

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
December 5-8, 2023 - Anchorage, AK

C7 2024 Charter Halibut Management Measures - Final Action

The AP recommends the following harvest measures for the IPHC Regulatory Area 2C and IPHC Regulatory Area 3A guided recreational halibut fisheries in 2024:

Area 2C

All allocations shown below include a daily bag limit of one halibut and a reverse slot size limit where the upper limit is fixed at O80 (halibut 80 inches or longer may be retained).

- 1) If the allocation is equal to or greater than 0.943 Mlb:
 - begin with a lower size limit of U40 (retained halibut must be less than or equal to 40 inches in length) and increase this limit until the allocation is reached, as indicated in **Table 2C.4 (page 20)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 2) If the allocation is less than 0.943 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.863 Mlb:
 - To remain within the allocation, implement a lower size limit of U40 and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season, but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.4 (page 20)** in combination with **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 3) If the allocation is less than 0.863 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.813 Mlb:
 - Change from a U40 lower size limit to a U36 lower size limit on July 15, and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season to remain within allocation, but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.6 (page 28)** in combination with **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 4) If the allocation is less than 0.813 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.766 Mlb:
 - The lower size limit is U37, and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season, to remain within allocation but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 5) If the allocation is less than .766 Mlb but greater than or equal to .738 Mlb:
 - The lower size limit is U36, and close consecutive Fridays as needed from the end of the season, to remain within allocation but extending no earlier than July 12th, as indicated in **Table 2C.5f (page 26)** of the ADF&G analysis.

Area 3A

All allocations shown below include, unless otherwise specified: a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; one fish of any size and one fish with a maximum size limit; 1 trip per charter vessel per day with retention of halibut; 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day; and closed Wednesdays.

- 1) If the allocation is greater than or equal to 1.880Mlb:
 - Increase the size of the second fish until the projected charter harvest removals meet the allocation.
- 2) If the allocation is less than 1.880 Mlb, but greater than 1.590 Mlb:
 - In addition to all closed Wednesdays and a second halibut 28 inches or less, close as many Tuesdays as needed to keep the charter harvest removals within the Area 3A allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.10 (page 32)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 3) If the allocation is less than 1.590 Mlb, but greater than 1.513 Mlb:
 - In addition to closing all Tuesdays and Wednesdays, lower the size of the second fish to as low as 26 inches, until the projected charter harvest removals meet the allocation as indicated in **Table 3A.11 (page 33)** of the ADF&G analysis.
- 4) If the allocation is less than 1.513 Mlb:
 - Then select a 4-fish annual limit of halibut which then would bring the projected yield to 1.460 Mlb as indicated in **Table 3A.14. (page 36)** of the ADF&G analysis. If possible, adjust the number of Tuesday closures to remain within the allocation.

Motion passed: 15/0

Rationale in Favor of Motion

- *For Area 2C, measures were focused on regulations which would equitably share the burdens felt during times of lower halibut abundance. Given this, Area 2C committee members opted to not include measures like annual limits as those measures may have disproportionate effects on different operations.*
- *Committee members and public testimony supported consistency in management measures, and stated that they were a large part of the strategy in creation of the motion. Consistent measures support ADFG projections and also are desirable from a business and marketing standpoint.*
- *The maker of the motion noted that the proposed management measures were focused on being a simple set of tools projected to keep the sector within its expected potential range of allocations set at the IPHC.*