



Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force (ABRT) Draft Work Plan and Subcommittees

The ABRT is established for the purpose of exploring the issue of bycatch and providing recommendations to policy makers with the goal of improving the health and sustainability of Alaska's fisheries and protecting Alaska's record as a leader of fisheries' conservation and sustainability.

1. Communications

ABRT webpage is being developed on the ADF&G website. A link to the webpage will be provided on or before the March 9 meeting.

2. Task Force operations and guidelines

- Final ABRT recommendations will be provided in a report to the Governor as the State's policymaker.
- Bycatch issues assigned to the ABRT do not include:
 - Hatchery-wild interactions. Understanding there is a hatchery component to salmon bycatch, recommendations should avoid crossing into Pacific Salmon Treaty or Endangered Species Act issues.
 - Intercept fisheries. These fish are retained and sold and therefore are not bycatch.
- ABRT will work towards consensus on recommendations and vote if issues arise where viewpoints diverge. The final report will include a list of consensus recommendations and present issues where consensus was not reached with majority/minority viewpoints.

3. Subcommittees

- 1) Science, technology, and innovation
- 2) Western Alaska salmon
- 3) Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska crab
- 4) Gulf of Alaska halibut and salmon

ABRT members will provide their interest in serving on subcommittees to the ABRT chair and vice-chair and final subcommittee assignments will be made after the March 9 meeting.

- Subcommittees are tasked with examining the available information related to what impacts the bycatch has on fisheries.
- Subcommittee leaders will work with the science/technology/innovation committee to identify the best available science and to provide resources and/or invite subject experts to present relevant information to the subcommittee.

- Subcommittee recommendations to the ABRT will focus on policies informed by a better understanding of the issue and whether state agencies could better leverage their available resources to improve understanding of the issue.

4. **Timeline**

January 25	Introduction Meeting
February 11	Organization Meeting
March 9	Workplan/Subcommittees Established
April 19	Update from subcommittees, listening session (?)
May 17	Update from subcommittees
June TBD	Update from subcommittees
July TBD	Update from subcommittees
August TBD	Update from subcommittees, draft outline for final report
September TBD	Update from subcommittees, preliminary draft report
October TBD	Review draft report to Governor, listening session (?)
November TBD	Finalize report to Governor

ABRT subcommittee meetings:

March/June	Subcommittee Work Phase 1: Information gathering and review
July/Sept	Subcommittee Work Phase 2: Further review and recommendations