



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Action Memo

**File Number:BYC 15-023**

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**Agenda Date**12/7/2015

**Agenda Number:**C9

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**Dan Hull, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**

Biomass-based BSAI Halibut PSC Limits - Discussion Paper

**STAFF CONTACT:** Diana Stram

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Review paper; action as necessary

**BACKGROUND:**

In June 2015, the Council took final action on Amendment 111 to the BSAI Groundfish FMP to reduce the existing PSC limits for Pacific halibut in the BSAI from 4,426mt to 3,515 mt. In conjunction with that action, the Council requested a discussion paper exploring ways to index BSAI halibut PSC limits to a metric of halibut abundance. A discussion paper is attached, prepared by IPHC staff which addresses two general approaches for moving forward with index-based PSC limits and five alternative options for setting these limits. The two approaches include (1) the Council sets PSC limits independent of IPHC harvest policies, or (2) both the Council and the IPHC coordinate policies for setting annual catch and PSC limits. Specific alternative options for setting PSC limits which satisfy these approaches are described in detail in the discussion paper. Dr. Steve Martell of the IPHC will present the paper.