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# INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

B7 IPHC/NPFMC Joint Meeting  
December 2014  
DIRECTOR  
BRUCE M. LEAMAN

2320 W. COMMODORE WY, STE 300  
SEATTLE, WA 98199-1287

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA

AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TELEPHONE:  
(206) 634-1838

FAX:  
(206) 632-2983

December 8, 2014

Mr. Dan Hull, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Mr. Hull:

Thank you for your letter of October 24<sup>th</sup> concerning a joint meeting of the Commission and the Council during the time of your February 2015 meeting in Seattle. We agree that this is the best opportunity for our discussions concerning a total mortality accounting framework for halibut and halibut bycatch mortality in the northeast Pacific. At its Interim Meeting this week, the Commission reviewed topics for discussion at the joint meeting in more detail and we offer the following for your consideration.

Our suggestions span a range of issues of mutual interest and we recognize that not all will be explored thoroughly in our first meeting. However, we hope these will form the basis for continued discussion and cooperation between our two bodies. This list is not intended to be exclusive and we welcome your feedback.

1. Total mortality accounting framework and avenues for coordinated bycatch reduction
2. PSC limits in the Bering Sea – Aleutian Islands
3. Abundance-based Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits
4. Gulf of Alaska trawl rationalization and incentives for bycatch mortality reduction in both the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea.
5. Reconciling estimation of bycatch between NMFS and IPHC areas and fisheries

Our discussions in February could also be informed by additional information that may become available through the Council staff's analysis of the BSAI PSC limits, scheduled for discussion at the Council's February meeting. We look forward to continued dialogue as we approach the time of our joint meeting.

Sincerely,



Paul Ryall, Chair  
International Pacific Halibut Commission

cc: IPHC Commissioners  
Mr. Oliver  
Dr. Leaman