



Membership Resolution 15-04

A Resolution of the SWAMC Membership Requesting the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council reduce Halibut Bycatch in the Bering Sea Groundfish Fishery

WHEREAS, the directed halibut fishery is of critical importance to Alaska’s subsistence and commercial fishermen; and

WHEREAS, SWAMC’s coastal communities depend on Alaska’s halibut resource for their sustenance and livelihood; and

WHEREAS, the abundance of Bering Sea halibut has declined significantly over the past two decades; and

WHEREAS, the commercial catch limits for halibut in Area 4CDE in the Bering Sea have been reduced by 64% over the past decade in order to conserve halibut stocks; and

WHEREAS, halibut bycatch limits for groundfish fisheries operating in the Bering Sea have not been significantly reduced for thirty years; and

WHEREAS, bycatch of halibut in the Bering Sea groundfish fisheries currently accounts for close to 74% of total removals.

NOW BE IT RESOLVED that the SWAMC Membership requests that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council reduce halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea groundfish fishery by not less than 50% at the NPFMC meeting in Sitka in June 2015.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference Membership this 6th Day of March, 2015.

IN WITNESS THERETO:

ATTEST:

Alice Ruby, SWAMC President

Doug Griffin, Executive Director