NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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# C3 Charter Halibut Management Measures for 2027

December 2026 Council Meeting

**Action Memo**

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| Council Staff: | Sarah Marrinan |
| Other Presenters: | Adam St. Saviour (ADF&G) |
| Action Required: | 1. Review ADF&G analysis of proposed measures<br>2. Consider Charter Halibut Management Committee recommendations<br>3. Recommend a range of preferred management measures for 2027 |

## 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 International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Areas 2C (Southeast) and 3A (Southcentral), for implementation in 2027. The AP and Council will consider analysis presented by Adam St. Saviour (ADF&G Division of Sport Fish) which projects 2027 charter removals under different scenarios of management measures, as well as recommendations from its Charter Halibut Management Committee. The objective is to fit the expected charter removals within the established catch limits. Since the 2027 charter halibut catch limits will not be set until the annual IPHC meeting (Jan 25-28, 2027),[1] the Council's motion should include a range of recommendations that demonstrate how the measures would become more or less restrictive depending on the limits set.

The Council's **Charter Halibut Management Committee is scheduled to meet on December 2, 2026, 2pm – 6pm** 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 prepared and posted under C3 on the Council eAgenda shortly thereafter.

The Council's **Charter Halibut Management Committee previously met on Oct 21, 2026.** The Committee received an ADF&G report of final estimates for 2025 halibut removals (harvest + release mortality) for Area 2C and 3A and preliminary estimates of removals for 2026. The report from this meeting is attached to the December Council eAgenda for C3, including a list of the measures requested for analysis. Additionally, the Committee also received presentations from NMFS and ADF&G staff on the first year of implementation for the charter halibut stamp. Power point presentations related to this topic are attached to the Committee's October eAgenda.

[1] IPHC meeting details: https://www.iphc.int/meetings/103rd-session-of-the-iphc-annual-meeting-am103/