

# Charter Halibut Management Committee Meeting Notes

12.7.2022

*This document is intended to convey highlights of the Charter Halibut Management Committee Meeting for purpose of Advisory Panel deliberation. Official minutes will be posted on the Council eAgenda later this week.*

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The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee held a public meeting December 7, 2022 to review the analysis of potential Area 2C and 3A charter halibut management measures for 2023 and provide recommendations to the Council. All meeting materials are posted to the [eAgenda](#).

The Committee receive a presentation of the ADF&G analysis of management options for the Area 2C and 3A charter halibut fisheries for 2023 from Brianna Bowman King (ADF&G). This report and the corresponding presentation are linked in the [eAgenda](#).

## Recommended Management Measures for 2023

**For Area 2C, the Charter Halibut Management Committee recommends a progression of management measures in the following order as needed to remain under the allocation:**

1. A reverse slot with an upper limit fixed at O80, and a lower limit decreased until the allocation is reached, but no lower than U40; Yield 0.867 – 1.121 million pounds (**Table 2C.5**).
2. If the allocation is insufficient to maintain at least a U40 on the lower limit, add Monday closures starting September 18 and work consecutively toward the beginning of the season until the allocation is reached; Yield 0.867 - 0.734 million pounds (**Table 2C.8.b**).
3. If a lower limit of U40 can't be reached after closing all Mondays, add an annual limit of 3-fish as necessary to meet the allocation (Yield 0.693 million pounds); if possible, use any unused allocation to increase the lower limit above U40 until the allocation is reached; Yield 0.686 – 0.723 million pounds (**Table 2C.10.b**).
4. If the allocation is not reached by closing all Mondays and a 3-fish annual limit, allow the lower limit to drop until the allocation is reached; Yield 0.564 – 0.686 million pounds (**Table 2C.10.b**).

If an annual limit is adopted in Area 2C, implement a requirement for charter anglers to record, immediately upon retaining a halibut, the date, location (IPHC area), and species (halibut) on their harvest record, consistent with the past reporting requirement in Area 3A.

### ***Rationale and discussion:***

Area 2C committee members stated that recommending these types of restrictions are not taken lightly by the Committee. They understand these measures (e.g., annual limits, day of the week closures, etc.) will have real durable impacts on businesses. They noted the Catch Sharing Plan was a blunt tool that does not allow for more refined business-specific response and therefore the impacts to individual businesses are varied as a result of management measures chosen. Given the lack of an interim harvest

strategy from the IPHC, both areas were required to cover a wide range of circumstances, which included bringing in some very undesirable measures to the list. Members stated they arrived at the proposed hierarchy of measures as a compromise, including all the available tools.

**For Area 3A, the Charter Halibut Management Committee recommends the following progression of measures:**

All allocations shown below include, unless otherwise specified: a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; with no annual limit per charter angler; 1 trip per halibut charter vessel per day; and 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day.

- If the allocation is less than 2.37 Mlb, but greater than or equal to 2.075 Mlb:
  - a daily bag limit of 2 halibut, with one fish of any size, and one fish less than or equal to 28 inches;
  - Adjust the number of Wednesdays closed to retention of halibut, with a second fish of 28" or less, according to **Table 3A.13 (page 74)** in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2023, to bring the projected harvest within the Area 3A allocation.
  
- If the allocation is less than 2.075 Mlb, but greater than 1.75 Mlb:
  - in addition to all closed Wednesdays, close as many Tuesdays as needed to keep the charter harvest within their allocation (**Table 3A.5, page 65**)
  
- Should the allocation be below 1.75 Mlb:
  - lower the size of the second fish to as low as 26 inches associated with an allocation of 1.69Mlb (**Table 3A.5, page 65**)

***Rationale and discussion:***

Area 3A Committee members noted this proposal represented the easiest ways to cover the very large range of allocations that could be set at the IPHC. They emphasized that it was alarming to look at the extreme measures and felt optimistic that they would not need to apply for 2023. Members stated that providing consistent regulations was a big part of the strategy behind what was proposed. Consistent management measures allow for better ADF&G projections and is desirable from a business and marketing standpoint.

**Public Testimony**

The Committee received testimony from two members of the public (Jim Kerns and Steve Ramp). Public testimony and subsequent discussion touched on the policy choice of having different bag limits for guided and unguided anglers and challenges with regulating rental boats under the same bag limits as charter operations.