



## Charter Halibut Management Committee MINUTES

10/29/2019 Anchorage, AK

*The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee (Committee) met on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 to develop a list of management measures for analysis by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for possible implementation in 2020.*

Committee Members in attendance:

Andy Mezirow (Chairman)	Steve Zernia	Stan Malcom (ph)
Daniel Donich	Kent Huff (ph)	Richard Yamada (ph)
Matt Kopec	Seth Bone (ph)	Denise May (ph)
Mike Flores	Forrest Braden (ph)	Steve MacLean (NPFMC)

Members absent: None

Others in attendance:

Tom Gemmell	Tom Taube	Mel Erickson
Kurt Iverson	Bob Powers	Caroline Robinson (ph)
Doug Duncan	Tim Cashman	Baine Etherton (ph)
Sarah Webster	Ben Martin	
Jim Hasbrouck	Brian Ritchie	

### Final 2018 and preliminary 2019 charter halibut harvest estimates

Sarah Webster (ADF&G) presented final estimates of the 2018 charter halibut harvest for IPHC Area 2C and 3A, and preliminary harvest estimates for 2019. Preliminary estimates are 18.9% under allocation for Area 2C and 6.5% over allocation for Area 3A.

### Management measures requested for analysis

#### Area 2C

Area 2C representatives requested the following management measures for analysis, all with one fish daily bag limit:

- Reverse slot limit with a lower limit from 35-50" and an upper limit from 50-80"
- Reverse slot limit with a lower limit from 35-50" and an upper limit from 50-80", with an annual limit of 1-4 halibut
- Reverse slot limit with a lower limit from 35-50" and an upper limit of 80", and 1-17 Wednesdays or Sundays closed through the season, or a Wednesday or Sunday closure for the entire year.
- Reverse slot limit with a lower limit from 35-50" and an upper limit of 80" with an annual limit of 3-4 halibut, and 1-17 Wednesdays or Sundays closed through the season, or a Wednesday or Sunday closure for the whole season.

- Reverse slot limit with a lower limit from 40-50” and an upper limit of 80” before July 1, and a reverse slot limit with a lower limit from 35-50” and an upper limit of 80” beginning July 1, July 15, or August 1.

### Area 3A

Area 3A representatives requested the following management measures for analysis all with two fish daily bag limit, 28” maximum size limit on one fish, one charter trip per permit per day, one charter trip per vessel per day, annual limit of 4 halibut, Wednesday closure all season (unless noted), closure of halibut fishing on six Tuesdays from mid-July through mid-August (unless noted):

- Opening all Tuesdays and opening some Wednesdays during the season
- Fewer or additional Tuesday closures during the season

### **Other charter halibut management issues**

Kurt Iverson informed the committee that the CHP renewal final rule has been drafted and is in review at NMFS Headquarters. The intention is for the CHP renewal requirement to be in place for the 2020 season. Kurt Iverson also informed the committee that the final rule aligning the bag limits for guided and unguided anglers on motherships has been published, and is in place for the 2020 fishing season. Kurt Iverson also informed the committee that all unused Guided Angler Fish (GAF) will be returned to IFQ holders on 10/29/2019 and the GAF report will be available before the December committee meeting. Andy Mezirow informed the committee that the language authorizing funding of the RQE has passed congressional committee and OMB review and is now awaiting consideration in congress.

### **Non-charter management issues**

Andy Mezirow informed the committee that the analysis of a registration and bag limit for unguided (non-charter) halibut anglers on rented boats will be reviewed by the committee in December.

### **Future meetings**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) will hold their interim meeting on November 25-27, 2019 in Seattle, WA. The IPHC annual meeting will be held February 3-7, 2020 in Anchorage, AK.

The next Charter Halibut Management Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 from 8AM – 3PM in Anchorage, AK.