



# NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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## Action Memo

**File Number:**HAL 16-006

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**Agenda Date**4/4/2016

**Agenda Number:**C7

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**Dan Hull, Chairman**  
**Chris Oliver, Executive Director**

**SUBJECT:**  
Halibut Discard Mortality Rate (DMR) Methodology

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jim Armstrong

**ACTION REQUIRED:**  
Review Halibut DMR Discussion Paper

**BACKGROUND:**  
The attached discussion paper was prepared by the Halibut DMR Working Group as a first step in addressing alternative methods for calculating DMRs. The need for alternative DMR calculation methods has its basis in the transfer of responsibility for calculating DMRs from International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) staff to Council support staff, and also the need to address existing methods given current data availability. Within the discussion paper, the analytical components of the estimation and application procedures are deconstructed so that each one can be in terms of short and long term improvements. Because of the changes in the observer halibut sampling protocol beginning in 2016, some longer term improvements may have to wait until a sufficient time series of new observer data have accumulated. Until then, shorter term improvements can be made by pooling target fisheries, alternative weighting procedures, and shortening both the reference timeframe and the duration of application.