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Halibut PSC Bycatch Mortality in the BSAI CP H&L Sector, December 2014

The BSAI CP H&L fleet has a long history in steadily reducing halibut bycatch mortality and has achieved significant reductions in total mortality as well as the discard mortality rate.

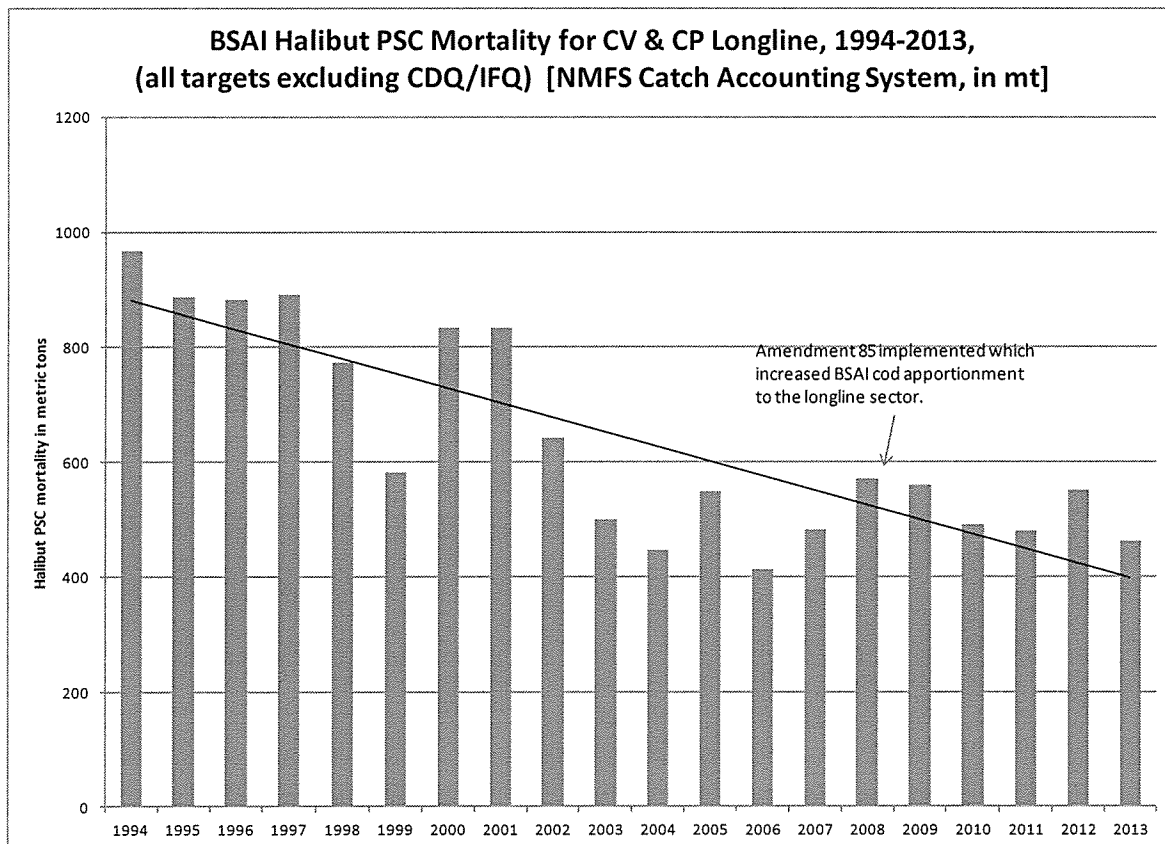
- 1.) Total halibut mortality has been reduced **-52%** (1994-2013, Figure 1).
- 2.) Actual DMR (discard mortality rate) has been reduced **-44%** (1994-2013, Figure 2).

In 2014, the halibut mortality for BSAI H&L was -28% lower than the 2009-2013 avg.

In 2014, the mortality rate for the BSAI H&L fleet was -33% lower than the 2009-2013 avg.

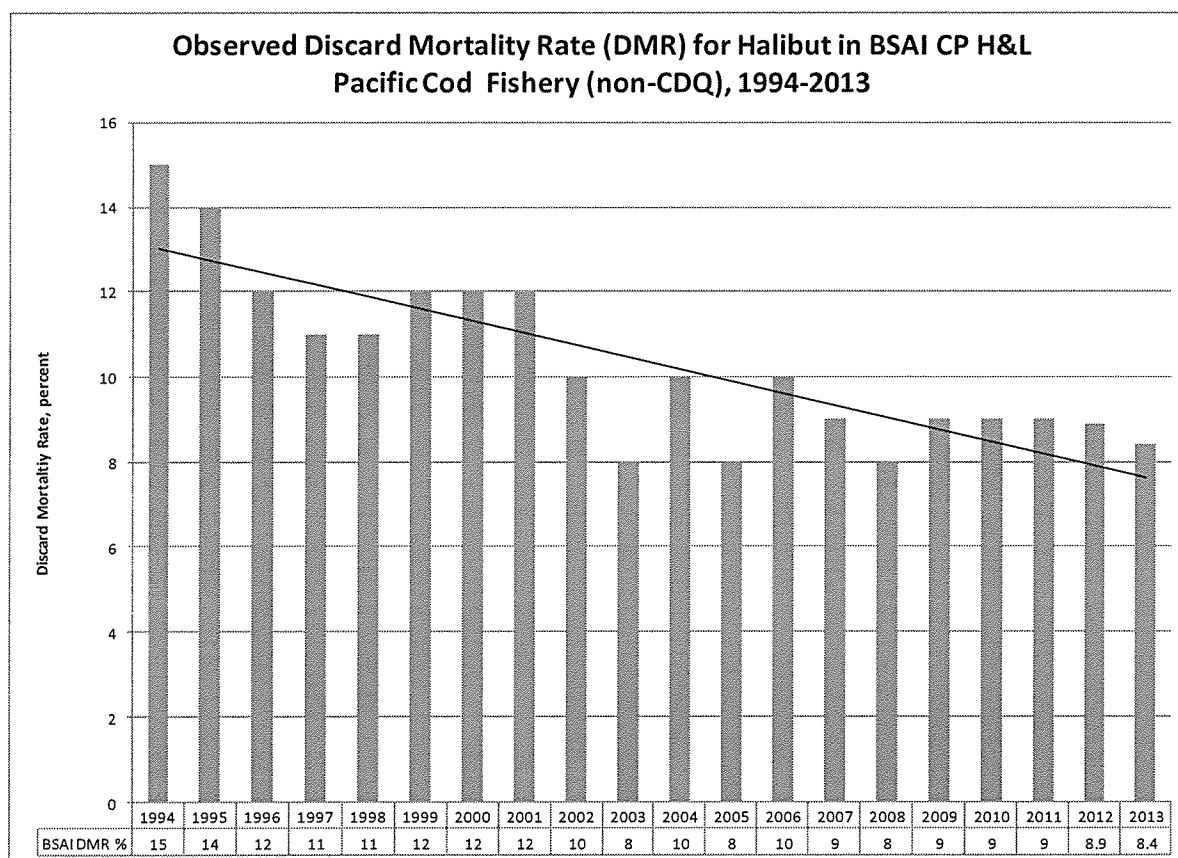
In 2013, the halibut mortality in BSAI groundfish fisheries was 86% trawl and 14% fixed gear.

Figure 1: **Total Halibut Mortality**



Total halibut mortality: Figure 1 shows total halibut mortality from the combined non-CDQ BSAI CV and CP H&L. Prior to 2002, CP and CV data were merged together, so for continuity in Figure 1, the CV and CP data are merged for all years. While the trend line is consistent, there is inter-annual variability in halibut PSC use for a variety of reasons (changes in halibut biomass, sector allocations, p-cod ABC). Total halibut mortality slightly increased after the implementation of Amendment 85 in 2008 (due to the change in apportionments) as well as recent increases in the BSAI p-cod TAC. However, in the BSAI H&L sector the overall reduction in halibut mortality is -61% (1994 to preliminary 2014).

Figure 2: **Discard Mortality Rate**



DMR (Discard Mortality Rate): With improved handling of halibut, the CP H&L sector has steadily reduced the DMR rate -44% (1994 to 2013). The observed (actual) DMR rates are subject to IPHC review and are used to calculate the assumed DMR (using a ten moving average reviewed every three years). In a given year, the assumed rate may be higher than that which is actually observed (and visa versa).

The DMR rates for CDQ and non-CDQ have been very similar. For 2013-15, the assumed rate for non-CDQ cod CP H&L is 9%; and for CDQ cod the assumed rate is 10%. For 2014 (ongoing), the actual rates for both CDQ and non-CDQ are below the assumed rate and are approximately 7% DMR. For comparison, the IPHC estimates the discard mortality rate for the directed halibut fishery at 16% (while releasing sublegal U32).