

DRAFT

Excerpt from February 2006 NPFMC draft minutes – Agenda C-6, Halibut GHL

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/ACTION

Arne Fuglvog moved to adopt a new problem statement:

Harvest by the guided sport halibut sector has exceeded the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) recommended by the NPFMC and established by the Secretary of Commerce. The NPFMC adopted the GHL to address the open-ended reallocation of halibut from the commercial to the guided sport sector and to provide a measure of stability to the halibut industry and coastal communities while the NPFMC develops a long-term plan for the guided sport (GS) sector. Designing management measures to maintain stability and prevent the GS sector from exceeding the GHL during this interim period is the responsibility of the NPFMC.

The motion was seconded by McKie Campbell and carried without objection.

Arne Fuglvog moved to approve the first portion of the Advisory Panel recommendations:

Enhance the analysis of the economic effects of the alternatives on the commercial sector, charter boat sector and support services within coastal communities. As well, the analysis should note the impact of the GHL overages, the potential impact if GHL control measures prove to be inadequate, and the potential benefits of adequate GHL measures.

Clarify that the Council may select any or all of the measures in the alternatives (i.e., the measures are not a “package deal” within the alternatives);

Add the option of using the 5-year average weight for calculating charter harvests.

As well, the AP recommends that the Council consider, as part of the GHL amendment package, sending a letter to the IPHC that would request the creation of a separate accountability system for guided sport and commercial harvests of halibut. This would remove the guided sport harvest from the “other removals” line item in the IPHC calculation, and apply the GHL allocation directly to the net CEY of each area. The AP believes that the alternatives for keeping the guided sport halibut catch within the GHL and the process used to account for that catch are linked and need to be decided concurrently at final action.

The motion was seconded by McKie Campbell.

Mr. Fuglvog advised that the intent, with regard to the portion of the motion addressing accountability, would be to include discussion in the analysis of the separate accountability alternative to give the public an opportunity to evaluate and comment on it. In April the Council would then have the opportunity to discuss the issue and consider action. Mr. Fuglvog also asked that staff address the comments of the SSC to the extent possible without delaying the public comment period.

McKie Campbell moved to amend the motion to include the following statement:

The Council expresses its support for the State of Alaska, NMFS, and the IPHC to continue to explore options for the State of Alaska to manage regulation of methods and means of the guided

sport fishery within allocations set by the IPHC and the NPFMC reporting back to the Council in April.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Fuglvog and carried without objection. The main motion, as amended carried without objection.

Mr. Campbell's original intent was that this statement be included in a letter to the IPHC and/or NMFS. But, after discussion it was determined that IPHC and NMFS staff were present and aware of the Council's intent and that a letter would not be necessary. Lisa Lindeman noted that NOAA General Counsell is reviewing legal issues associated with State management and will continue with those efforts.

Arne Fuglvog moved to approve the remainder of the Advisory Panel recommendations:

Initiate a new amendment package to address regulatory issues associated with the charter halibut harvest. The package may include additional elements and options as recommended by the Stakeholder committee but at a minimum should include the following:

- 1. A list of options for implementation of a moratorium on new entrants into the charter halibut fishery with a December 9, 2005 control date and with consideration of communities that may not have mature charter halibut businesses or histories.**
- 2. A list of options to subdivide current halibut management areas 2C and 3A into sub-regions for halibut charter management purposes.**
- 3. A list of options for linking the GHL to the annual IPHC harvest level for each management area—the so called stair stepping options that would change the GHL up and down as TAC changes.**

The motion was seconded.

McKie Campbell moved to amend item # 3 of the motion, to read as follows:

“A list of options for linking the GHL to the annual IPHC harvest level for each management areas, either by making the GHL a fixed percentage of GHL, or through the stair stepping options that would change the GHL up and down as the TAC changes.”

The motion was seconded by Arne Fuglvog and carried without objection. The main motion, as amended, carried without objection.