



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number: HAL 16-004

Agenda Date 4/4/2016

Agenda Number: C8

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:

Halibut Management - Committee report; update on Framework; update on MSE Process (MSE update for Council only)

STAFF CONTACT: Chris Oliver

ACTION REQUIRED:

Receive Committee report; update on framework and MSE process; action as necessary

BACKGROUND:

In February the Council reviewed its revised Halibut Management Framework document (revised based on Council direction from December 2015, and **attached** here), including initial comments from the IPHC. At that time the Council passed an additional motion to update and revise the Framework (**attached**). Since the February Council meeting we received a formal comment letter from the IPHC (also **attached** here), which addresses a number of issues relating to the Framework including, balancing the objectives of groundfish and halibut management; research priorities; and, communications between the Commission and the Council. The Council's newly established Halibut Management Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, April 4 to discuss the various issues related to its interactions with the IPHC, and to review and provide guidance on two related agenda items - halibut abundance-based PSC limits and halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs). An agenda for that Committee meeting is **attached**. Committee members include Dan Hull, Craig Cross, Simon Kinneen, Jim Balsiger, Bob Alverson, and Jeff Kauffman. We will receive the Committee's report at this time. We will also receive an update on the IPHC's management strategy evaluation (MSE) at this meeting, which could be informative to the overall halibut discussions and the Framework document.

Regarding the Framework document itself, it has not been updated from the January 2016 version. Some of the items from the Council's February motion require substantial input from the IPHC, and synthesis of that information, for purposes of the Framework. Additionally, discussions at this meeting on several issues could be very informative to the next iteration of the Framework; therefore, it is the intent of staff to complete another update of that document following this April Council meeting.