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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA

AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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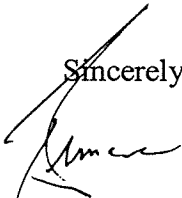
Mr. Chris Oliver
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Chris:

Thank you for your letter of April 21, 2014 concerning halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) in the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries. As you note, the DMRs for the Alaska fisheries are calculated and adopted by the Council for a three-year period. With the retirement of Gregg Williams from the Commission staff, we do not yet have a replacement capability for these calculations and had not anticipated such a need before the next scheduled update of the DMRs (later in 2015).

The data upon which these calculations are based originate in the NMFS Observer Program but require significant post-processing to conduct the extrapolations to full fisheries estimates from subsampled observer data and to aggregate them into the form used for the DMR calculations by the Council. At this point, we regretfully cannot commit to an off-cycle update for your October meeting. We will commit to providing that data segregation for the next DMR specification cycle.

Sincerely,



Bruce M. Leaman
Executive Director