

Council Motion

D-1 Bering Sea Aleutian Islands Abundance Based Halibut PSC Limits

October 10, 2016

The Council confirms the objectives for establishing abundance based halibut PSC limits as outlined in the discussion paper are consistent with Council intent and requests the workgroup use the objectives in developing a suite of abundance based indices and associated control rule options. The Council also clarifies that stability in annual PSC limits is an objective for this action and should be included in the development of abundance indices and associated control rules.

The Council directs the inter-agency workgroup to:

- Develop performance metrics and quantitative tools to evaluate the tradeoffs between the competing objectives for this action.
- Develop abundance indices and associated controls rules together.
- Develop a broader suite of halibut abundance indices and control rules as outlined by the SSC. Specifically, evaluate different indices that can be used to meet the Council's objectives, which could then be combined in a control rule or decision making framework. The workgroup should also evaluate the index concepts discussed in the AP motion.
- Evaluate developing control rules that could be combined in a 2-or 3-dimensional framework for setting PSC as outlined by the SSC.
- Evaluate developing separate control rules for the hook and line and trawl fisheries that could be used to establish PSC limits.

The Council appreciates the effectiveness of the September workshop in providing an opportunity for the public engagement, and requests that a similar workshop be held prior to the next Council discussion paper review if timing reasonably permits.