



# **C2 BSAI Halibut Abundance-based Management (ABM) PSC Limits**

April 2021 Council Meeting

## **Action Memo**

Council Staff: Diana Stram, Sam Cunningham, Anna Henry  
Other Presenters: Jim Ianelli (AFSC)  
Mike Downs (Wislow Research Associates)  
Action Required: Initial Review Draft EIS – review; action as necessary;

## **BACKGROUND**

The Council will review the preliminary draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the BSAI Halibut ABM PSC limit management action. This document analyzes a proposed management measure to link the Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limit for the Amendment 80 commercial groundfish trawl sector in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) to halibut abundance. The objective of linking the PSC limit to abundance is to minimize halibut PSC to the extent practicable under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) National Standard 9 and to achieve optimum yield in the BSAI groundfish fisheries on a continuing basis under MSA National Standard 1. The action should provide incentives for the Amendment 80 sector to minimize halibut mortality at all times. Achievement of the objectives could result in additional harvest opportunities for the commercial halibut fishery.

A DEIS provides assessments of the environmental impacts of an action and its reasonable alternatives as well as the economic benefits and costs of the action alternatives and their distribution. This preliminary DEIS addresses the statutory requirements of the MSA, the National Environmental Policy Act, and Presidential Executive Order 12866.

Information posted to the Council's agenda includes the DEIS and Appendix 1 (appended separately) for the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and the Council's October 2020 motion to revise the alternative set and the purpose and need statement. At this meeting the Council will review the DEIS and may select a preliminary preferred alternative (PPA).