

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
E1 Staff Tasking  
December 14, 2016

## **RQE**

The Council requests that staff develop a discussion paper exploring the possibility of changing or eliminating the ownership cap on Charter Halibut Permits for the Recreational Quota Entity to hold up to 30% of the CHP's in either area 3A or 2C.

## **CHP Latent Capacity**

The Council requests that the Staff develop a discussion paper to explore mechanisms for reducing latent capacity in the Charter Halibut Permit program. This latent capacity could jeopardize the success of the RQE program and impact non-guided, subsistence and the directed longline sector. Some possible mechanisms might be explored; a single tier of limitation based on an average minimum use of the permit, a multiple set of limitation tiers that are based on low (less than 20 trips), medium (less than 50 trips) and high usage (51 or more trips), limit of the number of angler days per permit.

## **Halibut Abundance Based Management**

Council moves to direct staff to include a section in the Abundance Based Management (ABM) paper to include a list of considerations of what it would take to include the Gulf in the ABM Program.

## **PSC**

The Council tasks staff to evaluate the following measures as potential options to reduce PSC:

- Evaluate the temporal distribution of halibut PSC during the Western Gulf Pacific cod A season. Specifically, changes in halibut PSC rates as the season progresses.
- Evaluate the timing of pollock harvest and Chinook salmon PSC in the Western Gulf C and D seasons to determine if there are times with higher Chinook salmon PSC.
- Evaluate the impacts and effects of lowering the Western Gulf pollock trip limits to 200,000 pounds per trip.

Additionally, draft a discussion paper to evaluate the impacts and effects of stranded GOA cod in the trawl B season, including the effects of sector splits, season dates, and apportionments.

## **GOA Crab Habitat Protection**

The Council request that staff develop a discussion paper that summarizes the Council's actions protecting crab habitat in the Central Gulf of Alaska and information on stock abundance and distribution.

## **Halibut Commission**

The Council requests a letter be sent to the IPHC recommending that they continue the evaluation of the biological and yield impacts of the current minimum size limit and alternate size limits.