

# North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dr. Bruce Leaman, Executive Director  
International Pacific Halibut Commission  
2320 West Commodore Way, Suite 300  
Seattle, Washington 98199-1287

Dear Bruce:

In response to public testimony from representatives of the Community Development Quota (CDQ) sector during its April 2014 meeting, the Council requested a report on halibut discard mortality rates (DMRs) in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands groundfish fisheries at its October 2014 meeting. The Council is particularly interested in a better understanding of the differences between CDQ and non-CDQ halibut DMRs. Many CDQ and non-CDQ hauls occur during the same fishing trip and the Council is interested in the factors causing such differences.

Current halibut DMRs were last recommended by the IPHC, adopted by the Council, and implemented by NMFS under the groundfish harvest specification process in 2012 for the three year cycle, 2013 – 2015. While the halibut DMRs now are in the second of its three year cycle, the Council may wish to adopt combined (CDQ and non-CDQ) halibut DMRs for the BSAI as part of its annual harvest specification process in December 2014 for 2015. The Council would greatly appreciate your assistance in responding to its request.

Sincerely,



Chris Oliver  
Executive Director