

Council Motion
C7 Charter Halibut Annual Management Measures
December 10, 2023

The Council adopts the following as 2024 charter halibut management measures. Changes from the AP motion are noted in red.

For the 2024 charter fishing season in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, the Council recommends:

For IPHC 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 **0.798** 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 **0.798** 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.
- 6) If the allocation is less than .738 Mlb but greater than or equal to .697 Mlb:
 - The lower size limit is U35, 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.

- 7) If the allocation is less than .697 MIb but greater than or equal to .669 MIb:
 - The lower size limit is U34, 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.

For IPHC 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; Wednesdays closed to halibut retention.

- 1) If the allocation is greater than or equal to 1.880MIb:
 - The size of the second fish shall range from 28 inches up to 32 inches, until the projected charter harvest removals meet the allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.11 (page 33)** of the ADF&G analysis
- 2) If the allocation is less than 1.880 MIb, but greater than or equal to 1.590 MIb:
 - 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 MIb but greater than or equal to 1.513 MIb:
 - 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 MIb:
 - In addition to the Wednesday closures and 26-inch size limit indicated in (3) above, implement a 4-fish annual limit of halibut, and implement the number of closed Tuesdays necessary to achieve the allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.14 (page 36)** of the ADF&G analysis.