

Council Motion

C-5 Halibut Abundance Based PSC

June 10, 2017

In preparation for the October discussion paper, the Council directs staff to:

- Eliminate all U12, AI and GOA indices from further consideration at this time, and provide a full description, including a qualitative evaluation of each index as described in the SSC minutes.
- Provide a comparison of indices as they relate to sector specific PSC limits and fishery characteristics.
- Prioritize focusing on biomass based indices for development. In addition, the Council clarifies that PSC limits should be specified in biomass.
- Limit the set of abundance indices for initial development to those which reflect 1) halibut encountered by the groundfish fishery in the Bering Sea, and 2) halibut abundance in the Bering Sea.
- Include a discussion on control rules that is not limited to only sloping control rules with floors and ceilings, but also include other control rules as outlined by the SSC. The discussion should include tradeoffs of each control rule. In preparing for the October discussion paper, the Council directs staff to apply continuous sloping control rules to candidate indices.
- Consider using the IPHC Coastwide halibut stock status as an element of the control rule, rather than a component index in an integrated index.
- Include a discussion on incentives corresponding to different control rules and abundance indices as noted in the SSC minutes. In addition, include a discussion of how a performance standard could be included in an abundance based approach for establishing PSC limits.
- When considering a starting PSC limit in future discussion papers, the Council directs the working group to consider starting points within the following range: 50% above and below the 2016 PSC limit.
- Include a discussion on establishing separate starting points for each gear type.
- Include the following in the outline for the October paper (new text in **bold and underlined**).

II. Components of abundance-based halibut PSC management

a. Indices of halibut abundance

i. All available

1. Listing of indices with characteristics, proportion of population, **proportion of population encountered in directed and groundfish fisheries**
2. Qualities of indices (units, 2016 value, variability, frequency), **extent each index meets principles developed by staff**