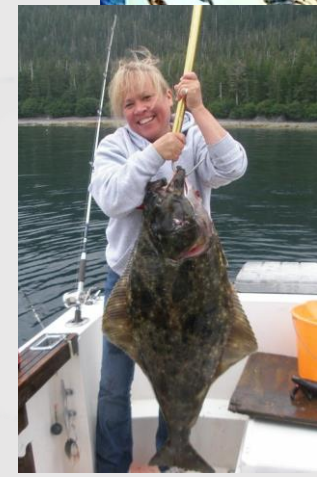




B1 Report to IPHC  
February 2018



# Recent Council Actions Related to Halibut Fisheries

A report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission, January 2018

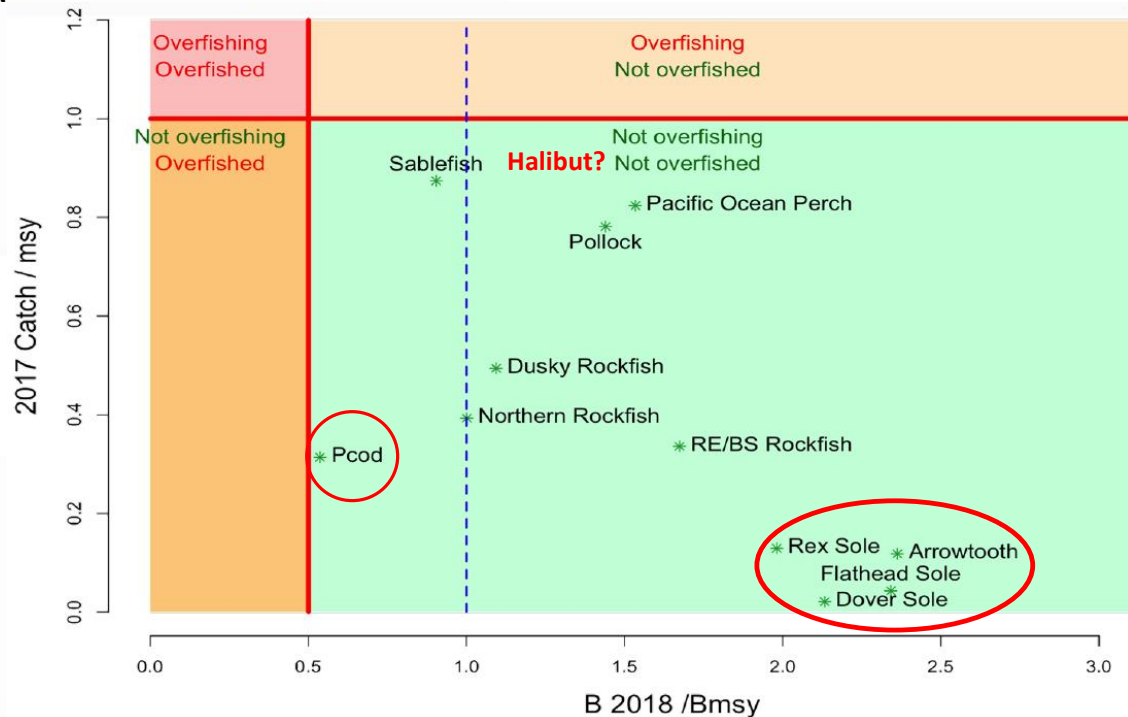
David Witherell, Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council



# Groundfish Harvest Limits

- GOA Pacific Cod TAC reduced 80% to 18,000 t.
  - Warm blob (2014-16) in GOA increased metabolism of Pacific cod, which increased mortality and production, and caused drastic declines in the stock.
  - Council set arrowtooth TAC above 2017 catch to provide some offset to loss of revenues, but kept halibut PSC apportionments restrictive. **Thus, some halibut PSC may go unused.**
- Halibut discard mortality rates applied to fisheries were unchanged from last year.
- Smaller changes in BSAI TACs.

**Status of GOA Groundfish, 2018**



# Recommended Halibut Charter Measures for 2018, Area 2C

- If the charter fishery allocation is 0.69 million pounds: **One fish per day with a reverse slot limit U35:O80. No annual limit.**
- If the allocation is below 0.69 million pounds: one fish per day with a reverse slot limit U35:O80. **Four-fish annual limit**, or if necessary to remain within the allocation, three-fish annual limit. [Recording requirement if an annual limit is implemented]
- If the allocation is above 0.69 million pounds: one fish per day with a reverse slot limit. **Adjust the lower slot limit** as allowed to remain within the allocation, upper slot limit remains O80. No annual limit.

No annual limit, harvest = 75,430 halibut

Lower Limit (in)	Upper Length Limit (in)															
	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80
35	1.348	1.259	1.191	1.114	1.059	1.010	0.941	0.874	0.836	0.806	0.777	0.756	0.728	0.712	0.711	0.698
36	1.385	1.298	1.231	1.155	1.100	1.052	0.983	0.917	0.879	0.850	0.820	0.800	0.772	0.756	0.754	0.742
37	1.407	1.321	1.255	1.180	1.126	1.077	1.009	0.943	0.905	0.876	0.847	0.826	0.799	0.783	0.781	0.769
38	1.441	1.356	1.291	1.217	1.163	1.115	1.047	0.982	0.945	0.916	0.886	0.866	0.839	0.823	0.821	0.809
39	1.466	1.383	1.318	1.244	1.191	1.144	1.076	1.012	0.974	0.945	0.916	0.896	0.868	0.853	0.851	0.839
40	1.487	1.404	1.340	1.267	1.215	1.167	1.100	1.036	0.999	0.970	0.941	0.921	0.894	0.878	0.876	0.864
41	1.512	1.431	1.368	1.295	1.243	1.196	1.130	1.066	1.029	1.000	0.971	0.951	0.924	0.908	0.907	0.895
42	1.528	1.448	1.386	1.314	1.262	1.216	1.150	1.086	1.049	1.021	0.992	0.972	0.945	0.929	0.928	0.916
43	1.547	1.468	1.406	1.335	1.284	1.238	1.172	1.109	1.072	1.044	1.015	0.995	0.968	0.952	0.951	0.939
44	1.574	1.496	1.435	1.365	1.314	1.268	1.203	1.140	1.103	1.075	1.047	1.027	1.000	0.984	0.983	0.971
45	1.602	1.526	1.466	1.397	1.346	1.301	1.236	1.174	1.138	1.110	1.081	1.061	1.035	1.019	1.017	1.005
46	1.621	1.546	1.487	1.418	1.368	1.323	1.259	1.197	1.161	1.133	1.105	1.085	1.058	1.043	1.041	1.029
47	1.647	1.573	1.515	1.447	1.398	1.353	1.289	1.228	1.192	1.164	1.136	1.116	1.090	1.074	1.073	1.061
48	1.666	1.593	1.535	1.468	1.419	1.375	1.311	1.250	1.214	1.187	1.158	1.139	1.112	1.097	1.095	1.083
49	1.697	1.625	1.568	1.502	1.453	1.410	1.346	1.286	1.250	1.223	1.195	1.176	1.149	1.134	1.132	1.120
50	1.718	1.647	1.592	1.526	1.478	1.435	1.372	1.312	1.277	1.250	1.222	1.202	1.176	1.161	1.159	1.147

# Recommended Halibut Charter Measures for 2018, **Area 3A**

Status quo (2017) measures: Two-fish daily bag limit, including one fish of any size and 28-inch maximum size limit on one fish. Four-fish annual limit, one trip per Charter Halibut Permit per day, one trip per vessel per day, Wednesdays closed all year, three Tuesdays closed between July 24 and August 7.

- **Recommendation:**  
**Status quo measures plus close 7 additional Tuesdays** (i.e., June 19 – August 21).
- If the allocation is higher or lower than 1.70 million pounds: **increase or decrease Tuesday closures to remain within the allocation**

Number of Closed Tuesdays	Beginning and Ending Dates	Percentage reduction in harvest relative to status quo	Projected Harvest (no. Fish)	Projected Removals (Mlb)
3 (Status quo)	Jul 24 - Aug 07	0.0%	136,734	1.855
4	Jul 17 - Aug 07	-1.3%	134,986	1.830
5	Jul 17 - Aug 14	-2.5%	133,298	1.808
6	Jul 10 - Aug 14	-4.1%	131,068	1.777
7	Jul 03 - Aug 14	-5.5%	129,257	1.752
8	Jul 03 - Aug 21	-6.4%	127,977	1.736
9	Jun 26 - Aug 21	-7.6%	126,313	1.712
10	Jun 19 - Aug 21	-8.8%	124,686	1.689
11	Jun 19 - Aug 28	-9.5%	123,794	1.677
12	Jun 12 - Aug 28	-10.4%	122,449	1.659
13	Jun 05 - Aug 28	-11.2%	121,391	1.645
47 (all season)	Feb 01 - Dec 31	-13.2%	118,749	1.608

# Halibut Charter Permits (CHPs)

- The Council took NO ACTION on a proposal to reduce latent capacity by establishing annual CHP trip limit categories and restricting effort by category.
- Would have created inequities, and limited entry, flexibility, and opportunities without providing business stability or personalized choices to adapt.
- The Council POSTPONED an action to reduce capacity and effort in the fishery by allowing the RQE to purchase and hold up to 30% of the CHPs in each Area 2C and 3A.
- RQEs not yet approved; so not yet established or funded.



# Self-guided Rental Boats

- Council directed staff to develop a **discussion paper** further exploring an unguided rental boat registration requirement.
- Less restrictive regulations in the unguided sector may result in increased harvest and negatively impact other sectors. To address this, the Council intends to:
  - 1) **establish a registration requirement** for vessels affiliated with charter operations, remote lodges, or businesses that require annual saltwater fishing guide licenses, and
  - 2) **estimate halibut catch** for the self-guided vessels affiliated with guided operations.
- Registration information will help the Council determine whether additional management measures are necessary for this segment of the fishery.

# Response to IPHC Requests

## IPHC Proposal IPHC-2017-IM093-PropC3

- The Council decided not to address the proposal to require logbook-style record keeping and reporting requirements for unguided anglers fishing from self-guided rental boats until after the IPHC meeting (if necessary).
- At this point, the Council is considering a registration requirement for self-guided rental boats to collect catch and effort data from this sector, rather than through individual angler logbooks.

## IPHC & Council meeting dates: December 2019

- The Council meeting is scheduled December 4-10, and the Interim IPHC meeting is scheduled for December 3-4, 2019.
- The IPHC staff requested that the Council consider shifting dates to accommodate their meeting. In response, the Council agreed to delay the start of the Council meeting by a day, so that the Council meeting would begin on Thursday, December 5. This would potentially allow staff and members of both bodies to fly to Anchorage the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> and attend both meetings.
- To provide additional travel time, the IPHC could also consider shifting the IPHC Interim meeting a day earlier (i.e., December 2 and 3).
- Concern = adequate time to recommend Charter measures from preliminary catch tables.

# Questions?



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