

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, AP, and SSC
FROM: Chris Oliver
Executive Director
DATE: December 1, 2011
SUBJECT: Halibut Catch Sharing Plan

DO FOR

ESTIMATED TIME
12 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

- (a) Council recommendations to IPHC on management measures for 2012
 - (i) IPHC report on 2012 staff recommendations;
 - (ii) ADFG report on 2010/2011 sport catch estimates and logbook vs. statewide harvest survey comparison;
 - (iii) Charter Management Implementation Committee report.
- (b) Review Charter Management Implementation Committee report on revising Tier 1 management measures and provide direction.
- (c) Review NMFS report on Catch Sharing Plan deficiencies and provide direction.

2012 Management Measures

In October 2011 NMFS staff informed the Council that final regulations to implement the Council's October 2008 preferred alternative for a Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) would not occur prior to the International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) 2012 Annual Meeting. Instead NMFS staff suggested that the Council recommend management measures at this meeting to the IPHC for implementation of revised regulations under its authority in 2012. For Area 2C, the range of alternatives under consideration for 2012 is limited by the 1-fish bag limit, which is implemented under NMFS regulations, and there is insufficient time in which to revise those regulations through a regulatory amendment process.

Three presentations are scheduled to aid the Council in determining its recommendation to the IPHC for 2012: 1) IPHC staff recommendations for commercial catch limits and the 2012 guideline harvest levels (available during the meeting); 2) ADF&G reports on: a) final harvest estimates for 2010 and projections of 2011 harvest (Item C-6(a)(1) and Item C-6(a)(2)) and b) effects of committee recommendations for a range of potential 2012 measures (Item C-6(a)(3)); and 3) the committee recommendations (see below). The Council will consider this information in its development of recommendations for the IPHC for the 2012 charter halibut season.

Committee Report

In June 2011, the Council formed a new Charter Management Implementation Committee to discuss issues and recommend alternative management measures for the charter halibut sector in times of low abundance. Proposed measures would be intended to reduce uncertainty and mitigate negative economic impacts of the currently proposed management measure (i.e., one fish of a maximum size using the hybrid approach) under Tier 1 of the CSP (Item C-6(b)(1)). The committee met on October 26, 2011 and developed recommendations for managing charter halibut fisheries in 2012, under the CSP, and long term solutions (Item C-6(b)(2)). The committee will meet immediately prior to the Council meeting to review the ADF&G discussion paper and make its final recommendations on 2012 management measures for

2012. The Council will consider committee recommendations and decide on a course of action for a potential trailing amendment to the CSP.

NMFS Report

In October 2011, NMFS informed the Council that a preliminary review of public comments received on the proposed CSP raised issues that may require additional input from the Council before NMFS can proceed to a final rule. NMFS provided a report on specific topics of concern for this meeting. The report **(Item C-6(c))** organizes the CSP issues into the following categories:

1. Issues for which NMFS is requesting policy guidance and additional input from the Council;
2. Technical corrections and clarifications to the CSP analysis document and responses to comments that can be addressed by Council staff with little or no direction from the Council; and
3. Issues for which NMFS is requesting Council prioritization of staff resources to develop supplemental discussion and/or analysis to respond to public comments and potentially for addition to the CSP analysis document.

At this meeting the Council will decide on a course of action to respond to the NMFS request for assistance.