

E1 Staff Tasking - Halibut Management Framework Council motion 10/13/15

The Council tasks staff to refine the draft halibut framework paper for review by the Council as follows:

1. Describe existing halibut bycatch management objectives from the BSAI and GOA Fishery Management Plans and the Programmatic SEIS for the groundfish fisheries.
2. Clarify and elaborate on the description of primary research issues on page 3 and how they relate to Council and IPHC decision making; including the lead agency. Add the following to the list:
 - Natural mortality variability with age/size/sex/density, to understand the effects of bycatch, wastage, and discards on the spawning biomass and harvestable biomass.
 - An integrated decision-making framework that addresses biological, economic, and social issues, as identified by the June 2015 SSC minutes
 - Development of abundance based approaches to management, in particular Dr. Martell's MPR approach, and implications for Council and IPHC decision making.
3. Task the SSC to review the halibut management framework in December with a focus on identifying primary research issues and data needs from a halibut management perspective.
4. Describe the processes that the Council and IPHC use to receive public input and review scientific information. Identify opportunities within our processes that can be used to provide more formal and regular communications between the bodies, to be more substantive, direct, and informative to each body's decision making process.
 - Explore methods by which the Council can more formally and regularly communicate with US Commissioners.
 - Explore the potential for a joint NPFMC-IPHC committee, similar to the NPFMC-BOF Joint Protocol Committee, through which regular communication on issues of mutual interest could be discussed. Draft TOR for such a committee.
5. Explore the potential for a broad stakeholder workgroup, region specific or coastwide, composed of domestic US stakeholders that would explore solutions to problems identified by the Council that are consistent with Council short-term and/or long-term management objectives. The solutions may include voluntary or regulatory management measures. Draft TOR for such a workgroup and describe conditions under which they are likely to be successful – e.g., a common understanding of why we are in the current situation, etc.
6. Revise the section on public review of the draft framework to reflect Council decisions in October 2015.
7. Revise the tasks identified in Attachment 1 as follows and include updates to potential timelines:
 - Revise #4 to read that discussion of annual IPHC data needs from the Observer Program would first occur between Observer Program, NMFS AK Region and IPHC staff.

- Eliminate #8, since there is no action required and it is encompassed in issue #11.
- Revise #9 to read that initially a determination of research priorities of mutual interest should be a discussion between NMFS, IPHC, and Council staff.
- Eliminate #10, since no particular action is required and bycatch allocations are part of the Council's GOA trawl bycatch management action.
- Eliminate #12, since the June 2015 action on BSAI halibut PSC has been taken.
- Eliminate #18, not necessary.