



C1 Charter Halibut Management Measures

December 2020

Action Memo

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Other Presenters: Sarah Webster (ADF&G)

Action Required:

1. Review ADF&G analysis of proposed measures
2. Review Charter Halibut Management Committee minutes
3. Recommend preferred management measures for 2021

Background

Each December, the Council identifies preferred charter halibut management measures for Regulatory Areas 2C (Southeast Alaska) and 3A (Southcentral Alaska) in the upcoming fishing year and recommends those measures for approval and publication by the IPHC. At this meeting, the Council will select its preferred charter halibut measures for 2021 after considering recommendations developed by the Charter Halibut Management Committee at its [November 30, 2020 meeting](#) as well as harvest analyses provided by ADF&G.

Under the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP), charter halibut fisheries in 2C and 3A are limited to area-specific catch allocations, therefore, the Council's recommended management measures are based on achieving those allocations. Final allocations for 2021 will be determined by the IPHC at its annual meeting in January 25-29, 2021, however, at the Interim Meeting of the IPHC (Nov 18-19, 2020), reference allocations were provided as part of the updated Pacific halibut stock assessment. For Area 2C, in 2021, the interim allocation is 0.65 Milb (down from 0.76 Milb in 2020), and for Area 3A the interim allocation is 1.93 Milb (up from 1.78 Milb in 2020).

Preliminary analyses by ADF&G of harvest under a range of measures in each Regulatory Area were requested by the Committee at its October 27, 2020 meeting. The analyses of measures that will be presented to the Council by ADF&G is based on that request. Since implementation of the CSP in 2014, charter fishery harvests in Areas 2C and 3A have varied in relation to their allocations.

In the table below, which was provided to the Committee at its October 2020 meeting, harvest measures and realized catches are provided for Area 2C (top) and 3A. The values for 2020, which indicate under-harvest in both areas, are projections and will not be finalized until the next review in October 2021.

Table 1. Performance of charter halibut management measures recommended annually by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council since 2014 (2020 preliminary estimates in bold italics)

Area	Year	Management measure	Allocation ^a	Removals ^a	Overage ^a	% overage
2C	2014	1 Fish: U44-O76 Rev. Slot	0.761	0.827	0.066	9%
	2015	1 Fish: U42-O80 Rev. Slot	0.851	0.814	-0.037	-4%
	2016	1 Fish: U43-O80 Rev. Slot	0.906	0.839	-0.067	-7%
	2017	1 Fish: U44-O80 Rev. Slot	0.915	0.943	0.028	3%
	2018	1 Fish: U38-O80 Rev. Slot	0.810	0.716	-0.094	-12%
	2019	1 Fish: U38-O80 Rev. Slot	0.820	0.697	-0.123	-15%
	2020	1 fish, U40-O80 rev slot thru 6/14, U45-O80 after 6/14	0.780	0.500	-0.280	-36%

Area	Year	Management measure	Allocation ^a	Removals ^a	Overage ^a	% overage
3A	2014	2 Fish, one ≤ 29", one trip/day	1.782	2.068	0.286	+15.9%
	2015	2 Fish, one ≤ 29", Thurs. closed Jun 15-Aug 31, Annual limit 5 halibut, one trip/day	1.890	2.094	0.204	+10.8%
	2016	2 Fish, one ≤ 28", Wed. closed all year, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day	1.814	2.021	0.207	+11.4%
	2017	2 Fish, one ≤ 28", Wed. closed all year, three Thurs. closed, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day	1.890	2.089	0.199	+10.5%
	2018	2 Fish, one ≤ 28", Wed. closed all year, six Thurs. closed, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day	1.790	1.886	0.096	+5.4%
	2019	2 Fish, one ≤ 28", Wed. closed all year, six Thurs. closed, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day	1.890	2.054	0.122	+6.4%
	2020	2 Fish (one ≤ 28" thru 6/14, ≤ 32" after 6/14), Tue, Wed closed thru 6/14, all days open after, annual limit 4 halibut thru 6/14, no annual limit after 6/14, one trip/day with halibut harvest.	1.710	1.597	-0.113	-6.6%

^a Million Pounds

The measures for analysis that the Committee requested are provided below.

Area 2C

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests the following management measures for analysis for Area 2C:

1. Full reverse slot table from U40-U50 on the lower end and U50-O80 on the upper end (standard reverse slot, just stopping at U40 on the lower end)
2. One fish any size through June 15, with a reverse slot for the balance of the season analyzed from U40-U45 on the lower end and using O80 on the upper end. Same analysis for transitions dates of June 30 and July 15.
3. One fish any size annually, and subsequent fish analyzed from U40-U50 on the lower end and using O80 on the upper end. Analyze for a 5, 4, 3, and 2-fish annual limit.
4. Reverse slot limit with a lower limit of U45 and with an upper limit of O80 prior to July 1, combined with a reverse slot with a lower limit of U40 and with an upper limit of O80 for the balance of the season. Same analysis for transition dates of July 7, July 15, July 22, and August 1.

Area 3A

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests the following management measures for analysis for Area 3A:

1. Day of the week closures (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
2. Annual limit
3. Second fish of a certain size from 26" to 32"
4. And the rest of the 2019 Annual Management Measures that include no retention of halibut by captain and crew, one trip per vessel per day per permit, recording the annual limit on the license.

Additional analytical request for both areas:

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests an analysis of the effects on harvest of additional effort reductions at 10% and 40% in 2021 due to COVID or other uncontrollable circumstances.