March 22, 2021


Mr. Simon Kineen, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th St., Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Re:  BSAI Halibut PSC Limit Reductions

Dear Chairman Kineen;

Saltwater Inc. ("Saltwater") is a leading provider of high-quality data on fisheries and oceans through electronic monitoring, federal observers and "ProTech" services.  Recognized as an industry leader in the design and implementation of data gathering for fisheries and oceans, Saltwater is headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska.

Saltwater is recognized as one of the largest observer providers operating in the North Pacific.  Observers choose Saltwater for many reasons, including stability in contracts and a diversity of platforms in which to work.  Thoughtful and professional management coupled with dedicated employees is the foundation to our success. An important sector of the BSAI that we provide observer services to is the Amendment 80 sector.

I am writing to you today to weigh in on the proposed cuts to the Amendment 80 (A80) Halibut PSC limits. I ask that you follow your own assessment of the proposed Abundance Based Management for Halibut PSC which shows that cuts in the A80 Halibut PSC will unnecessarily harm the A80 sector without providing any benefits to the halibut stocks.

Saltwater relies on all sectors to keep our observers employed on an annual basis, which is crucial for retaining a dedicated and experienced workforce, and the A80 fleet plays an important role in this. Any cuts to the Halibut PSC for A80 would negatively impact our ability to keep our workforce working and engaged in all fisheries, gathering data for the effective management of the fisheries.  The NPFMC has already reduced their halibut PSC by 15% from 2008-2015 and then another 25% in June of 2015.  Going back and asking for additional A80 Halibut PSC reductions with no real benefit to the halibut stocks is not in the best interest of Saltwater.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Stacey Hansen
Operations Manager