



C-9: Halibut ABM

October 2017 NPFMC

Anchorage, AK

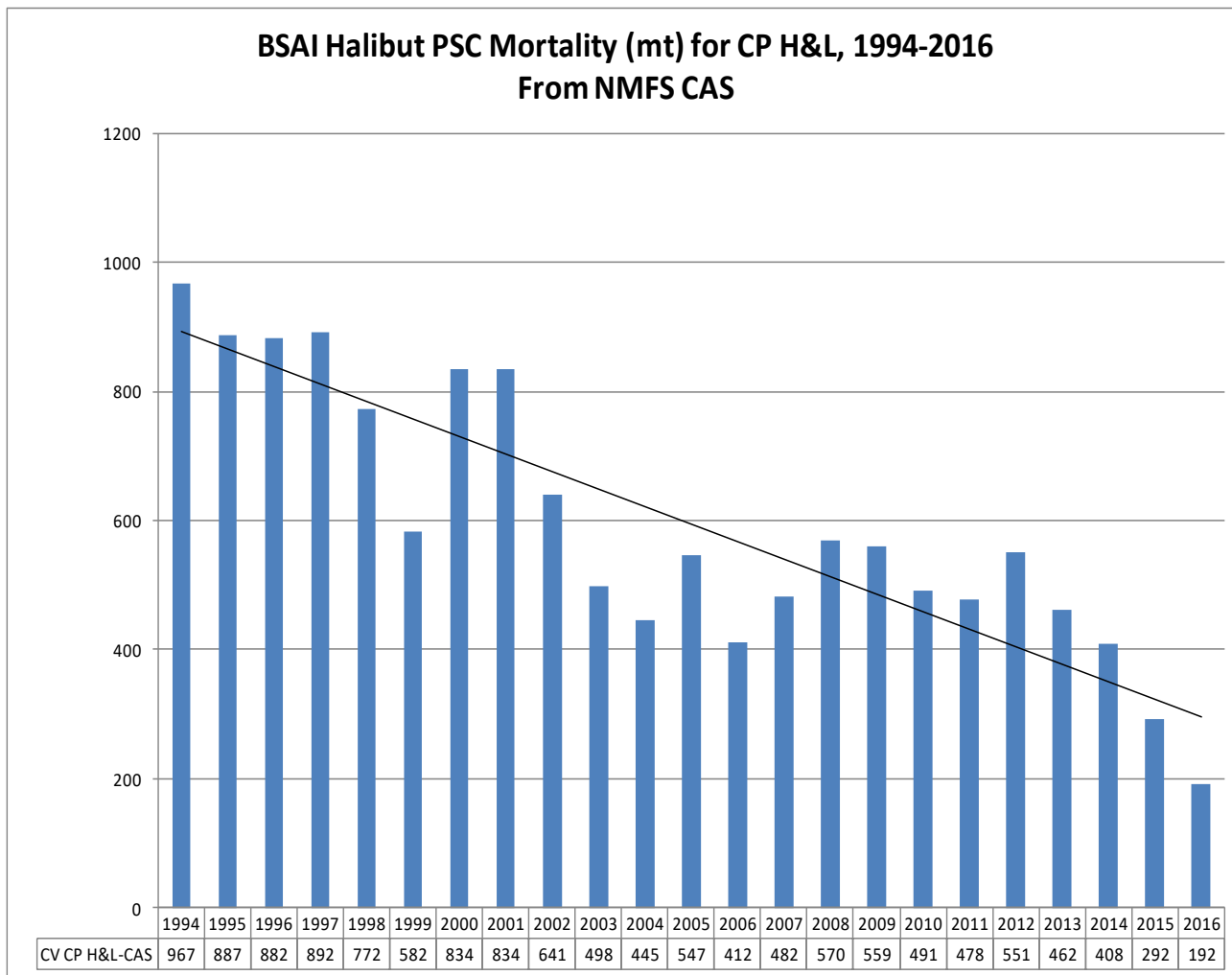
Freezer Longline Considerations

Any ABM program should be developed to reflect the freezer longline sector's relative contribution to the halibut PSC harvest and its sustained work to minimize halibut PSC in the sector.



BSAI CP H&L halibut PSC use, 1994-2016. (reduction of 80%; 2016 is the lowest year)

2017 mortality through 10/5/17: 150 mt (3 mt below 2016)

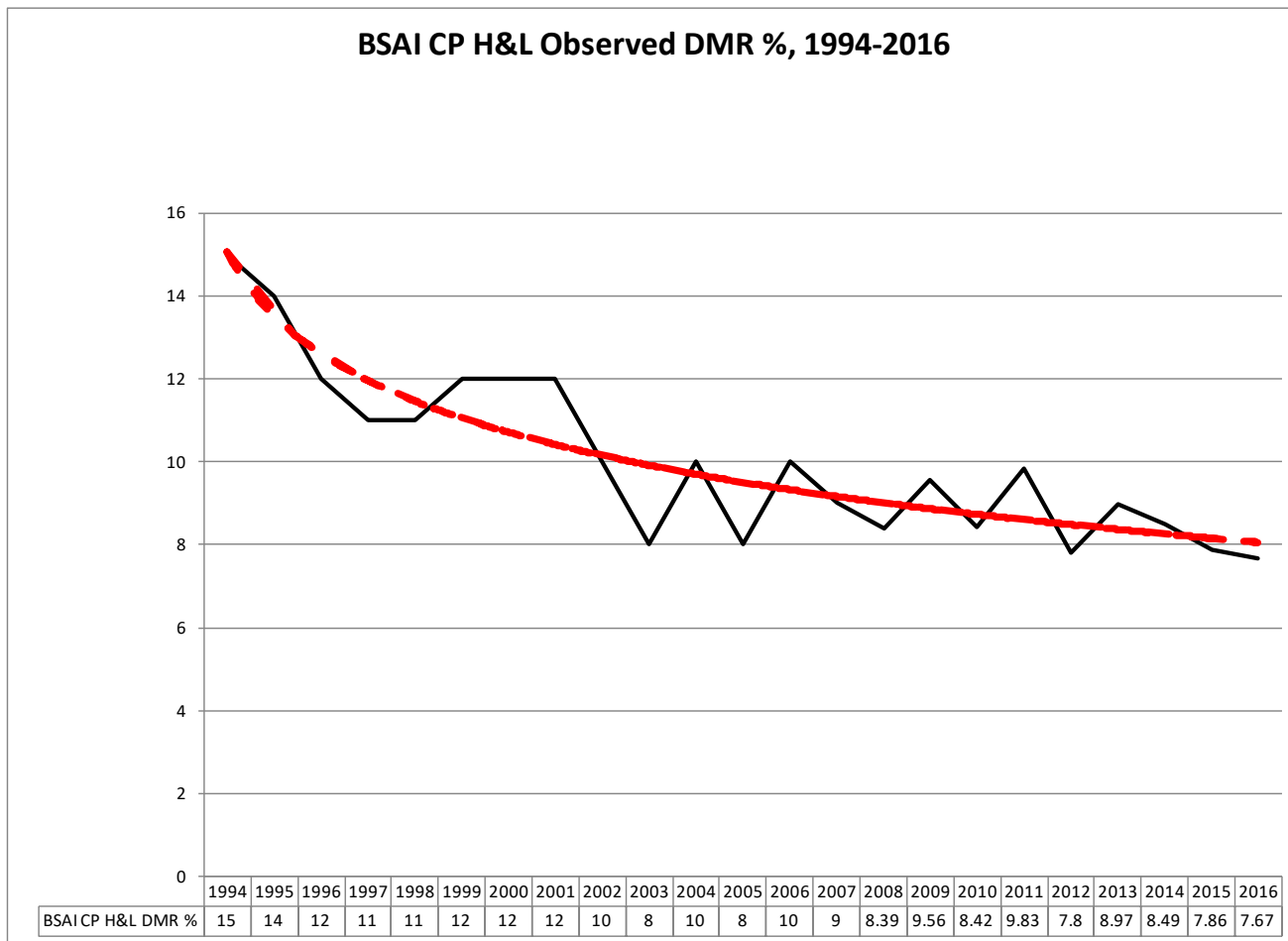


BSAI CP H&L: H&L proportion of total BSAI PSC use been reduced by 51%

BSAI H&L PSC use as % of all gear PSC use	
2008: 16.9%	2013: 12.9%
2009: 16.8%	2014: 11.6%
2010: 15.4%	2015: 12.7%
2011: 15.2%	2016: 8.3%
2012: 14.9%	

Incremental reductions in bycatch become of diminishing magnitude and become increasingly more difficult to achieve (depends where the sector is on the curve)

2017 DMR through 10/5/17: 7.34%



Summary Recommendations

- Additional discussion paper: Support AP, SSC recommendation to further examine potential control rules for an ABM program.
- Examine PSC limits, control rules by gear type:
 - The FLC supports the SSC recommendation to explore separate control rules by gear type, using both indices.
 - FLC also supports continued review of one PSC limit and PSCs by gear type.
- Indices:
 - Selection of indices: FLC agrees with the workgroup's selection of both the EBS trawl survey and the IPHC 4ABCDE setline survey as ABM indices.
 - Weighting of indices: FLC suggests the additional discussion paper examine the potential of weighting indices differently by gear, should multiple indices be selected.
- Incentives and performance standards:
 - Incentives: Industry flexibility on incentives.
 - Performance standards: Wait and see.



Indices

Abundance Index: EBS trawl survey and IPHC setline survey

- *For review*: Modified ABM3. Apply both indices to all gears (e.g. ABM3). Examine different weighting of indices by gear to optimize estimation of biomass/length of halibut encountered by fleets.
 - Possible weighting for fixed gear would be 90:10.
- Neither survey necessarily captures composition of halibut bycatch by the freezer longline fleet, but each provide useful information.
 - *EBS trawl survey* covers our fishing grounds, but primarily captures smaller size halibut than is encountered by our fleet.
 - *IPHC setline survey* captures halibut of similar size encountered by our fleet, but only covers the EBS slope (IPHC tuning notwithstanding). Most of our operations are on the shelf.

Incentives and Performance Standards

- Incentives: Industry should be given flexibility to develop incentives for their fleets to achieve PSC reductions. Sector participants have best understanding of what kind of incentives will work for their vessels.
- Performance standards: Support SSC suggestion to defer action on performance standards until after development of control rules, or following implementation of ABM program.