C-6 Halibut Abundance Based Management of PSC limits

Council Motion – October 6, 2018

The Council recommends the following revisions and clarifications to the alternatives, and direction on a stakeholder committee to the preliminary review draft. The Council also recommends that the analysts incorporate the comments from the SSC to the extent practical.

Apportionment:

The analysis should clearly demonstrate the effects of the alternatives on the resulting allocations to the Amendment 80, BSAI trawl limited access, non-trawl, and CDQ sectors. Allow the CDQ PSC cap to vary with abundance in the same manner as the trawl sector.

Indices:

Base the indices on the timeframe 1998 – 2018 and standardize the primary index to the most recent year.

Alternatives:

Alternative 1: No action

Alternative 2: Single index used to set trawl and/or non-trawl halibut PSC limit.

Option 1: NMFS EBS bottom trawl survey index.

Option 2: IPHC Area 4 setline survey index.

Alternative 3: Primary and secondary indices are used to set trawl and/or non-trawl PSC limit.

Option 1: Primary index is EBS trawl survey, secondary index is Area 4 setline survey.

Option 2: Primary index is Area 4 setline survey, secondary index is EBS trawl survey.

The secondary index modifies the PSC limit after the primary index is applied when the secondary index is in a "high state" or a "low state" (as defined by Element 4 breakpoint options). The extent to which the secondary index influences the PSC limit above or below these breakpoints is determined by selection of options under Element 5.

For each alternative above, the PSC limit will be proportional to the primary index in a 1:1 fashion (e.g., when the index goes up 10%, the PSC limit goes up 10%) prior to modifications by the secondary index and prior to the application of Elements 2 and 3 (floors and ceilings).

Alternative 4: Use two indices (EBS trawl survey and Area 4 setline survey) to set the non-trawl PSC limit in the form of a look-up table. Both indices should be standardized to the mean (1998 – 2018).

Options for dimensions of the look-up table: a) 3x3, b) 5x5, c) 7x 7, d) 10x10

The following elements and options are exclusive to Alternatives 2 – 4.

Element 1 – Starting point for PSC limit
Option 1. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 mt)
Option 2. 2016 use (2,354 mt)

Element 2 – Maximum PSC limit (ceiling)
Option 1. 2016 PSC limit (3,515 mt)
Option 2. 2015 PSC limit (4,426 mt)

Element 3 – Minimum PSC limit (floor)
Option 1. 2016 use (2,354 mt)
Option 2. ½ of 2016 PSC limit (1,758 mt)
Option 3. ½ of 2016 PSC use (1,177 mt)

Element 4 – Breakpoint for secondary index (Alternative 3 only)
Option 1. Index is 25% below or above average
Option 2. Index is above or below average

Element 5 – Magnitude of the response for secondary index (Alternative 3 only)
Up to 2 options may be chosen
Option 1. Up faster than 1:1
Option 2. Up slower than 1:1
Option 3. Down faster than 1:1
Option 4. Down slower than 1:1

Element 6: PSC limit responsiveness to abundance changes.
This element would limit the annual rate of change of PSC limits. This element could be applied to limit the amount of change of the PSC limit on an annual basis.

Option 1: PSC limit varies no more than 5% per year
Option 2: PSC limit varies no more than 15% per year
Option 3: PSC limit varies no more than 25% per year

Suboption: This element could be applied to limit the amount of change between the current PSC limits and the implementation of this action.

Use of IPHC Area 4 setline survey as an index: Describe how setting a PSC limit based on IPHC Area 4 setline survey index meets the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and other applicable law.

Stakeholder committee:
The Council intends to form a stakeholder committee that will recommend up to four scenarios from the above Alternatives, Elements, and Options for analysis. This committee will meet to draft these scenarios prior to the February Council meeting. Council staff will attend committee meeting for purposes of feedback and clarification to the Committee. These scenarios, if approved by the Council, may be analyzed in the EIS/RIR.