



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

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Agenda Date12/7/2015

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Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
AM 80 Coop Reports on 2016 Halibut PSC Management Plans

STAFF CONTACT: Jon McCracken

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review Halibut PSC Management Plans

BACKGROUND:

At the June 2015 meeting, the Council requested the Amendment 80 cooperatives provide halibut bycatch management plans for 2016 to the Council at the December meeting. The Council noted that these plans should be designed not just to accommodate the revised PSC mortality limit, but to bring savings to levels below the hard cap. The plans are to include:

1. halibut avoidance practices on the grounds,
2. increased communication between participating harvesters,
3. sharing data for performance tracking,
4. use and development of excluders,
5. deck sorting,
6. performance measurement and assessment at the boat and company level,
7. incentives for continuous efforts to minimize bycatch, and
8. consequences for substandard performance.

Representatives from the Amendment 80 sector will be provide a verbal report outlining 2016 avoidance measures to the Council in addition to the attached report. Each cooperative will also provide a separate report describing 2015 halibut performance. Written copies of the 2015 performance reports will be provided at the Council meeting.