

**MOTION: C-2 MIXING OF GUIDED AND UNGUIDED HALIBUT
FEBRUARY 1, 2017**

**Agenda Item C-2
Motion**

Initiate an Analysis with the following purpose and need statement and alternatives.

Purpose and Need Statement

Different regulations apply to guided and unguided (i.e., chartered and non-chartered) halibut fishing trips. Possessing halibut harvested from both guided and unguided trips on the same vessel at the same time presents challenges for accountability and enforcement that cannot be adequately addressed by current regulations. Mixed guided and unguided halibut can occur on multi-day and mothership charter fishing and floating lodges, and to a lesser extent on vessels that are owned by self-guided fishing operations that also provide sport fishing guide services to their clients. The potential for mixing guided and unguided halibut exists on every floating lodge and mothership that services halibut harvesters. The number of these operations and the associated halibut harvests remains unknown. The mixing of guided and unguided halibut could expand in the future as charter operators look for ways to maximize halibut harvests for guided and unguided anglers on their vessels.

Once guided and unguided halibut are mixed aboard a vessel, it is difficult to determine which halibut were harvested under the guided regulations and which halibut were harvested under the unguided regulations. The current regulatory structure allows guided and unguided halibut to be mixed on a vessel but does not provide the regulated public or authorized officers with a mechanism to ensure compliance with the more restrictive guided halibut regulations. A regulatory change could ensure proper accounting of guided and unguided catch.

Alternatives

Alternative 1: Take no action

This alternative is the no action alternative. Under this alternative, the current regulatory structure allowing guided and unguided caught halibut to be mixed together on a vessel would continue.

Alternative 2: Prohibit the possession of guided and unguided halibut simultaneously on any vessel

Under Alternative 2, halibut caught under one operation type (guided or unguided) must be offloaded from the fishing vessel and removed from Convention waters in Area 2C or

3A before switching to the other operation type.

Alternative 3: If halibut harvested using sport fishing guide services is possessed with halibut harvested not using sport fishing guide services on Convention waters in Area 2C or 3A, the IPHC annual management measures for guided sport fishing for the area that the halibut was harvested apply to all halibut onboard the fishing vessel.

Suboption 3.1: Include “other fishing facility” as well as “fishing vessel”.

Note on Alternative 3

The term “fishing vessel” is defined in the Northern Pacific Halibut Act and means: “(1) any vessel engaged in catching fish in Convention waters or in processing or transporting fish loaded in Convention waters; (2) any vessel outfitted to engage in any activity described in paragraph (1); or (3) any vessel in normal support of any vessel described in paragraph (1) or (2)” 16 U.S.C. § 773(f). This would include any vessel and/or floating support facilities that are anchored, or moored, or tethered to shore on convention waters.