



Charter Halibut Management Committee

Report
October 27, 2020

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s Charter Halibut Management Committee held an online public meeting October 27, 2020 to develop requests for analyses by ADF&G of potential halibut harvests in 2021 under a range of management scenarios. The analyses will be reviewed by the Committee at a subsequent meeting prior to the December 2020 Council meeting and will inform their recommendations to the Council for charter halibut management measures in 2021.

Attendance

Committee Members:

Andy Mezirow	Mike Flores	Richard Yamada
Seth Bone	Kent Huff	Steve Zernia
Forrest Braden	Matt Kopec	
Daniel Donich	Stan Malcolm	<i>Denise May (absent)</i>

Agency staff and members of the public:

John Abel	Marian Ford	Ben Martin
Jim Armstrong	Angela Forristall	Jim Martin
Mark Clemens	Tom Gemmell	Bob Powers
Maria Davis	Jim Hasbrouck	Dave Rutz
Doug Duncan	Kurt Iverson	Martin Schuster
Mel Erickson	Ben Jevons	Tom Taube
Baine Etherton	Sarah La Belle	
Diana Evans	Aaron Mahoney	<i>Sarah Webster</i>
Mike Flores	Sarah Murrinan	<i>(ADF&G presenter)</i>

Final 2019 and preliminary 2020 charter halibut harvest estimates

Sarah Webster (ADF&G) presented final estimates of the 2019 charter halibut harvest for IPHC Area 2C and 3A, and preliminary harvest estimates for 2020, which she also provided in documents posted to the Committee meeting eAgenda. Final Area 2C removals in 2019 (0.697 Milb) were 15% under the 0.820 Milb allocation and final Area 3A removals in 2019 (2.054 Milb) were 8.7% over the 1.890 allocation. For 2020, preliminary harvest estimated for Area 2C (0.500 Milb) is 36% under the 0.780 Milb allocation and Area 3A preliminary harvest (1.597 Milb) is 7% under the 1.710 Milb allocation.

Management measures requested for analysis

Area 2C

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests the following management measures for analysis for Area 2C:

1. Full reverse slot table from U40-U50 on the lower end and U50-O80 on the upper end

(standard reverse slot, just stopping at U40 on the lower end)

2. One fish any size through June 15, with a reverse slot for the balance of the season analyzed from U40-U45 on the lower end and using O80 on the upper end. Same analysis for transition dates of June 30 and July 15.
3. One fish any size annually, and subsequent fish analyzed from U40-U50 on the lower end and using O80 on the upper end. Analyze for a 5, 4, 3, and 2-fish annual limit.
4. Reverse slot limit with a lower limit of U45 and with an upper limit of O80 prior to July 1, combined with a reverse slot with a lower limit of U40 and with an upper limit of O80 for the balance of the season. Same analysis for transition dates of July 7, July 15, July 22, and August 1.

Area 3A

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests the following management measures for analysis for Area 3A:

1. Day of the week closures (Tuesdays and Wednesdays)
2. Annual limit
3. Second fish of a certain size from 26" to 32"
4. And the rest of the 2019 Annual Management Measures that include no retention of halibut by captain and crew, one trip per vessel per day per permit, recording the annual limit on the license.

Additional analytical request for both areas:

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests an analysis of the effects on harvest of additional effort reductions at 10% and 40% in 2021 due to COVID or other uncontrollable circumstances.

Other charter halibut management issues

Andy Mezirow informed the committee that they will be reviewing two additional issues in 2021, 1) an RQE funding mechanism discussion paper scheduled for Council review in April 2021, and 2) an analysis of the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan scheduled for Council review in October 2021.

Kurt Iverson, NMFS AKRO, provided the Committee with information on the current registration status for Charter Halibut Permits (CHPs) in areas 2C and 3A. A renewal requirement was implemented in 2020, and Kurt stated that a small number of CHPs (less than 10% in each area) did not register .

Future meetings

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) will hold their interim meeting on November 18-19, 2020 via GoToMeeting. The IPHC annual meeting will be held January 25-29, 2021.

The next Charter Halibut Management Committee meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for the afternoon of Monday, November 30, 2020.