

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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C1 Charter Halibut Management Measures

January/February 2020 Council Meeting

Action Memo

Council Staff: Steve MacLean

Other Presenters: Sarah Webster (ADF&G)

Action Required: 1. Review Supplemental Analysis

2. Review Charter Halibut Management Committee minutes

3. Recommend management measures for Area 3A

BACKGROUND

In December 2019, the Charter Halibut Management Committee was not able to identify management measures for Area 3A that would meet the reference level of halibut removals specified at the IPHC interim meeting. The committee requested, and the Council authorized, an additional committee meeting to evaluate additional measures that may allow the charter fleet in Area 3A that could achieve the reference TCEY. At this meeting, the Council will review the supplemental analysis of additional management measures, review the committee recommendation for Area 3A, and select management measures to recommend to the IPHC for Area 3A.

Additional Area 3A Management Measures

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) analyzed the following additional measures for potential implementation in Area 3A in 2020:

- 1. Maximum size limit on one fish combined with Tuesday closures
- 2. Status quo with all Tuesdays closed and additional days closed combined with maximum size limits
- 3. Maximum size limit on one fish combined with annual limits of 2-4 fish
- 4. Maximum size limit on one fish combined with annual limits of 2 3 fish and Tuesday closures
- 5. Reverse slot limit combined with a maximum size limit and Tuesday closures
- 6. Reverse slot limit combined with a maximum size limit of 26 inches and additional closure dates
- 7. One-fish bag limit, no size limit
- 8. One-fish bag limit with reverse slot limit combined with Tuesday closures
- 9. Status quo with all days of the week open and a season closure prior to May 16 or June 1 and after July 31

Staff from ADF&G will present the supplemental analysis to the Council.

Charter Halibut Management Committee teleconference

The Charter Halibut Management Committee meets on Thursday, January 23 to review the supplemental analysis and identify their recommended management measures for Area 3A. The Charter Halibut Management Committee report will be presented to the Council during this agenda item.