



Charter Halibut Management Committee

REPORT

Dec 6, 2021, virtual Zoom meeting

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee held an online public meeting December 6, 2021 to review the analysis of potential Area 2C and 3A charter halibut management measures for 2022 and provide recommendations to the Council. All meeting materials are posted to the [eAgenda](#).

Committee Members in Attendance:

Andy Mezirow (Area 3A), <i>Chair</i>	Mike Flores (Area 3A)	Steve Zernia (Area 3A)
Seth Bone (Area 2C)	Kent Huff (Area 2C)	
Forrest Braden (Area 2C)	Matt Kopec (Area 3A)	
Daniel Donich (Area 3A)	Richard Yamada (Area 2C)	Sarah Marrinan, <i>Coordinator</i>

Members Absent: Stan Malcolm (Area 2C)

Others in Attendance

Sarah Webster	Doug Duncan	Mason Smith	Bob Powers
Kurt Iverson	Kristen Labrecque	Leslie Pemberton	Alicia Miller
James Hasbrouck	Karla Bush	Mel Erickson	Leslie Pemberton
Tom Gemmell	Jim Martin	Martin Schuster	

ADF&G Analysis of Management Measure Scenarios for 2022

The Committee receive a presentation of the ADF&G analysis of management options for the Area 2C and 3A charter halibut fisheries for 2022 from Sarah Webster (ADF&G). This report and the corresponding presentation are linked in the eAgenda.

The analysis used the charter allocation that would result from the IPHC's reference Total Constant Exploitation Yield (TCEY) as produced by the interim management procedure and the 2021 charter allocation. For Area 2C the charter allocation under the reference TCEY was **0.60 Mlb** and the 2021 allocation was **0.81 Mlb**. For Area 3A the charter allocation under the reference TCEY was **2.05 Mlb** and the 2021 allocation was **1.95 Mlb**. The report included the analysis requested by the Charter Halibut Management Committee from the Oct 2021 meeting.

Public Testimony

Public testimony was received from Mel Erikson.

Recommended Management Measures for 2022

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

- 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 of 0.814 Mlb (rounds to status quo 0.81) (**Table 6, page 26 in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2022**)
- 2) If the allocation is insufficient to maintain at least a U40 on the lower limit, add Monday closures starting September 19th and work consecutively toward the beginning of the season until a lower limit of U40 is reached; Yield of 0.689 Mlb (**Table 9, page 31**)
- 3) If a lower limit of U40 can't be reached after closing all Mondays, add an annual limit of 4-fish (Yield of 0.679 Mlb; **Table 12, page 40**), progressing to an annual limit of 3-fish, as necessary to meet the allocation (Yield of 0.648 Mlb; **Table 13, page 44**); if possible, use any unused allocation to increase the lower limit above U40 until the allocation is reached
- 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 of 0.583 Mlb at U37O80 (**Table 13, page 44**)

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:

The 2C committee members selected the following harvest measures and their order of application to keep the Area 2C guided recreational fishery within their allocation. As harvest measures impact different business operations differently, the order of harvest measures reflects the committee's best attempt to spread the impacts equitably among the many areas and business models in Area 2C.

Area 2C Charter Halibut Management Committee members highlighted that this is likely to be a particularly challenging year for their 2C operations, especially if the IPHC adopts the Area 2C charter allocation resulting from the interim management procedure's reference TCEY (0.60 Mlb). One member noted that without any adjustments the IPHC International agreement to assign a fixed allocation percentage in Area 2B could potentially impact the 2C reverse slot limit by 3 critical inches.

For Area 3A, the Charter Halibut Management Committee recommends:

- A two-fish daily bag limit
- One halibut of any size and a maximum size for one of the two fish is 28 inches
- One trip per CHP per day
- One trip on which halibut is harvested per vessel per day
- Prohibition on halibut charter fishing on Wednesdays, all year
- Adjust Tuesday closures according to **Table 16 and Table 17 on page 52 and 53** in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2022 to bring the projected harvest within the Area 3A allocation.
 - For example, in combination with the other proposed measures:
 - 4 Tuesdays closed would result in a yield of 2.034 Mlb (**see Table 17, page 52**)
 - 8 Tuesdays closed would result in a yield of 1.928 Mlb (**see Table 17, page 52**)

For Area 3A, it is unnecessary to include a requirement to record retained halibut on the back of the license or harvest record card as an enforcement mechanism because an annual limit is not recommended for 2022.

Rationale and discussion:

For Area 3A, Committee members acknowledged management measures would need to be similar to those implemented in pre-pandemic conditions, as the overages in 2021 demonstrated a rebound in angler effort. Measures were chosen to maintain consistency with previous regulations adopted. One member suggested that 28 inches would be the smallest acceptable size for the second fish and that while day-of-the-week closures limited halibut opportunities for operations, this negative impact was relatively equitable across operations in Area 3A. Thus, the Committee recommended adjusting the number of Tuesday closures as needed to fit the projected yield under the adopted catch limits. If the resulting allocation is outside of the range listed, Committee members confirmed they recommend managers use **Table 16 and Table 17** to continue to adjust the number of Tuesdays accordingly.

Future Meetings and Other Business

There are two items tentatively scheduled for the February Council meeting that members may wish to discuss (Area 2C and 3A Catch Sharing Plan Allocation Review and the Recreational Quota Entity funding mechanism). The Committee chair will work with staff to identify if there is time for an additional Committee meeting before the February Council meeting and inform Committee members.

The Council has put out a request for another Area 3A representative on the Charter Halibut Management Committee. Appointments will be made during Staff Tasking of the upcoming December Council meeting.

Finally, the Charter Halibut Management Committee thanked two instrumental ADF&G staff members who are moving on. Sarah Webster has been promoted to Fisheries Scientist I at ADF&G and Bob Powers is retiring in March 2022 after ~15 years with ADF&G Sport Fish Division. The Committee thanks these two for their integral role with the Committee and wishes them well on their next endeavors.