

North Pacific Fishery Management Council
C1: Charter Halibut Management Measures
Council Motion
January 29, 2020

The Council recommends to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) the following management measures for IPHC regulatory Area 3A.

- All allocations shown below include, unless otherwise specified: a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; an annual limit of 4 halibut per charter angler; Wednesdays closed to halibut retention all year; 1 trip per halibut charter vessel per day; and 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day.
- If the allocation is less than 2.014 Mlb but greater than or equal to 1.695 Mlb:
 - a daily bag limit of 2 halibut, with one fish of any size, and one fish less than or equal to 26 inches;
 - adjust the number of Tuesdays closed to halibut retention, such that the projected removals achieve the allocation (Table 1, page 15 of the Supplemental Analysis). The Tuesdays closed to halibut retention are specified in Table 22, pg. 38 of the December 3 analysis.
- If the allocation is less than 1.695 Mlb, but greater than or equal to 1.588 Mlb (proposed to achieve allocation for status quo TCEY = 1.66 Mlb):
 - a daily bag limit of 2 halibut with one fish of any size and one fish less than or equal to 26 inches;
 - all Tuesdays closed to halibut retention;
 - adjust the number of Thursdays closed to halibut retention, to a maximum of four Thursday closures, such that the projected removals achieve the allocation (Table 5, page 19 of the January 23 Supplemental Analysis; Thursdays closed to halibut retention are specified in Table 4; page 18 of the Supplemental Analysis).
- If the allocation is less than 1.588 Mlb (proposed to achieve allocation between 1.588 Mlb and reference TCEY = 1.24 Mlb):
 - All Tuesdays are closed to halibut retention;
 - a daily bag limit of 1 halibut, with a reverse (protected) slot limit. The upper limit of the reverse slot limit is fixed at 80 inches, and the lower end of the reverse slot limit is adjusted such that the projected removals achieve the allocation – beginning at 58 inches (Appendix Table A5-o, page 75, last column, of the Supplemental Analysis).

The Council also clarifies its recommendation for Area 2C management measures as specified in the clarifying notes in IPHC Proposal B-1 for the 2020 Annual IPHC Meeting (IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB1). The notes read as follows:

1. If the Area 2C catch limit is from 0.772 to 1.001 million pounds, it is the intention of the NPFMC to maintain an upper size limit of halibut at O80 and a lower size limit of halibut at or above U40. If possible under the catch limit, the U40 size limit will be adjusted upward until the catch limit is achieved (Table 6 of the analysis).
2. If the catch limit in Area 2C is from 0.658 to 0.771 million pounds, the NPFMC recommends maintaining the U40/O80 size limit, then progressively reducing the number of days when halibut may be retained by establishing closures on Wednesdays, beginning on 9 September and working consecutively toward the beginning of the season with a maximum of all Wednesdays closed (Table 10-A1 of the analysis).
3. If the catch limit in Area 2C is from 0.646 to 0.656 million pounds, the NPFMC recommends a U40/O80 size limit, an annual limit of 4 halibut for all charter anglers, and a closure of between fourteen and all Wednesdays, beginning on 9 September and working consecutively toward the beginning of the season (Table 14-A1 of the analysis).
4. If the catch limit in Area 2C is from 0.636 to 0.645 million pounds, the NPFMC recommends a U41/O80 size limit, an annual limit of 3 halibut for all charter anglers, and a closure of between fourteen and all Wednesdays, beginning on 9 September and working consecutively toward the beginning of the season (Table 16-A1 of the analysis). If the catch limit in Area 2C is from 0.615 to 0.636 million pounds, the NPFMC recommends a U40/O80 size limit, an annual limit of 3 halibut for all charter anglers, and a closure of between thirteen and all Wednesdays, beginning on 9 September and working consecutively toward the beginning of the season (Table 16-A1 of the analysis).
5. If the catch limit in Area 2C is less than 0.615 million pounds, the NPFMC recommends a closure of all Wednesdays for the entire season, an annual limit of 3 halibut for all charter anglers, and an adjustment of the lower size limit until the catch limit is achieved. The expected harvest under these measures with a lower size limit of U39 is 0.599 million pounds (Table 16-A1 of the analysis).