



C1 Charter Halibut Management Measures

December 2021

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan
Other Presenters: Sarah Webster (ADF&G)
Action Required:

1. Review ADF&G analysis of proposed measures
2. Review Charter Halibut Management Committee minutes
3. Recommend preferred management measures for 2022

BACKGROUND

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to recommend management measures (e.g., bag limits, size restrictions, day-of-the-week closures, etc.) for the charter halibut fisheries in IPHC Areas 2C (Southeast) and 3A (Southcentral), for implementation in 2022. The Council will consider analysis presented by Sarah Webster (ADF&G Division of Sport Fish) which projects 2022 charter removals under different scenarios of management measures and advice from its Charter Halibut Management Committee. The objective is to fit the expected charter removals within the established catch limits. Since the 2022 charter halibut catch limits will not be set until the annual IPHC meeting (Jan 24-28, 2022), the Council's motion should demonstrate how the measures would become more or less restrictive depending on the limits set.

The Council's **Charter Halibut Management Committee will meet on December 6, 2021** to review the ADF&G analysis and recommend measures to adopt for Area 2C and 3A. Minutes from the Charter Halibut Management Committee meeting will be available and posted to the eAgenda shortly thereafter.

The Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee also met on Oct 26-27, 2021. On the 26th the Committee received an ADF&G report of final estimates for 2020 halibut removals (harvest + release mortality) for Area 2C and 3A and preliminary removals for 2021. These reports are available on the Committee meeting's [eAgenda](#). Given the estimated overages in 2021, the Charter Halibut Management Committee recommended measures for analysis that are more similar to measures considered under pre-pandemic conditions. The measures requested for analysis are detailed in the Committee [minutes](#). The Committee met again on October 27th to discuss Council recommendations for a funding mechanism for a Recreational Quota Entity (RQE). The Committee received a presentation from NPFMC staff Sarah Marrinan about the status of the RQE funding discussion and decision points. Committee members and agency staff discussed several key aspects of the program. Committee members agreed on a motion which is attached to the Committee [minutes](#), with additional points of rationale documented in the minutes.

Table 1 Performance of charter management measures recommended annually by the Council since 2014

Area	Year	Management measure	MgmtType	Allocation ^a	Removals ^a	Overage	% Overage
2C	2014	One fish, U44-O76 rev. slot	CSP	0.761	0.827	0.066	9%
	2015	One fish, U42-O80 rev slot	CSP	0.851	0.814	-0.037	-4%
	2016	One fish, U43-O80 rev slot	CSP	0.906	0.839	-0.067	-7%
	2017	One fish, U44-O80 rev slot	CSP	0.915	0.941	0.026	3%
	2018	One fish, U38-O80 rev slot	CSP	0.810	0.716	-0.094	-12%
	2019	One fish, U38-O80 rev slot	CSP	0.820	0.697	-0.123	-15%
	2020	One fish, U40-O80 rev slot thru 6/14, U45-O80 after 6/14	CSP	0.780	0.483	-0.297	-38%
	2021	One fish, U50-O72 rev slot	CSP	0.810	1.154	0.344	42%
3A	2014	Two fish, one ≤ 29", one trip/day with halibut harvest.	CSP	1.782	2.066	0.284	16%
	2015	Two fish, one ≤ 29", Thursday closed Jun 15-Aug 31, annual limit 5 halibut, one trip/day with halibut harvest.	CSP	1.890	2.094	0.204	11%
	2016	Two fish, one ≤ 28", Wednesday closed all year, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day with halibut harvest.	CSP	1.814	2.021	0.207	11%
	2017	Two fish, one ≤ 28", Wednesday closed all year, three Tuesdays closed, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day with halibut harvest.	CSP	1.890	2.089	0.199	11%
	2018	Two fish, one ≤ 28", Wednesday closed all year, six Tuesdays closed, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day with halibut harvest.	CSP	1.790	1.886	0.096	5%
	2019	Two fish, one ≤ 28", Wednesday closed all year, five Tuesdays closed, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day with halibut harvest.	CSP	1.890	2.054	0.164	9%
	2020	Two fish (one ≤ 28" thru 6/14, ≤ 32" after 6/14), Tuesday and Wednesday closed thru 6/14, all days open after 6/14, annual limit 4 halibut thru 6/14, no annual limit after 6/14, one trip/day with halibut harvest.	CSP	1.710	1.567	-0.143	-8%
	2021	Two fish, one ≤ 32", Wednesday closed all year, one trip/day with halibut harvest.	CSP	1.950	2.454	0.504	26%

Source: ADF&G Informational Handout for Charter Halibut Committee Meeting Oct 26, 2021; Table 4

^a – Allocations and removals include release mortality beginning with the CSP in 2014.

^b – 2021 removal estimates are preliminary