

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
Dec 3-5, 2025

E Staff Tasking Motion #1: CHLA

The AP requests the Council initiate a discussion paper of Charter Halibut Permit use and the effects of CHLAP on effort and harvest measures.

Discussion Paper should include data for each permit type- transferable, non-transferable, CQE, and Military permits -and for each Area 2C and 3A.

The Discussion Paper should include the following and may include additional information analysts find noteworthy:

1. Trends in annual renewal and retirement.
2. Trends in ownership transfer and lease transfer.
3. **Issuance of CQE CHP to non-active CQE entities.**
4. A description of the extent to which businesses exceed CHP caps through lease transfer.
5. Trends in CHP activity in terms of both trip counts and angler days. Include a description of any relationship between trends in angler-days and non-transferable CHP use.
6. Holding constant the most recent FCEY, average weight, and HPU, project the maximum effort level allowing for the following harvest measures:
 - 2C
 - U45080 reverse slot with no additional harvest measures.
 - One fish of any size with no additional harvest measures.
 - Two fish of any size with no additional harvest measures.
 - 3A
 - One fish of any size and a second fish of 28", closed Wednesdays, and a one-trip daily limit.
 - One fish of any size and a second fish of 32" with no additional harvest measures.
 - Two fish of any size with no additional harvest measures.
7. Holding constant the most recent FCEY, average weight, HPUE, and angler effort, project the maximum harvest measures available assuming full RQE pools:
 - For 2C use a reverse slot table.
 - For 3A, in order, increase size of the second fish up to 32", open up days of the week, repeal the one-trip daily limit.

Amendment passes 18-0

Amended Motion 18-0

Rationale in Support of Amended Main Motion

- *The Council has a responsibility to measure the effectiveness of its programs across time and the effects of those programs on the fisheries it manages; there is no scheduled, required review of this program like exists for other programs.*

- *There is no recent analysis on CHLAP performance or trends, or how capacity in the program relates to harvest measures available to guided anglers.*
- *There is a concern from stakeholders about the utilization of lease transfers, and specifically associated with understanding how non-transferrable CHP are being utilized.*
- *There is no comprehensive understanding of how effective the CHLAP program has been utilized, and particularly since annual registration requirements have been put into place since 2020, with the rollout of the RQE.*
- *The RQE is also scheduled for implementation in 2026. The program will lean on trend information in CHP activity and available harvest measures to make tactical decisions on quota purchases, CHP purchases, and to project revenue. Without analysis, it will be restricted in its ability to perform those tasks.*
- *The proposed discussion paper will provide important context for administrators and stakeholders for both programs. It was highlighted that this motion includes elements from a similar motion the Committee recommended in December 2024. That previous motion was not approved by the Council at that time; however, the rationale provided by the Council highlighted limited staff capacity at the time given that these staff were also engaged in efforts for the RQE funding mechanism.*
- *CQE's that have applied for CHP's are issued the permits annually regardless of their current status. There are many CQE's that were formed then dissolved or became inactive that will receive CHP's annually. It is unknown if they are being used or even if the communities know they are being issued, but they should not be issued to an entity that is not in good legal standing. This has been an issue for many years and RAM is aware of this.*

E Staff Tasking Motion #2: Unguided Sport

The AP recommends the Council bring together representatives from the following agencies: IPHC, ADFG, NOAA/NMFS and a legislative representative or their staff, from Southeast Alaska, to address the issues of the growing unguided sport fish sector halibut take. The Council could consider to focus solely on area 2C or both areas 2C and 3A in the event this issue grows across the entire sector.

Motion passes 17-0

Rationale in Support of Motion

- *This is a universally desired action from testimony given from all user groups. The unguided rental sector as a result is clearly and very effectively bypassing all management measures.*
- *This has been an issue for many years and it has been brought up in all possible forums, NPFMC, IPHC and BOF. Each time it is brought forward each agency punts it to the next and there are concerns that it can not be dealt with within one agency alone. The voices of concern*

on this issue have become louder and we urge the Council to initiate a cross agency discussion to help identify a path forward.

- *Harvest of halibut in this sector has grown by 35% in the last year and it currently doubles the guided sport harvest in area 2C. This sector does not have logbook reporting or accountability measures other than dock surveys and mail in surveys which have very little response rate. While both the commercial and guided sport have been restricted in recent years, there have been no similar harvest restrictions on this user group.*
- *The spawning stock biomass of halibut is at its lowest levels in its time series and most areas are expecting further cuts this coming year following the IPHC meeting in January 2026.*
- *There are growing concerns across all halibut user groups, commercial, guided sport, recreational and subsistence and growing concerns from other entities that also rely on halibut for PSC.*
- *There are other more serious concerns about the legality of the way the unguided vessels are being offered. This is basically a guided charter, but without a captain with local knowledge and experience operating a vessel. The areas these vessels are operating are at times in open waters and areas that experienced captains avoid. There are safety concerns and there have been accidents and even deaths of people renting these vessels.*
- *An AP member noted that all other halibut user groups are managed and the Council frequently receives testimony and requests to update management for already managed sectors, including a recent ask for the Council to consider Gulf of Alaska abundance based management for halibut.*