

C-2 BSAI Halibut PSC limits

Council motion June 7, 2015

The Council selects the following as its preferred alternative to reduce BSAI halibut PSC limits.

Alternative 2 Amend the BSAI Groundfish FMP and federal regulations to revise halibut PSC limits as follows:

Option 1 Reduce halibut PSC limit for the Amendment 80 Sector by:

Suboption 1 reducing the halibut PSC limit to Amendment 80 cooperatives by 33% (1,560 mt)

Suboption 2 reducing the halibut PSC limit to Amendment 80 limited access fishery by 40%

Option 2 Reduce halibut PSC limit for the BSAI Trawl Limited Access Sector by 25% (655 mt)

Option 3 Reduce halibut PSC limit for Pacific cod hook and line catcher processor sector, other non-trawl (i.e., hook and line catcher vessels and catcher processors targeting anything except Pacific cod or sablefish), and Pacific cod hook-and-line sectors by 25% (625 mt)

Option 6 Reduce the CDQ halibut PSQ limit by 25% (295 mt)

To implement the non-trawl PSC limit reductions, the Council recommends maintaining the current approach to apportioning halibut PSC among sectors by specifying in regulation only the total non-CDQ, non-trawl PSC limit (new limit of 625 mt). Under this approach, the separate halibut PSC limits for the hook-and-line Pacific cod CV, hook-and-line Pacific cod CP, and hook-and-line other target fisheries CV and CP sectors would not be specified in regulations.

The new CDQ halibut PSQ limit would be a combined limit to be used for trawl and/or non-trawl CDQ fisheries.