



D1 BSAI Halibut ABM PSC Limits Workplan

December 2019 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Diana Stram

Action Required: *(Council only)* Review workplan for revising the BSAI Halibut ABM analysis

BACKGROUND

The Council will review a workplan for revising the BSAI Halibut ABM PSC limits management analysis. In this analysis, the Council is considering proposed management measures to index Pacific halibut prohibited species catch (PSC) limits in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) groundfish fisheries to halibut abundance. PSC limit modifications are considered for various groundfish sectors including the BSAI trawl limited access (TLAS) sector, the Amendment 80 sector, longline catcher vessels (CVs), longline catcher processors (CPs), and the Community Development Quota (CDQ) sector (i.e., a reduction to the CDQ's allocated prohibited species quota reserve).

In October 2019, the Council, SSC, and AP reviewed a preliminary draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this proposed action. Following that review, the Council requested the analysts address the SSC recommendations (with one exception) to the extent possible, and provided some additional performance metrics for evaluation in the analysis. The Council did not make any changes to the existing alternative set at the October 2019 meeting. The Council's October motion, and the excerpted SSC minutes, will be posted under this agenda item, along with the analysts' workplan for revising the document. The Council asked to review the workplan in order to discuss appropriate timing for reviewing an initial review draft for this action.