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C4 Charter Halibut Management Measures for 2025

December 2024 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan

Other Presenters: Adam St. Saviour (ADF&G)

Action Required: 1. Review ADF&G analysis of proposed measures

2. Consider Charter Halibut Management Committee recommendations

3. Recommend preferred management measures for 2025

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 2025. The AP and Council will consider analysis presented by Adam St. Saviour (ADF&G Division of Sport Fish) which projects 2025 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 2025 charter halibut catch limits will not be set until the annual IPHC meeting (Jan 27-31, 2025), 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 will meet on December 3, 2024, 8am – 12pm** 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 available and posted to the <u>eAgenda</u> shortly thereafter.

The Council's **Charter Halibut Management Committee previously met on Oct 25, 2024 from** 12:30pm – 4:30pm. The Committee received an ADF&G report of final estimates for 2023 halibut removals (harvest + release mortality) for Area 2C and 3A and preliminary estimates of removals for 2024. These reports are available on the October meeting's <u>eAgenda</u>. The measures requested for analysis are detailed in the <u>Committee report</u> from October 25. The Committee also received information and updates on a number of other charter-related topics, including Guided Angler Fish usages, performance of management measures overtime, an update on the Marine Recreation Information Program for Alaska, and the upcoming implementation of the RQE halibut stamp. In addition, the Committee members received information on charter halibut permit renewal statistics and revoked permits, which is information fulfills part of the request the Council made in a December 2023 motion.