

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members
FROM: Chris Oliver *Chris*
Executive Director
DATE: September 23, 2009
SUBJECT: Charter Halibut

ESTIMATED TIME
2 HOURS

ACTION REQUIRED

Review ADF&G evaluation of Alaska charter logbook data for 2006-2008

BACKGROUND

Following improvements to the logbook program, ADF&G sought to determine whether the quality of logbook data had improved and whether logbook data should be used to monitor and manage charter fisheries. An evaluation of 2006 charter data was reviewed by the Council in April 2006. The 2009 report builds on the 2006 data evaluation by including an examination of 2007 and 2008 data. The report focuses its discussion on halibut, but also evaluates logbook data for state managed species such as king salmon, rockfish, and lingcod.

The specific objectives of this report were as follows:

1. Summarize various aspects of logbook data relating to validity and utility, including the degree of missing or invalid data, frequency of license numbers and youth anglers reported, and the timeliness of logbook submissions.
2. Compare participation and harvest for individual anglers reported in logbooks to data from a postseason survey of charter clients on observed and unobserved vessels (end-of-season survey).
3. Compare reported logbook effort and harvests of Pacific halibut, king salmon, coho salmon, rockfish, and lingcod (numbers of fish) to estimates from the Statewide Harvest Survey at the management area and IPHC area levels.
4. Compare annual halibut harvest recorded in logbooks for licensed anglers to those anglers' SWHS responses. The comparison is for single-angler households only.
5. Compare reported logbook effort and harvest at the boat-trip level to verified and unverified data from onsite interviews from ADF&G sampling programs in Southeast and Southcentral Alaska.
6. Compare reported logbook harvest at the port level to creel survey estimates for Ketchikan, Sitka, and Juneau.

Based on recommendations from the SSC, the Council may wish to provide guidance to NMFS regarding the use of this data for managing the charter halibut fisheries.