



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

605 W. 4th Ave. Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 271-2809
Fax (907) 271-2817

Action Memo

File Number: HAL 15-027

Agenda Date 12/7/2015

Agenda Number: C8

Dan Hull, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Halibut Management Framework - Review

STAFF CONTACT: Chris Oliver

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review framework; action as necessary

BACKGROUND:

In conjunction with its June 2015 action to reduce halibut PSC limits in the BSAI, the Council initiated development of a more explicit halibut management 'framework', which is intended to help guide the Council's decision making process with regard to halibut issues, and to enhance coordination with the IPHC. At the October 2015 meeting, the Council reviewed a preliminary draft of the Framework, and passed a motion (**attached**) with additional direction for staff to include in the next iteration of the Framework, with the intention of receiving stakeholder input at this December meeting. A revised version of the Framework was released in late November (**attached**) and was also provided to the IPHC at their interim meeting December 1-2. Based on public input at this meeting, as well as any initial input from the IPHC, another iteration of the Framework will be developed. It is expected that the next iteration would be available in time for the IPHC annual meeting in late January, and for Council review in February (recognizing the short time available).

This version of the draft Framework poses a number of questions to help focus stakeholder input and Council discussion, in order to ensure that the Framework accomplishes its intended purpose and provides an appropriate context to inform halibut related decision-making. Examples include:

- identification of objectives for the Framework (short-term/long-term, general/specific)
- identification and prioritization of critical research needs, or information gaps, and how they relate to decision-making
- necessity and role of potential NPFMC/IPHC Joint 'protocol' Committee (versus full joint meeting when deemed necessary)
- necessity and role of potential stakeholder 'workgroup(s)'
- appropriate structure and packaging for the Framework

It is likely that some of these questions can be addressed at this time, while others will necessitate further consideration, and perhaps further input from the IPHC. We also have scheduled an SSC review of the Framework (with an emphasis on research issues and priorities), as well as the biomass-based discussion paper from the IPHC, for the February 2016 Council meeting in Seattle, which may further inform the Council's consideration of various key aspects of the Framework.