from the October 21, 2015 meeting was made by Jensen; seconded by Childers; the motion passed with all in favor.

No Public comment

OLD BUSINESS:

It was discussed again the concern of the large-size halibut in the market and the committee agreed that it is worth it to bring up again because this is an important issue for the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

The 2017 supply for halibut the Chairman will provide as soon as she receives the results from the IPFC. Moreover, the prediction for Sablefish for next year will be trending down especially outside Southeast.

It was discussed that the major challenge in 2017 is the pricing and halibut becoming unmarketable as a premium product lately. As a result, the committee chair will have a conversation with the Technical Director Michael Kohan to bring awareness of this issue and add to the list of future research projects for the Kodiak Science Lab.

Questions for the Halibut-Sablefish Committee

1. What specific concerns or marketing needs do you feel should be brought to the ASMI Operational Committee for them to consider?

We are concerned about a developing situation in the Atlantic coast of North America where Atlantic halibut is being caught in higher numbers each year, and, because that fishery is year round, it is edging out Alaska halibut markets, mostly on the east coast, but even in large markets like Los Angeles. Combined that, with increased harvest in Russia of all sizes of halibut, which can be marketed as Pacific halibut. Our concern focuses on Alaska halibut getting the distinct image it deserves.

So, we would like ASMI staff to verify that all marketing, educational, and POP materials include the descriptor "Alaska" before "halibut."

This may already be the case, but we would like to verify that this is indeed occurring.

2. Do you have any overall industry concerns that should be brought to the Committee Chairs for them to discuss and carry forward to the ASMI Board of Directors?

Our next action item refers to the graying of the fleet, and the graying of the halibut/sablefish committee. We have three empty seats on the committee and would like them to be filled with the best candidates, but want to include younger people. To that end, we would suggest that ASMI include a request for interest in operational and species committees at the ASMI booth as Fish Expo. We also commend and encourage ASMI's future involvement in the Young Fisherman's Summit and other events that help recruit younger people to the industry.

3. What major challenges do you see ASMI facing in the coming years? (short-term and long term)

Short-term challenges: financing, losing market share on the east coast from the rise Atlantic halibut and in general, from the low TACs we have had in recent years.

Long-term: sustainability, carbon footprint, and climate change.

4. What trends or opportunities can you identify that ASMI programs can capitalize on?

New product forms beyond cheeks -- heads, frames, collars, etc. Customers from other cultures are becoming interested in halibut.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The committee wants to verify if the "Halibut Act" has been added to the mission statement. This was in the motion a year ago, but was added to the good of the order discussion this year.

Despite of the limitations, the group has come up with great ideas.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM by the Chairman.

Minutes prepared by Jhi-Jhi Ferrer

