
C6 CHARTER HALIBUT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 2022



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ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Charter Halibut Management Committee met virtually **Oct 21, 2022**

- ✓ Received final estimates of charter halibut removals for 2021 and preliminary estimates for 2022
- ✓ Recommended management measures for analysis

The Charter Halibut Management Committee met **Dec 7, 2022**

- ✓ Reviewed the ADF&G analysis on requested management measures
- ✓ Provided recommendations on a preferred range of management measures for 2023



AGENCY STAFF UPDATES

The Committee had a short question and comment period on the ADF&G eLogbook program.

- Mandatory for Area 2C, not for Area 3A
- Will circle back in October 2023 with any issues or questions from Committee members and other operators
- Contact is Ben Jenvons: (ben.jenvons@alaska.gov or 907-267-2299).

The 2023 GAF report is available

- GAF use is up, especially in 2C
- Per pound prices were the highest they have been
- Conversion rate is lower

Coming soon – electronic CHP registration



COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Received some public comment and had some discussion around the policy of having different management measures for guided vs unguided anglers and the topic of rental boats.

- The Council has previously considered what it would take to regulate unguided rental boats differently
- Difficulty in identifying unguided rental boats
- Some members felt rental boats still pose a significant challenge for halibut management



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – AREA 2C

For Area 2C, the Charter Halibut Management Committee recommends a progression of management measures in the following order as needed to remain under the allocation:

1. A reverse slot with an upper limit fixed at O80, and a lower limit decreased until the allocation is reached, but no lower than U40; Yield 0.867 – 1.121 million pounds (**Table 2C.5**).
2. If the allocation is insufficient to maintain at least a U40 on the lower limit, add Monday closures starting September 18 and work consecutively toward the beginning of the season until the allocation is reached; Yield 0.867 - 0.734 million pounds (**Table 2C.8.b**).
3. If a lower limit of U40 can't be reached after closing all Mondays, add an annual limit of 3-fish as necessary to meet the allocation (Yield 0.693 million pounds); if possible, use any unused allocation to increase the lower limit above U40 until the allocation is reached; Yield 0.686 – 0.723 million pounds (**Table 2C.10.b**).
4. If the allocation is not reached by closing all Mondays and a 3-fish annual limit, allow the lower limit to drop until the allocation is reached; Yield 0.564 – 0.686 million pounds (**Table 2C.10.b**).

If an annual limit is adopted in Area 2C, implement a requirement for charter anglers to record, immediately upon retaining a halibut, the date, location (IPHC area), and species (halibut) on their harvest record, consistent with the past reporting requirement in Area 3A.



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - AREA 3A

For Area 3A, the Charter Halibut Management Committee recommends the following progression of measures:

All allocations shown below include, unless otherwise specified: a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; with no annual limit per charter angler; 1 trip per halibut charter vessel per day; and 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day.

If the allocation is less than 2.37 Mlb, but greater than or equal to 2.075 Mlb:

- a daily bag limit of 2 halibut, with one fish of any size, and one fish less than or equal to 28 inches;
 - Adjust the number of Wednesdays closed to retention of halibut, with a second fish of 28" or less, according to **Table 3A.13 (page 74)** in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2023, to bring the projected harvest within the Area 3A allocation.

If the allocation is less than 2.075 Mlb, but greater than 1.75 Mlb:

- in addition to all closed Wednesdays, close as many Tuesdays as needed to keep the charter harvest within their allocation (**Table 3A.5, page 65**)

Should the allocation be below 1.75 Mlb:

- lower the size of the second fish to as low as 26 inches associated with an allocation of 1.69Mlb (**Table 3A.5, page 65**)

