

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
December 3-7, 2019 - Anchorage, AK

C3 Charter Halibut

AP Motion

The AP recommends the following recommendation for the 2020 Guided Sport Halibut season in Area 2C and 3A.

In Area 2C – A progression of management measures in the following order:

1. A reverse slot with an upper limit fixed at 080, and a lower limit raised until the allocation is reached, but no lower than U40;
2. If the allocation is insufficient to maintain at least a U40 on the lower limit, add Wednesday closures beginning on September 9th and work consecutively toward the beginning of the season until a lower limit of U40 is reached;
3. If a lower limit of U40 can't be reached after closing all Wednesdays, add a 4-fish annual limit in addition to closing all Wednesdays, and use any unused allocation to increase the lower limit above U40 until the allocation is reached;
4. If a lower limit of U40 can't be reached by closing all Wednesdays and adding a 4-fish annual limit, reduce the annual limit to 3 fish in addition to closing all Wednesdays, and use any unused allocation to increase the lower limit above U40 until the allocation is reached.

In Area 3A – Limit the charter harvest to the status quo TCEY (within 2%). Maintain status quo management measures, except with the addition of:

1. Closures of Tuesdays throughout the year
2. Include second fish of 26 inches or less

The AP supports the Charter Halibut Committee's Request for ADFG to analyze a wider range of management options and be allowed to make a recommendation based on that analysis in the form of a publicly noticed teleconference prior to the Council's January 2020 meeting and the IPHC's 2020 annual meeting.

Motion passed 17-0

Rationale:

- As noted by the Charter Halibut Committee, Area 2C representatives support a reverse slot limit with day closures and annual bag limits, added as necessary to maintain at least a 40" maximum size on the low end of the slot. The Committee felt that 40" was the most fair to all business models in view of historical participation, and that progressing from the reverse slot limit to day closures to annual limits (in that order) was the most equitable way to distribute reductions across business models.
- For Area 3A, the analysis revealed that none of the options defined in October would result in meeting the reference level of halibut removals that was specified at the IPHC interim meeting in November. All analyzed options for management measures are projected to result in more removals than the range of TCEY levels that are probable to be selected for the area at the IPHC annual meeting in February 2020. As a result of this unprecedented situation, the Committee has made both a recommendation and a request.