



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number: HAL 15-001

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Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Halibut Total Mortality Accounting (SSC only)

ACTION REQUIRED:
For SSC review only.

BACKGROUND:

In December 2014, IPHC staff provided a final paper entitled "Accounting for and Managing All Pacific Halibut Removals" to the Council. The report develops a conceptual extension to the current harvest policy which allows for direct evaluation of mortality of halibut under 26 inches (U26), and uses the 2013 results to compare harvest policy calculations with alternative distributions of removals among bycatch and the directed fishery. The report finds that while the current harvest policy does not respond to changes in annual U26 bycatch mortality, these removals (as well as bycatch removals of halibut over 26 inches (O26)) have an approximate pound-for-pound effect on directed fishery yields, when all other sources of mortality are considered. The report highlights relevant management considerations based on this analysis.

In December, the Council asked the SSC to review the report at the February 2015 meeting, with respect to the scientific validity of the total mortality accounting approach, and how it relates to bycatch accounting and halibut catch limit determination. Dr Ian Stewart, IPHC staff, will present the report to the SSC.