



# C1 Charter Halibut Management Measures

December 2018 Council Meeting

## Action Memo

- Staff: Steve MacLean
- Other Presenters: Sarah Webster – ADF&G
- Action Required:
1. Review ADF&G analysis of recommended management measures
  2. Review Charter Halibut Committee minutes
  3. Identify preferred management measures for Area 2C and 3A in 2019

### BACKGROUND

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to recommend management measures for the Charter Halibut Sector in IPHC areas 2C and 3A, for implementation in 2019. The Council will consider the advice of their Charter Halibut Management Committee, which meets on December 3, 2018, as well as analysis by Ms. Sarah Webster, ADF&G Division of Sport Fish, of a series of potential management measures to determine which measures are likely to keep the charter sector within their allocation. Minutes from the Charter Halibut Management Committee meeting will be presented to the Council shortly thereafter.

The Charter Halibut Management Committee met on October 30, 2018 to review the sector’s performance in 2017 and 2018, and identify potential management measures for implementation in 2019. Minutes from the October meeting are posted, along with the 2018 Guided Angler Fish Report and final Area 2C and 3A harvests in 2017. The goal of the management measures is to keep the charter halibut harvest in Areas 2C and 3A within the allocation identified in the halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP). Since implementation in 2014, the charter fisheries in Areas 2C and 3A have had mixed results maintaining their catch within their area allocations (Table 1).

**Table 1. Performance of charter halibut management measures recommended annually by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council since 2014 (2018 preliminary estimates in bold italics)**

Area	Year	Management measure	Allocation <sup>a</sup>	Removals <sup>a</sup>	Overage	% overage
2C	2014	1 Fish: U44-O76 Rev. Slot	0.761	0.827	0.066	9%
	2015	1 Fish: U42-O80 Rev. Slot	0.851	0.814	-0.037	-4%
	2016	1 Fish: U43-O80 Rev. Slot	0.906	0.839	-0.067	-7%
	2017	1 Fish: U44-O80 Rev. Slot	0.915	0.943	0.028	3%
	2018	1 Fish: U38-O80 Rev Slot	0.810	<b>0.729</b>	<b>-0.081</b>	<b>-10%</b>
3A	2014	2 Fish, one ≤ 29", one trip/day	1.782	2.068	0.286	16%
	2015	2 Fish, one ≤ 29", Thurs. closed Jun 15-Aug 31, Annual limit 5 halibut, one trip/day	1.890	2.094	0.204	11%
	2016	2 Fish, one ≤ 28", Wed. closed all year, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day	1.814	2.021	0.207	11%
	2017	2 Fish, one ≤ 28", Wed. closed all year, three Thurs. closed, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day	1.890	2.089	0.199	11%
	2018	2 Fish, one ≤ 28", Wed. closed all year, six Thurs. closed, annual limit 4 halibut, one trip/day	1.790	<b>1.867</b>	<b>0.077</b>	<b>4%</b>

<sup>a</sup> Million Pounds

Area 2C charter fisheries have been over their allocation by as much as 9%, and below their allocation by as much as 10% (estimated for 2018). Area 3A, however, has consistently been over their allocation by 11% - 16%, except for the preliminary estimate for 2018, which is 4% over the allocation. When the Catch Sharing Plan was adopted by the Council in 2012, the Council recognized that management measures are imprecise, and a small variance can be expected to occur around the target allocation. The Council's expectation was that the variances would balance over time.

At the Charter Halibut Management Committee meeting on October 30, the committee requested a series of potential management measures for analysis by the ADF&G Division of Sport Fish to determine which measures are likely to keep the charter sector within their allocation. The measures requested for analysis are shown below:

#### Area 3A Recommendations

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requested the following management measures for analysis in Area 3A with the following status quo regulations (unless noted): a two-fish bag limit, 28-inch maximum size limit on one fish, 4-fish annual limit, one vessel-trip per permit per day, Wednesday charter halibut closure, closure of halibut fishing on six Tuesdays from mid-July through mid-August:

- Status quo,
- Additional closures on Tuesdays from June – August,
- Additional closures on other days of the week from June – August,
- 28-inch maximum size limit on one fish, a second fish with a reverse slot limit (U35-50:O50-80)
- Reduction (> 28 inches) in size of second fish.

#### Area 2C Recommendations

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requested the following management measures for analysis in Area 2C with the following status quo regulations (unless noted): one-fish daily bag limit, retained halibut must be less than or equal to 38 inches or greater than or equal to 80 inches in length (reverse slot limit):

- Status quo
- Reverse slot limit (U35-50: O50-80)
- Annual limit of 1-5 fish
- Trip limits of 1 trip per permit per vessel per day
- Closure of one day per week