



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

605 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2809
Fax (907) 271-2817

Action Memo

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Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
BSAI Halibut PSC limits - Final Action

ACTION REQUIRED:
Final action to Revise BSAI halibut PSC Limits

BACKGROUND:

The Council is scheduled to take final action on a proposed amendment to reduce Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits in the BSAI groundfish fisheries. PSC limit reductions are considered for various sectors, including the Amendment 80 sector, the BSAI trawl limited access sector, longline catcher vessels, longline catcher processors, and the CDQ sector (i.e., a reduction to the CDQ's allocated prohibited species quota reserve).

In February 2015, during initial review, the Council modified the alternatives under evaluation to expand the potential reductions to each sector's PSC limit up to 50 percent. The Council also directed that the analysis should better describe the status of the halibut stock, the impact of changing yields in the halibut fishery on communities in the BSAI, the ability of groundfish fleets to reduce halibut bycatch without foregoing groundfish harvest, and the additional impact of reducing bycatch of halibut under 26 inches. The analysis of these and other changes has been incorporated into the public review draft, which was distributed in mid-May.

Attached under this agenda item are the main EA/RIR/IRFA, and separate files for Appendix C (the community analysis) and Appendix D (the technical appendix for the economic model). The Executive Summary is also posted as a separate file. An errata sheet has also been prepared to correct four halibut fishery impact tables in Section 4.13.1.1 of the document.