

Draft Council motion C-7 BSAI Halibut PSC
2/7/14

The Council requests an expanded discussion paper focused on developing an understanding of the status of the BSAI halibut resource and the impact of halibut PSC in the BSAI trawl and fixed gear groundfish fisheries on halibut stock biomass, the reproductive potential of the halibut stock, and short and long-term halibut yields to the directed halibut fisheries.

The paper should also identify the observer sampling protocols and regulatory changes necessary to provide for deck sorting of halibut on BSAI trawl catcher processors for fisheries in which this has been identified as a feasible and effective tool to reduce the halibut discard mortality rate.

The Council also requests that the BSAI groundfish sectors (AFA CP, AFA CV, A80, FLC, CDQ) move forward with measures in their cooperative and/or inter-cooperative agreements to minimize halibut PSC, including:

- Development of effective and verifiable measures for halibut avoidance
- Individual accountability and use of incentives to reduce PSC

The Council requests a report from representatives of these sectors at the June 2014 Council meeting.