

Charter Implementation Committee  
Recommendations for Charter Halibut Management 2015  
December 8, 2014

Committee members present: Ed Dersham (Chairman, via phone), Seth Bone (via phone), Ken Dole (via phone), Gary Ault (via phone), Steve Zernia, Dan Donich, Andy Mezirow, Kent Huff, Richard Yamada, Stan Malcolm

The meeting convened at 3 PM, December 8, 2014. Chairman Dersham welcomed the committee members and others in attendance and described the tasks for the committee: to recommend 2015 management measures for Area 2C and Area 3A charter halibut, and to review a proposal forwarded to the Council from the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Chairman Dersham requested that Chris Oliver facilitate the meeting since Chairman Dersham was attending via teleconference.

Scott Meyer (ADF&G Sportfish Division) provided a brief summary of his analysis of proposed management measures forwarded by the Committee at their October 29 meeting, and then opened the discussion to questions about the analysis.

There were questions about the models used to project the 2015 harvest and whether they were the same as models used previously. Mr. Meyer reported that the models used for the 2015 harvest were different from the ARIMA models used for the 2014 harvest, but still employed time series forecasting. The models used for 2015 are better suited to a shorter data series, and the forecasts were based on effort and harvest per unit effort data.

There were also questions about the adjustments made to model predictions based on the difference between predicted and actual 2014 harvest and average weights. Those adjustments are shown on Tables 10 and 17 of the analysis.

Additional discussion focused the causes of the overages in Area 2A and Area 3C, and whether the tools available to measure and manage recreational harvest are appropriate and effective.

There was discussion about the intent of limiting 3A operators to one trip per day. The consensus of the 3A operators is that a trip should be limited to offload of the anglers or halibut or the end of the calendar day, whichever happens first. This would be a change from the status quo charter trip definition. Currently operators in 3A are able to conduct a single trip over two calendar days by remaining at sea overnight. This practice allows retention of two daily halibut limits on a single trip. This revised interpretation would preclude that option.

Day of the week closures were discussed and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement raised a potential enforcement issue involving multi-day charters and retention and possession of halibut on a day closed to halibut charter fishing. OLE felt that retention and possession must be prohibited on the closure day to ensure that no halibut are caught on a day of the week closure, while operators felt that records in the logs were sufficient record to ensure compliance with the daily closure, while prohibitions on possession could preclude multi-day trips over the closure period. Such a prohibition would have no biological benefits, limited benefits for enforcement but disproportionately affect the small number of operators offering multi-day trips.

Following questions and discussion, the Committee stood down to allow the Area 2C and Area 3A representatives on the committee to discuss management measures for their respective areas. The Area 2C representatives were not able to achieve consensus, however a majority of the committee members supported the management measures identified below; the Area 3A representatives were able to achieve consensus on their recommendations identified below.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR AREA 2C

- Limit of one fish per day that must be 40" or less or 80" or more.

RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT MEASURES FOR AREA 3A

- Limit of one trip per day.
- Limit of two fish per day, one fish of any size, a second fish must be 29" or less.
- Annual limit of 5 halibut.
- Day of the week closure on Thursday from June 15 through August 31.

The committee recommended that the Council should not advance the management proposal forwarded to the Council from the IPHC.

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Others present:

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Mel Grove         | PWSCBA                |
| Kristen Labrecque | Saltwater Excursions  |
| Rebecca Langton   | Fee's Custom Seafoods |
| Jacob Langton     | Fee's Custom Seafoods |
| Tim Donovan       | NOAA Enforcement      |
| Kevin Heck        | NOAA Enforcement      |
| Charlie Swanton   | ADF&G HQ              |
| Bob Powers        | ADF&G SFD             |
| Tom Brookover     | ADF&G SFD             |
| Al Cain           | ADF&G LE              |
| R. Chadwick       | ADF&G                 |
| Steve Hall        | AWT                   |
| Bill Tweit        | NPFMC                 |
| Sarah Marrinan    | NPFMC                 |
| Joel Hanson       | The Boat Company      |
| Mike Flores       | Ninilchik Charters    |
| Jim Hasbrouck     | ADF&G SFD             |
| Sarah Webster     | APU – FAST            |
| Barbi Failor      | ADF&G                 |
| Tom Gemmell       | Halibut Coalition     |
| Julie Scheurer    | NMFS                  |
| Glenn Merrill     | NNFS                  |
| Rachel Baker      | NMFS                  |
| Heather Gilroy    | IPHC                  |
| Jim Balsiger      | NMFS                  |
| Health Hilyard    | SEAGO                 |
| Nicole Kimball    | ADF&G                 |
| Dan Hull          | NPFMC                 |
| Chris Oliver      | NPFMC                 |
| Scott Meyer       | ADF&G SFD             |
| Steve MacLean     | NPFMC                 |