

¹**Charter Halibut Management.** After two days of testimony from more than 150 members of the public, the Council elected to reexamine its preferred alternative for managing the charter halibut fishery. Instead of proceeding with its April 2001 preferred alternative to implement a quota share (QS) program based on past participation during 1998 or 1999, and 2000, the Council will appoint a stakeholder committee to examine a complex scheme of management options that were proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game prior to any further action.

The committee is tasked with reviewing proposed management options, and others that may be proposed through the committee process, to develop two alternatives for Council consideration in April 2006. One alternative would be based on the 2001 preferred alternative with a newly proposed “leveling” plan, or an effort-based transferable seat program, or other methods, to include current participants in a quota share system.

A second alternative would be based on a complex scheme proposed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game that also would allocate a percentage of halibut harvests to the charter sector, but manage the fishery under more traditional management tools. These include, but are not limited to:

- 1) a percentage-based quota that would fluctuate (up and down) with abundance;
- 2) subdivisions of Area 2C and 3A quotas among smaller geographic sub-districts, including time certain establishment of local area management plans (LAMPs) and super-exclusive registration areas;
- 3) detailed set of management measures which would be used to enforce the allocation, including measures already approved for analysis to lower harvests below the Area 2C and 3A Guideline Harvest Levels (GHLs) as described below;
- 4) State-sponsored measures to:
 - a) reinstitute in 2006 a halibut reporting requirement in charter boat logbooks with methodology to ensure accuracy based on a protocol identified by ADF&G, and
 - b) propose a regulation to the Board of Fisheries in 2006 which would prohibit retention or harvest of fish by skipper and crew when clients are on board and limit the number of lines fished to the number of clients beginning;
- 5) annual angler limits;
- 6) limits on days fished either by total number of days or by excluding specific days of the week;
- 7) reduced daily limits, including size limits for the second fish;
- 8) in-season quota monitoring with deductions off next year’s quota;
- 9) control date of December 9, 2005;
- 10) limited entry program for charter boats by the State or NOAA Fisheries Service, with delayed transferability of permits;
- 11) unspecified mechanisms that would result in an “orderly and compensated” allocation shift, including a State charter stamp, similar to the king salmon stamp, to raise funds to manage the fishery and to fund the purchase of commercial QS to be reallocated to the charter sector; and
- 12) explore legal issues related to delegation of authority to the State for some management aspects of the sport fishery, including the charter sector.

ADF&G staff will prepare a discussion paper that describes the State’s approach.

Both alternatives, once streamlined by the committee and further revised by the Council, will undergo a comprehensive economic analysis, including impacts on other affected sectors of the halibut fishery.

*The Council requests that those individuals that wish to be appointed to the new stakeholder committee submit their nomination to the Council by December 31, 2005. New applications are required for this committee. Nominees should identify their participation in the halibut fisheries as commercial, charter, or angler sectors. A number of 1-2 day meetings during February and March 2006 in Anchorage are anticipated in order to meet the Council’s request that the Committee **complete its recommendations by the April 2006 Council meeting.** Committee members are responsible for their travel expenses.*