



Catch Accountability Through Compensated Halibut

CATCH Report

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GRANT

To explore a compensated allocation transfer mechanism between the commercial and recreational sectors

To research the feasibility of a recreational fishery participating in a catch share program

CASE Study: Alaska Guided Sport Fishery

Problem

Halibut stocks are in decline

Guided anglers are facing restrictive regulations

Charter businesses are struggling to attract

Potential Solution

Provide a permanent, market-based approach, to transfer allocation between the commercial and guided sectors independent of the Council actions

Methodology

Stakeholder meetings

Expert Consultation

Review of literature and Council documents

CATCH Report posted on

www.catchalaska.org

Background

Research Results

Integrating a recreational Fishery into a catch share program

Guided Angler Catch Share Pool

Allocation + Purchase = Revised Allocation

Provide a market-based mechanism to relieve the economic impacts of restrictive harvest measures, while still ensuring the conservation of the halibut resource

Must provide flexibility in achieving catch limits

Able to accommodate un-guided sector in future

Guided Angler Holding Entity

Formation of a RQE (Recreational Quota Entity)

One board of directors with sub-regional quota share management

Depending on funding, form either a regular non-profit corporation or a regional non-profit association

Quota Transfer Mechanism

Goals

3A – Two Halibut of Any Size Bag Limit

2C - Initially One Halibut of Any Size Bag

Limit

Transfers under least restrictive environment

Two-way leasing as a solution to recreational harvest uncertainties and optimum yield of fishery

Flexibility such as roll-over allowances should

Accountability

Flexibility in achieving harvest goals

- Buffers
- Roll-Over Allowances
- Two-way Leasing

Electronic Log Book Reporting

Measuring lengths of fish

Funding

Priority – State Halibut Stamp

Alternative – Charter Assessment Tax

Ownership to belong to guided anglers and not charter operators.

Conclusion

Feasible approach to increasing guided sector allocation

RQE could be modeled after existing CQE

Program would operate under willing seller and willing buyer, market-based transfer system and would not affect conservation goals

Least restrictive transfer rules will lead to best economic asset values for both sectors

Flexibility is needed when achieving catch limits for a recreational fishery



Questions?