



The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Charter Management Committee met on December 6, 2016 in Anchorage, AK to identify potential management measures for implementation in 2017.

Committee members in attendance: Andy Mezirow (Chairman), Kent Huff, Richard Yamada, Stan Malcolm, Daniel Donich, Matt Kopec, Steve Zernia, Mike Flores, Seth Bone, Steve MacLean (Council staff), Scott Meyer (ADF&G)

Others in attendance: Bryan Baker, Tim Cashman, Sarah Marrinan, Tom Taube, Jim Martin, Julie Scheurer, Claude Dykstra, Samantha Weinstein, Jim Hasbrouck, Tom Gemmell, Mel Erickson, Aaron Mahoney, Wally Martin, Erick Higbee, Robert Powers

#### **Area 3A Recommendations:**

The Charter Halibut Management Committee recommends the following management measures for implementation in Area 3A in 2017, each with a two-fish bag limit, maximum size limit of 28 inches on one fish, one vessel-trip per permit per day, and Wednesday charter halibut closure:

If halibut charter allocation falls within the following ranges, implement incremental closures on Tuesdays as described below, assuming each Tuesday closure reduces charter removals by an estimated 1.32%.

- Below Blue Line: close 7 Tuesdays from Jul 1 – Aug 15
- 1.778 – 1.814 million pounds: close 6 Tuesdays from July 4 – Aug 8
- 1.815 – 1.851: close 4 Tuesdays from July 11 – Aug 1
- 1.852 – 1.890: close 3 Tuesdays from July 18 – Aug 1

#### **Area 2C Recommendations:**

The Charter Halibut Management Committee recommends the following management measures for implementation in Area 2C in 2017, each with a one-fish bag limit.

- If halibut charter allocation is at the Blue Line, implement a reverse slot limit (U40:O80), with an annual limit of 3 halibut
- If halibut charter allocation is below the blue line, implement an annual limit of 3 fish, and a reverse slot limit with a maximum size limit of 80". Incrementally reduce the lower size limit until projected harvest falls within the allocation.
- If halibut charter allocation is above the Blue Line, but below SPR, implement a reverse slot limit (U40:O80) and an annual limit of not less than 4 fish. [CLARIFICATION: The intention of this recommendation is to incrementally raise the lower limit of the reverse slot to allow the largest lower limit while maintaining the projected harvest within the allocation]

- If halibut charter allocation is at the SPR, implement a reverse slot limit (U43:O80) with no annual limit.

The Charter Halibut Management Committee also noted that as the Catch Share Program has been implemented, the role of the committee could be expanded beyond the recommendation of charter allocations. The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests comment and direction from the Council on whether the committee could or should address other issues that affect charter halibut management.