

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Charter Halibut Management Committee Minutes 10/10/17

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee (Committee) met on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 to develop a list of management measures for analysis by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for possible implementation in 2018.

Committee members in attendance: Andy Mezirow (Chairman), Daniel Donich, Matt Kopek, Steve Zernia, Steve MacLean (Council staff) Scott Meyer (ADF&G), John Abel (ph), Stan Malcolm (ph), Richard Yamada (ph), Seth Bone (ph).

Others in attendance: Jamie Goen, Kurt Iverson, John Lepore, Sarah Marrinan (Council staff), Tom Taube, Mel Erickson, Randy Wells, Samantha Weinstein, Bob Powers, Tom Gemmell.

Scott Meyer presented preliminary estimates of the 2017 charter halibut harvest for Areas 2C and 3A. Preliminary estimates are 3.9% over allocation for Area 2C¹ and 10.7% over allocation for Area 3A.

Area 3A Recommendations

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests 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 three Tuesdays from mid-July through mid-August:

- Status quo,
- Additional closures on Tuesdays from June – August,
- A bag limit of one fish of any size
- 28-inch maximum size limit on one fish, a second fish with a reverse slot limit (U35-60:O60-80)

Area 2C Recommendations

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests 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 44 inches or greater than or equal to 80 inches in length (reverse slot limit):

- Status quo
- Reverse slot limit (U35-50: O50-80)

Other Charter Halibut concerns

Chairman Mezirow introduced two letters that were received by the Council related to charter halibut issues, and explained that the Council has agreed to expand the role of the Committee beyond suggesting management measures for the upcoming year. Mr. Mezirow also introduced the charter halibut related discussion papers that the Council will be reviewing at the December meeting, and reminded the Committee that they will be reviewing and providing comment on the discussion papers at the upcoming December Committee meeting. No action was taken at this time.

¹ Some fish released in Area 2C were incorrectly classified by size. Reevaluation of data resulted in estimate of Area 2C charter removals of 0.921Mlb, 0.07% over the Area 2C allocation.

Future meetings

The International Pacific Halibut Commission will hold their interim meeting on November 28-29. The Charter Halibut Management Committee suggests Monday, December 4 for their next meeting.