

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dan Hull, Chairman  
Chris Oliver, Executive Director



605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Telephone (907) 271-2809

Fax (907) 271-2817

Visit our website: <http://www.npfmc.org>

August 3, 2015

Alaska Groundfish Cooperative  
580 Naches Ave. SW  
Renton, WA. 98057

Dear Bill McGill:

At the June 2015 meeting, the Council took action to reduce halibut PSC limits for the Amendment 80 sector. During testimony and deliberations, there was much discussion about the ability of the Amendment 80 cooperatives to reduce halibut bycatch mortality through mechanisms afforded by the cooperative structure. The cooperatives described their efforts since 2014 to develop halibut bycatch management plans for their member vessels, implementing best practices to achieve a reduction in halibut bycatch mortality.

The Council's PSC limit reduction action is expected to be implemented in 2016. The Council continues to have a strong interest in halibut mortality savings in the Amendment 80 sector, and expects that halibut mortality should be reduced to levels below the new hard cap limits. As such, the Council requests that the Amendment 80 cooperatives give a report to the Council on their plan for halibut bycatch management in the upcoming year. The plan should include:

1. Halibut avoidance practices on the grounds
2. Increased communication between participating harvesters
3. Sharing data for performance tracking
4. Use and development of excluders
5. Deck sorting
6. Performance measurement and assessment at the boat and company level
7. Incentives for continuous efforts to minimize bycatch
8. Consequences for substandard performance

As requested by the Council, we have scheduled these reports for the December 2015 meeting. Please let me know if you have any questions about the Council's request.

Sincerely,



Chris Oliver  
Executive Director

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Alaska Seafood Cooperative  
4241 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue W  
Suite 301  
Seattle, WA. 98199

Dear Mark Fina:

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