

# Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet

Agenda Item C-1(g) Halibut CHARTER 2C AHL

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1	<del>Pat Murphy</del> DONNA BOND	10/1 self
2	Bob Howard	Self
3	<del>Bill Norvell</del> Bill Norvell	<del>Self</del> self
4	Bob Ahrens	FVQA-WA STATE -
5	<del>DANIEL DANICH</del>	<del>DANIEL'S PERS. GUIDE SERV</del>
6	ROARKE BROWN	HOMER OCEAN CHARTERS
7	Donald E. Westlund	SILVER KING CHARTERS
8	Verni Hauke	Puffin Fishing Charters
9	Seth Bone	State charter boat operators Association
10	Patrick Binkley	League of the Fish Charters
11	David Pinguoich	AK Good Time Charters
12	Sean Martin	North Country Charters
13	Gerri Martin	MRS. North Country Charters
14	Joe Sumborski	Self
15	Gary Ault	Self
16	<del>Mike Swan</del> <del>Bank Brand</del>	<del>Self</del> <del>Homer Ocean</del>
17	Robert Ward	Homer Charter Assoc
18	<del>Don Hult</del> Kew L. Larson	PRINCE WILL SHO CBA (ORGANIZATION SECRETARY)
19	Anne Williams	self
20	AURORA PEDERSEN	COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN
21	LEW SHELTON	State/Union Coalition
22	<del>BURNIS W SIMS</del>	<del>R.F.A.</del>
23	<del>DEBORAH SIMS</del>	<del>SELF</del>
24	<del>RICHARD WEST</del>	<del>SELF</del>
25	RICK BIERMAN	Trainer Charter Boat Operators

test. 3/29 pm

test. 3/29

NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

# Public Testimony Sign-Up Sheet

## Agenda Item C-1(g) Halibut Charter 2C GHL

	NAME (PLEASE PRINT)	AFFILIATION
1	Tory O'Connell	Coastal Marine Research
2	Ann Bayes	Self
3	JEFF FARVOUR	commercial Fishermen
4	Dan Hull	CDFW
5	<del>Rick Bierman Duplicate</del>	Tuneau Charter Boat Owners
6	Linda Behnken	ALFA
7	Oystein Lore	Deep Sea Fishermen Union
8	Greg Suttler	Alaska Charter Assoc
9	Dan Falvey	HALIBUT COALITION
10	TINA MANANLEE	ISLANDVIEW RESORT
11	Joel Hanson	THE BOAT COMPANY
12	Kathy Hanson	SEAK Fishermen's Alliance
13	Cora Crane	Pkg Vessel Owners
14	TIM EVERS	DEEP CREEK Charter Boat Assoc.
15	MAC M'QUARRIE	SPORTSMAN GOLF LODGE
16	<del>Ann Bayes Duplicate</del>	Self
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		

NOTE to persons providing oral or written testimony to the Council: Section 307(1)(I) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act prohibits any person "to knowingly and willfully submit to a Council, the Secretary, or the Governor of a State false information (including, but not limited to, false information regarding the capacity and extent to which a United State fish processor, on an annual basis, will process a portion of the optimum yield of a fishery that will be harvested by fishing vessels of the United States) regarding any matter that the Council, Secretary, or Governor is considering in the course of carrying out this Act.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council, SSC and AP Members  
FROM: *DO for*  
Chris Oliver  
Executive Director  
DATE: March 19, 2007  
SUBJECT: Charter Halibut Management

ESTIMATED TIME 16 HOURS (all C-1 items)
---

ACTION REQUIRED

Initial Review of Analysis of Area 2C Guideline Harvest Measures

BACKGROUND

In December 2006, the Council rescinded its April 2006 preferred alternative for a 5-fish annual charter halibut limit in Area 2C to reduce harvests to the guideline harvest level of (GHL), after receiving a recommendation by NMFS to rescind its action based on high implementation costs. This action was initially selected due to a 22 percent overage of the 1.432 million pound GHL in that area in 2004. In 2006, harvests exceeded the Area 2C GHL by more than 40 percent.

The Council requested that the analysis (to reduce charter halibut harvests to the Area 2C GHL) be augmented by adding a number of proposed management measures. The intent is that one or more of these measures would achieve the needed level of harvest reduction. In addition to the no action alternative, the Council is considering the following eight options under Alternative 2 to reduce halibut harvests to the GHL (1.432 million pounds) in Area 2C:

- (1) No more than one trip per vessel per day;
- (2) No harvest by skipper and crew;
- (3) Annual limits of four fish or five fish per angler;
- (4) Reduced bag limits of one fish per day in July, August, or for the entire season;
- (5) A one-fish bag limit with the option to harvest a second fish larger than 45 inches, 50 inches, 55 inches, or 60 inches;
- (6) Closing the season after August 15th, September 1st, or September 15th;
- (7) Closing one or more days during the week to halibut fishing;
- (8) A minimum size limit of 32 inches.

The analysis was mailed to the Council on March 12, 2007. The executive summary is attached as Item C-1(g). Final action is scheduled for June 2007. Implementation is intended for 2008.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This analysis assesses the potential biological, social, and economic impacts of implementing regulations to control harvests in the charter halibut fisheries in International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Area 2C. The proposed action was initiated in October 2005, when the Council reviewed Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) data that indicated that the 2004 guideline harvest level (GHL) in both areas had been exceeded. In response, the Council developed an analysis of alternatives for implementing management options to reduce harvests below the GHLs, as identified in the Council's GHL policy. The Council selected a 5-fish annual limit as its preferred alternative for Area 2C in April 2006. The Council subsequently rescinded its preferred alternative, upon request by NMFS because of high implementation and enforcement costs. At that same time, ADF&G data for 2005 and 2006 indicated that the GHL had been exceeded by increasing levels in those two years. The Council added several management options to Alternative 2, which resulted in this revised analysis.

The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce charter halibut harvests in Area 2C to the GHL. The GHL is intended to stop the reallocation from the commercial to charter sector. In addition to the no action alternative, the Council is considering the following eight options under Alternative 2 to reduce halibut harvests to the GHL of 1.432 Mlb in Area 2C.

- Option 1- No more than one trip per vessel per day;
- Option 2- No harvest by skipper and crew;
- Option 3-Annual limits of four fish or five fish per angler;
- Option 4-Reduced bag limits of one fish per day in July, July, August, or for the entire season;
- Option 5- A one-fish bag limit with the option to harvest a second fish larger than 45 inches, 50 inches, 55 inches, or 60 inches;
- Option 6-Closing the season after August 15<sup>th</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, or September 15<sup>th</sup>;
- Option 7- Closing one or more days during the week to halibut fishing;
- Option 8- A minimum size limit of 32 inches.

### Expected Effect of Each Option or Sub-Option

The analysis estimates that while the management options would result in reduced charter industry halibut harvest, the amount of the reduction varies widely between the options. The sections below briefly summarize the result of each option. More detailed discussions of each option are included in Section 2.6.

#### Option 1 – Effect of No More than One Trip per Day

Option 1, a limit on vessels of no more than one trip per day, would have reduced harvest in 2006 between 0.038 and 0.049 Mlb (between 1.8 and 2.4 percent). With this option, the GHL overage would have stood at between 138.7 percent and 139.5 percent of the GHL, instead of 142.1 percent (Table 1). The analysis showed that "second trips" of the day for halibut are increasing as a percentage of overall trips, but still represent a relatively small portion of overall effort (Section 2.6). Key informant interviews indicated that a very small portion of the charter fleet in Area 2C relies on this business model. More interviewees viewed this option as the least painful for the industry.

**Table 1. Summary Effect of No More than One Trip per Day**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlb)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHJ Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHJ (%)
One Trip per Day	Lower Bound	0.038	1.8	2.6	139.5
	Upper Bound	0.049	2.4	3.4	138.7

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.

### Option 2 – Effect of No Harvest by Skipper and Crew

Effective May 26, 2006, ADF&G banned harvest by skipper and crew while paying clients are on a charter vessel. The analysis expects ADF&G to renew the emergency order (EO) this year. Data from 2006 indicate that the prohibition saved between 3.8 and 4.2 percent of the harvest (Table 2). This range is consistent with previous estimates (NPFMC, 2006). The analysis expects that continuation of the prohibition, either under an EO or as a change in federal regulation, would reduce future harvests by approximately 4 percent. This estimate is included in the modeled effects under the no action alternative.

**Table 2. Summary Effect of a No Harvest by Skipper and Crew**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlb)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest
No Harvest By Skipper and Crew	Lower bound	0.078	3.8%
	Upper Bound	0.086	4.2%

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.

### Option 3 – Effect of an Annual Limit

Option 3, an annual limit of either four or five fish, would have reduced harvest in 2006 by 0.190 (five-fish limit) and 0.335 Mlb (four-fish limit). These amounts are equal to between 9.3 percent and 16.3 percent of the 2006 harvest, respectively. With these options, the GHJ overage would have stood at between 128.7 percent and 118.7 percent, respectively instead of the estimated 142.1 percent (Table 3). While key informant interviewees reported that this option would disproportionately affect operators of lodges and multi-day packages, lodge operators indicated that this option is preferable to other options. The four-fish limit is the only option, aside from a change in the bag limit, which results in a more than a 20 percent decline in the GHJ overage. NMFS has expressed concerns about the enforcement costs of this option. However, the analysis notes that the 2006 logbooks have lowered enforcement costs because they track angler harvest by sport fishing license number.

**Table 3. Summary Effect of an Annual Limit**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlb)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHJ Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHJ (%)
Annual Limit	Four Fish	0.335	16.4	23.4	118.7
	Five Fish	0.190	9.3	13.3	128.8

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.

#### **Option 4 – Effect of Lower Bag Limits**

Option 4 would lower the daily bag limit from two halibut to one halibut in June, July, August, or for the entire season. This option could reduce demand for charter halibut trips. Key informant interviews and a review of the peer-review literature indicate that the expected demand reduction could be as high as 30 percent. Two estimates are presented for each suboption (Table 4). These address: (1) the effect of the option without any demand reduction, and (2) the effect of the option with a 30-percent demand reduction. For the full season bag limit reduction, the demand reduction is likely to be within these two points. The month-long bag limit reductions are more complicated, as anglers can transfer effort to other months. Data are not available to help predict the magnitude of these transfers. However, key informant interviews suggest that the demand reduction and demand transfers may cancel each other out, and that the base estimate of no demand decline may stand as the best estimate of the option's overall effect.

The analysis estimates that:

- A reduction in bag limit in June 2006 would have reduced total season harvest between 0.204 and 0.297 Mlb, which is equivalent to between 10.0 percent and 14.6 percent of the total 2006 harvest. As noted above, key informant interviews indicated that, between demand transfer and demand reduction, the base estimate of 10 percent may be the best estimate.
- A reduction in bag limit in July 2006 would have reduced total season harvest between 0.295 and 0.430 Mlb, which is equivalent to between 14.5 percent and 21.1 percent of the total 2006 harvest. As noted above, key informant interviews indicated that the base estimate of 14.5 percent might be the best estimate.
- A reduction in bag limit in August 2006 would have reduced total season harvest between 0.244 and 0.356 Mlb, which is equivalent to between 12.0 percent and 17.5 percent of the total 2006 harvest. As noted above, key informant interviews indicated that the base estimate of 12 percent might be the best estimate.
- The full season bag limit reduction would have reduced total season harvest between 0.808 and 1.178 Mlb, which is equivalent to a 39.7 and 57.9 percent reduction in the harvest. This level of reduction would have reduced the GHL overage from 142.1 percent of the GHL to between 59.9 percent and 85.7 percent of the GHL.

These results do not include changes in discard mortality, because discard mortality is not included in IPHC calculations for the charter fleet. However, the full discussion of this analysis in Section 2.6 discusses this effect on these estimates. Additionally, these estimates do not include a shift towards higher average weight. As discussed in Section 2.6, there is not enough information about angler behavior to make reliable estimates of this type of shift.

Key informant interviewees indicated that a June or August bag limit reduction would be preferable to a July or full-season reduction because many operators depend on halibut between the King and Coho salmon seasons. Operators indicated a full-season reduction would be highly detrimental to their businesses and rated this option toward the bottom of the eight considered here. Conversely, a full season bag limit reduction has the highest benefit for the commercial fleet.

**Table 4. Summary Effect of Lower Bag Limits**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlb)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
June One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.204	10.0	14.2	127.9
	30% Demand Decline	0.297	14.6	20.7	121.4
July One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.295	14.5	20.6	121.5
	30% Demand Decline	0.430	21.1	30.0	112.1
August One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.244	12.0	17.1	125.1
	30% Demand Decline	0.356	17.5	24.9	117.3
Full Season One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.808	39.7	56.4	85.7
	30% Demand Decline	1.178	57.9	82.2	59.9

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.

### Option 5 – Effect of Size Limits for Second Fish

Option 5 would establish a one-fish bag limit, with an option to harvest a second fish above a minimum length. The option includes four sub-options of establishing a 45 inch, 50 inch, 55 inch, or 60 inch minimum length for the second fish. As with Option 4, it may reduce angler demand for charter trips. However, key informant interviewees indicated that this option would likely lead to a much smaller reduction in demand than a full-season bag limit reduction. They estimated demand reductions could be about 10 percent (Table 5). This summary presents the no demand decline and 10 percent demand decline scenarios as high and low estimates of the potential effects of these options. The analysis estimates that:

- A 45 inch minimum length on the second fish would have reduced 2006 harvest in Area 2C between 0.434 and 0.597 Mlb. These amounts are equivalent to a 21.3 and 29.3 percent decline in 2006 harvest. The GHL overage would have declined from 142.1 percent of the GHL to between 100.4 percent and 111.8 percent of the GHL.
- A 50 inch minimum length on the second fish would have reduced 2006 harvest in Area 2C between 0.516 and 0.671 Mlb. These amounts are equivalent to a 25.4 and 33.0 percent decline in 2006 harvest. The GHL overage would have declined from 142.1 percent of the GHL to between 95.3 percent and 106.0 percent of the GHL.
- A 55 inch minimum length on the second fish would have reduced 2006 harvest in Area 2C between 0.604 and 0.749 Mlb. These amounts are equivalent to a 29.7 and 36.8 percent decline in 2006 harvest. The GHL overage would have declined from 142.1 percent of the GHL to between 89.8 percent and 99.9 percent of the GHL.
- A 60 inch minimum length on the second fish would have reduced 2006 harvest in Area 2C between 0.684 and 0.822 Mlb. These amounts are equivalent to a 33.6 and 40.4 percent decline in 2006 harvest. The GHL overage would have declined from 142.1 percent of the GHL to between 84.7 percent and 94.3 percent of the GHL.

As with Option 4, these results do not include changes in discard mortality. However, the full discussion of this analysis in Section 2.6 discusses the effect of discard mortality on these estimates.

**Table 5. Summary Effect of Size Limits for a Second fish**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlb)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
Option For A Second Fish-45*	No Demand Decline	0.434	21.3	30.3	111.8
	10% Demand Decline	0.597	29.3	41.7	100.4
Option For A Second Fish-50*	No Demand Decline	0.516	25.4	36.1	106.0
	10% Demand Decline	0.671	33.0	46.9	95.3
Option For A Second Fish-55*	No Demand Decline	0.604	29.7	42.2	99.9
	10% Demand Decline	0.749	36.8	52.3	89.8
Option For A Second Fish-60*	No Demand Decline	0.684	33.6	47.8	94.3
	10% Demand Decline	0.822	40.4	57.4	84.7

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.

### Option 6 – Effect of Season Closure Dates

Option 6 establishes a season ending date of August 15<sup>th</sup>, August 31<sup>st</sup>, or September 15<sup>th</sup>. Based on key informant interviews, the economic effects of this option and its efficacy are highly correlated. The earlier the closing date, the more effective the option is at lowering harvest and the higher the likelihood that businesses will not be able to make the minimum number of client days at sea they need to stay open. The analysis found that:

- An ending date of August 15<sup>th</sup> would have reduced expected harvest by 0.334 Mlb or 16.4 percent of the 2006 harvest (Table 6). This date would have reduced the GHL overage from 142.1 percent to 118.8 percent.
- An ending date of August 31<sup>st</sup> would have reduced expected harvest by 0.076 Mlb or 3.7 percent of the 2006 harvest. This date would have reduced the GHL overage from 142.1 percent to 136.8 percent.
- An ending date of September 15<sup>th</sup> would have reduced expected harvest by 0.015 Mlb or 0.7 percent of the 2006 harvest. This date would have reduced the GHL overage from 142.1 percent to 14.1 percent.

These estimates do not account for some anglers who may fish before the closure date. These estimates should be viewed as the short-term effect of the options, with an increasing reduction in long-term efficacy the longer this option is in place. These estimates essentially assume that the closure date was announced mid-season and no anglers were able to adapt to the change. There are no empirical data that would allow the analysis to estimate how quickly anglers would adapt.

**Table 6. Summary Effect of a Season Closure Date**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlb)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
Season Closure	Aug 15th	0.334	16.4	23.3	118.8
	Aug 31st	0.076	3.7	5.3	136.8
	Sept 15th	0.015	0.7	1.0	141.1

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.



## Option 7 – Effect of the Day of the Week Closures

Option 7 provides an option to close a day of the week to halibut charter fishing. As noted in Section 2.6, the difference in effort and harvest between days is very small, so the analysis provides the estimated effect of closing a generic day. The analysis estimates that a one-day closure would reduce harvest by 0.087 Mlb or 4.3 percent of total 2006 harvest (Table 7). This estimates accounts for the fact that most anglers would be able to find replacement seats on vessels during other days of the week. This reduction would have reduced the GHL coverage from 142.1 percent of the GHL to 136.0 percent of the GHL. A two-day closure is more effective, because a lower percentage of displaced anglers would find replacement seats. The analysis estimates that a two-day closure would have lowered 2006 harvest by 0.291 Mlb or 14.3 percent.

**Table 7. Summary Effect of a Day of the Week Closure**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlb)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
Weekday Closure	One Day-Best Estimate	0.087	4.3	6.1	136.0
	Two Days-Best Estimate	0.291	14.3	20.3	121.8

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.

Key informant interviews indicated that the economic effects of this option would disproportionately fall on operators with the highest investment in fixed assets whose business model consists of going out every day or nearly every day. Part-time operators would be less affected if they had flexibility to move their operating days around the closure. Additionally, the analysis shows that communities where cruise ships only call on one or two days per week could disproportionate effects if the closure date coincided with cruise visits.

## Option 8 – Effect of Minimum Size Limits

Empirical evidence from other halibut fisheries (e.g., Area 2A) indicate that minimum size limits in the past resulted in increases in total harvest weight (IPHC 2007), rather than expected declines. The analysis in Section 2.6 shows that if one-in-three fish saved by the minimum size limit is replaced by an average sized fish from above the minimum size limit, then the total harvest weight will increase. The analysis shows that replacement fish do not have to be extraordinarily large fish. Simply replacing better than one in three 9-10 lb fish with a 27-30 lb fish will result in an increase in total harvest weight (Table 8). While IPHC survey data show that this type of replacement is possible, several key informant interviewees indicated that this type of replacement would have been difficult in 2006 because the commercial and charter fleets were clustered closer to shore because of high fuel costs.

**Table 8. Summary Effect of Minimum Size Limits**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlb)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
Minimum Size Limit of 32"	No Sub Option	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.

Key informant interviewees indicated that in certain sub-areas, anglers would have difficulty replacing fish below the limit with fish above the limit. Operators in Sitka and Ketchikan indicated that replacing these fish would be nearly impossible during a standard trip. Thus, certain sub-areas may experience reductions in harvest weight.

For these reasons, it is not possible to accurately predict the effect of this option. While empirical data suggest the possibility of increased total harvest weight for the entire area, key informant interviewees indicate that some savings would likely be seen in the certain sub-areas. Hence, the overall effect of the option is very unclear. For quick reference, Table 9 shows the estimated affect all of the options as if they had been in place in 2006.

**Table 9. Effect of Options of Charter Industry Halibut Harvest (2006) in Area 2C**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlb)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
One Trip per Day	Lower Bound	0.038	1.8	2.6	139.5
	Upper Bound	0.049	2.4	3.4	138.7
Annual Limit	Four Fish	0.335	16.4	23.4	118.7
	Five Fish	0.190	9.3	13.3	128.8
No Harvest by Skipper and Crew	Lower bound	0.078	3.8	N/A	N/A
	Upper Bound	0.086	4.2	N/A	N/A
June One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.204	20.4	14.2	127.9
	30% Demand Decline	0.297	14.6	20.7	121.4
July One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.295	14.5	20.6	121.5
	30% Demand Decline	0.430	21.1	30.0	112.1
August One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.244	12.0	17.1	125.1
	30% Demand Decline	0.356	17.5	24.9	117.3
Full Season One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.808	39.7	56.4	85.7
	30% Demand Decline	1.178	57.9	82.2	59.9
Option For A Second Fish-45"	No Demand Decline	0.434	21.3	30.3	111.8
	10% Demand Decline	0.597	29.3	41.7	100.4
Option For A Second Fish-50"	No Demand Decline	0.516	25.4	36.1	106.0
	10% Demand Decline	0.671	33.0	46.9	95.3
Option For A Second Fish-55"	No Demand Decline	0.604	29.7	42.2	99.9
	10% Demand Decline	0.749	36.8	52.3	89.8
Option For A Second Fish-60"	No Demand Decline	0.684	33.6	47.8	94.3
	10% Demand Decline	0.822	40.4	57.4	84.7
Season Closure	Aug 15th	0.334	16.4	23.3	118.8
	Aug 31st	0.076	3.7	5.3	136.8
	Sept 15th	0.015	0.7	1.0	141.1
Weekday Closure	One Day-Best Estimate	0.087	4.3	6.1	136.0
	Two Days-Best Estimate	0.291	14.3	20.3	121.8
Minimum Size Limit of 32"	No Sub Option	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.

Table 10 shows all of the sub-options (including accompanying high and low ranges discussed above) ordered by their effect on the GHL. For example, a full-season, one-fish bag limit with the upper estimate of demand reduction (30 percent) would have reduced 2006 harvest by 82.2 percent of the GHL. This number means that harvest as a portion of the GHL would fall by 82.2 points from 142.1 percent to 59.9 percent of the GHL.

**Table 10. Effect of Options Ordered by Reduction in the GHL**

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	2006 Harvest as Portion of the GHL with this Option
Full Season One-fish bag limit	30% Demand Decline	82.2	59.9
Option For A Second Fish-60" Minimum Size	10% Demand Decline	57.4	84.7
Full Season One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	56.4	85.7
Option For A Second Fish-55" Minimum Size	10% Demand Decline	52.3	89.8
Option For A Second Fish-60" Minimum Size	No Demand Decline	47.8	94.3
Option For A Second Fish-50" Minimum Size	10% Demand Decline	46.9	95.2
Option For A Second Fish-55" Minimum Size	No Demand Decline	42.2	99.9
Option For A Second Fish-45" Minimum Size	10% Demand Decline	41.7	100.4
Option For A Second Fish-50" Minimum Size	No Demand Decline	36.1	106.0
Option For A Second Fish-45" Minimum Size	No Demand Decline	30.3	111.8
July One-fish bag limit	30% Demand Decline	30.0	112.1
August One-fish bag limit	30% Demand Decline	24.9	117.2
Annual Limit	Four Fish	23.4	118.7
Season Closure	Aug 15th	23.3	118.8
June One-fish bag limit	30% Demand Decline	20.7	121.4
July One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	20.6	121.5
Weekday Closure	Two Days-Best Estimate	20.3	121.8
August One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	17.1	125.0
June One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	14.2	127.9
Annual Limit	Five Fish	13.3	128.8
Weekday Closure	One Day-Best Estimate	6.1	136.0
No Harvest by Skipper and Crew	Upper Bound	6.0	136.1
No Harvest by Skipper and Crew	Lower Bound	5.4	136.7
Season Closure	Aug 31st	5.3	136.8
One Trip per Day	Upper Bound	3.4	138.7
One Trip per Day	Lower Bound	2.6	139.5
Season Closure	Sept 15th	1.0	141.1
Minimum Size Limit	No Sub Option	Unclear	Unclear

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. estimates based ADF&G Logbook and Statewide Harvest Survey Data.

One important feature of Table 10 is that it clearly shows that the only stand-alone options that bring harvest down close to the GHL are the bag limit reduction options (including the option for a second fish above a minimum size). The most effective single option other than a bag limit reduction is the annual limit of four fish. This option is also one of the more acceptable options to operators, although NMFS has recommended against its implementation due to its costs.

Another important feature is that Table 10 shows which options have high and low estimates that bracket the GHL. For example, a 50" minimum size limit on the second fish would likely have results in harvest equivalent to between 95.2 percent and 106.0 percent of the GHL.

Table 11 provides a qualitative summary of the effects by option, including charter industry preference based on key informant interviews and qualitative estimates on the benefits of each option to the commercial sector. Generally, charter operators preferred options that provided the least disruption of current business models, while commercial benefits are directly tied to the magnitude and durability of the harvest reductions that the options provide. Key informant interviews indicated that charter operators may prefer no retention by skipper and crew, second fish of a specified minimum size, and annual limit options. Interviewees rate the one-fish bag limit, season closure dates, and weekday closure dates as the most disruptive options. From a commercial perspective, the best options are the one-fish bag limit, the second fish of a minimum specified size, and the annual limit option, in that order.

**Table 11. Qualitative Summary of Effects by Option**

Option	Expected Size and Durability of Reductions	Effects on Industry	Effect on State Managed Fisheries
One Trip per Vessel per Day	1.8 to 2.4% reduction in harvest. Anglers will likely adapt rapidly.	Relatively minor effects on the charter industry excepting those businesses that focus on multiple trips per day. Minor benefits for the commercial industry.	State managers expect a concurrent minor reduction in the harvest of some associated species.
No Retention by Skipper and Crew	3.8 to 4.2% reduction. Skipper and crew demand shifts to non-guided recreational sector	Most preferred option for the charter industry with modest benefits for the commercial industry.	State managers expect a concurrent minor reduction in the harvest of some associated species.
Annual Limit	9.3 to 16.4 percent reduction depending on the annual limit. Reduction are likely durable.	Generally, the second most preferred option by the charter industry. Commercial industry would receive sizable benefits.	State managers expect a modest to significant increase in the charter harvest of available salmon species, lingcod, and rockfish.
One-fish bag limit	Reductions of between 10 percent and 60 percent depending on the temporal length of the bag limit reduction. Reductions are likely more durable.	Highest economic effect on the charter industry with the highest benefits for the commercial fleet. Least preferred option for the charter industry.	State managers expect a significant increase in the charter harvest of available salmon species, lingcod, and rockfish.
Option for a Second Fish with a Minimum Length	Reductions of between 21 percent and 40 percent depending on the minimum length for the second fish. Reductions are likely more durable.	Minor demand reductions expected, but a generally acceptable option for much of the charter fleet particularly at the lower minimum lengths. Modest to high benefits for the commercial fleet.	Charter harvest of state managed species would likely increase by modest amounts.
Season Closure Dates	Reductions of less than 1 percent to more than 16 percent depending on when the season closes. Anglers will flexible schedules will adapt rapidly after the first year.	Early season closure dates would likely close businesses while the later closure dates would only have minor effects. Modest, but significant benefits for the commercial fleet from an earlier season closure date.	Harvest of Coho salmon and other species available after the season closure would increase.
Weekday Closure	Expect an approximately 4.3 percent reduction for a single day or approximately 14 percent for a two-day closure. Most anglers will adapt very rapidly.	One of the least preferred options for the charter industry with minor benefits for the commercial fleet.	All effort on the closed day would shift to state managed species. While overall effort on that day would likely be lower than in the past, there could be a modest effect on state manage species.
Minimum Size Limit	Likely to reduce the number of fish harvested with the possibility of localized savings. Overall effects could be small savings or could result in an increase in overall harvest weight for the entire area.	Could harm the commercial fleet if the total weight increases while increasing costs for the charter fleet.	Charter harvest of state managed species would likely increase by modest amounts.

## **Combining Options**

All of the options listed above can be combined with one another with the exception of the bag limit reduction and the option for a second fish exceeding a minimum size, as this latter option simply modifies the former. However, while the options are combinable, it is inappropriate to simply add their estimated effects as many of the options interact with each other. For example, it would be inappropriate to add the effects of a season closure date and a reduction in annual limit because some of the anglers who caught fish under the annual limit might have caught them after the proposed season closure date. Attributing the reduction to both the season closure date and the annual limit would double count the effect of the combined alternative on that angler. In this specific case, the 2006 logbook data would allow ADF&G to determine the portion of estimated savings attributable to an annual limit which would have occurred after specific season closure dates. This capability did not exist before 2006. However, the expedited nature of this analysis only allowed ADF&G time to conduct the analysis necessary to estimate the effects of each proposed option and sub-option. Including sub-options, but excluding the option for no harvest for skipper and crew, leads to more than 50 possible two-option combinations. Thus, even a qualitative discussion would take more time than was available for this analysis. The best the analysis can say is that adding the estimated effect of options together provides a more-than-maximum level estimate of how a combination of options would work together.

## **Overall and Long-Term Efficacy of the Options and Management Options**

The analysis notes that the long-term efficacy of each of the options is likely to be limited by strategic responses to the proposed management options. For example, lowering bag limits during one portion of the season will shift demand to other times of the year. Similarly, season closure dates and closure of specific days of the week will also shift effort. Thus, the estimates for these options should be seen as short-term maximum effects rather than long-term estimates. The efficacy of annual limits is likely to be limited by the substitution of bare-boat charters and other self-guided activities because charter-based trips could become less attractive with the annual limit. Again, the harvest resulting from this behavior would not count against the GHL, but would be counted in the IPHC's deductions for total sport catch from Total CEY. Finally, it should be anticipated that a response to restrictive bag limits in Area 2C may be a shift in pressure to Area 3A where no bag limit is currently being discussed.

---

## ■ Limiting Area 2C Charter Halibut Harvests-Proposed Management Options

---

*Presentation to*

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

Jonathan King

March 2007



---

## ■ Proposed Management Options

---



1. **1 trip per vessel per day**
2. **No retention by skipper or crew**
3. **Annual catch limits**
  - 4/5 halibut
4. **1 fish bag limit**
  - June/July/August/Entire Season
5. **Second Fish with a Size Limit**
  - Applies to 2<sup>nd</sup> fish at 45/50/55/60 inches
6. **Season Closure Dates**
  - 8/15,8/31,9/15
7. **Day of Week Closure**
8. **Minimum Size Limit of 32 Inches**

## Data and Methods



Data used for this analysis include 2006 logbook data and estimates based on SWHS trends. All 2006 data is preliminary.

We use the same analysis methods as prior analyses on the same topic.

The data for many of the options do not include the ability to create statistically valid upper and lower bound estimates.

The estimates in the report are "maximum effect" as anglers and operators will adapt rapidly to many measures.

## I Trip per Vessel per Day-Estimated Effects



- Restricts vessels to one trip per day where halibut is retained.
- Estimated effect is between 38,000 lbs and 49,000 lbs under 2006 conditions or between 1.8 and 2.4 percent of the harvest.
- Estimated reduction as a portion of the GHL would be 2.6 to 3.4 percentage points.

Sub-Option	Expected Reduction (Mlbs)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
Lower Bound	0.038	1.8	2.6	139.5
Upper Bound	0.049	2.4	3.4	138.7

## I Trip per Vessel per Day-Comments



- Second trips of the day for halibut are still a relatively small portion of overall effort (2.6 percent), but that portion is up over recent years.
- The portion of vessels that took at least one "second trip" for halibut during a year increased from 15.1 percent of vessels to 25.1 percent of vessels between 1998 and 2006.
- It is likely that second trip effort is concentrated amongst a few vessels.
- Reductions from this measure will likely be short-lived given that anglers can adapt rapidly.

## No Retention by Skipper & Crew-Estimated Effects



- Bans the retention of halibut by skipper and crew while on charter trips. In 2006 retention was banned by State Emergency Order.
- The reduction in harvest associated with this E.O. was approximately 86,000 pounds or 4.2 percent of harvest.
- ADF&G has indicated they will continue the same policy in 2007.

Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlbs)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest
Lower bound	0.078	3.8%
Upper Bound	0.086	4.2%



## No Retention by Skipper & Crew-Comments



- ADF&G has indicated they intend to extend the E.O. in 2007 and beyond.
- Federal adoption of the ban would make it permanent.
- Long-term savings could be expected to be about 4 percent of harvest. However, those saving are already accounted for in the analysis assumptions.

## Annual Catch Limits- Estimated Effects



- Measure has two sub-options limiting anglers to 4 or 5 fish annually.
- The 4 fish limit would reduce harvest by approximately 335,000 pounds (16.4 percent of 2006 harvest).
- The 5 fish limit would reduce harvest by approximately 190,000 pounds (9.3 percent of 2006 harvest).
- The 4 fish limit is the most effective option that does not change the daily bag limit.

Sub-Option	Expected Reduction (Mlbs)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
Four Fish	0.335	16.4	23.4	118.7
Five Fish	0.190	9.3	13.3	128.8

## Annual Trip Limit-Comments



- A 5 fish limit would affect 10 percent of charter clients while a 4 fish limit would affect 18 percent of all Area 2C charter clients based on 2006 data.
- The effect of the limit would fall disproportionately on charter operators that focus on multi-day packages or in-season repeat customers. That said, interviews with operators that provide these experiences indicated broader support for this measure than previous analyses documented.
- Prior analyses noted that this type of measure could result in more bareboat charters. However, any measure that specifically restricts the charter experience, but does not limit the non-charter experience will likely have that effect.
- NMFS recommended against this measure in 2006 due to its costs and noted several changes would be required in state law.

## 1 Fish Bag Limit- Expected Effects



- Measure includes four sub-options would institute a one-halibut per day limit in June, July, August, or for the entire season.

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlbs)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
June One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.204	10.0	14.2	127.9
	30% Demand Decline	0.297	14.6	20.7	121.4
July One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.295	14.5	20.6	121.5
	30% Demand Decline	0.430	21.1	30.0	112.1
August One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.244	12.0	17.1	125.1
	30% Demand Decline	0.356	17.5	24.9	117.3
Full Season One-fish bag limit	No Demand Decline	0.808	39.7	56.4	85.7
	30% Demand Decline	1.178	57.9	82.2	59.9

---

## I Fish Bag Limit-Comments



- Changes in angler behavior would rapidly dilute the effect of single-month options. The effects of these options would be strongest in the first year and fall rapidly past that point.
- The effect of the sub-options on angler participation will vary by market segment. Anglers who really focus on harvesting two fish per day will likely stay away or change targets. Anglers focusing on a more general experience would be less likely to change their participation.
- It's important to remember that in 2006 the average angler only caught 1.71 fish per trip, while the average harvest is 1.16 fish per trip. 29% of anglers caught no fish at all. This data indicates that many anglers have a limited opportunity for high-grading.

---

## I Fish Bag Limit-Comments Continued



- It is unclear what the overall demand effects of this option will be in the short or long run. Key informant interviews indicated that some segments could drop by half in the short-term.
- Overall, interviewees and peer-reviewed literature indicate that maximum reductions in demand could be in the 20 to 30 percent range.
- The results of the analysis do not include high-grading efforts to increase the average size of the fish. The lack of data on the size of angler catch and behavior makes estimating the strength of this effect difficult.

## Second Fish Above a Minimum Size- Expected Effects

northern@conomics

- The measure establishes a minimum size limit for second fish of 45 inches, 50 inches, 55 inches, or 60 inches.

Management Option	Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlbs)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHJ Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHJ (%)
Option For A Second Fish-45"	No Demand Decline	0.434	21.3	30.3	111.8
	10% Demand Decline	0.597	29.3	41.7	100.4
Option For A Second Fish-50"	No Demand Decline	0.516	25.4	36.1	106.0
	10% Demand Decline	0.671	33.0	46.9	95.3
Option For A Second Fish-55"	No Demand Decline	0.604	29.7	42.2	99.9
	10% Demand Decline	0.749	36.8	52.3	89.8
Option For A Second Fish-60"	No Demand Decline	0.684	33.6	47.8	94.3
	10% Demand Decline	0.822	40.4	57.4	84.7

## Second Fish Above a Minimum Size- Comments

northern@conomics

- The larger the minimum length size on the 2<sup>nd</sup> fish, the more the effects of this option resemble the one fish bag limit. For example, the 60" minimum sub-option provides 85 percent of the 1 fish limit reduction.
- While the harvest savings of this option can be similar to a 1 fish limit, the effect on some client experiences is radically different. A 1 fish limit would likely require anglers to stop fishing when they harvested their halibut. This option allows anglers to continue fishing after that first fish even if their likelihood of catching a second fish above the minimum size is quite low.
- Operators indicated that they expected the demand effects associated with this option to be relatively small, especially in comparison to the 1-fish bag limit.

## Season Closure Date-Expected Effects

northern@economics

- The measure includes three sub-options closing the fishery on the day after Aug. 15, Aug. 31<sup>st</sup>, or Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The analysis predicts minimal reductions from a September 15<sup>th</sup> closure date while the August 31<sup>st</sup> date would save roughly 76,000 pounds and the August 15<sup>th</sup> date would save roughly 334,000 percent of harvest.

Sub-Option	Expected Reduction (Mlbs)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
Aug 15th	0.334	16.4	23.3	118.8
Aug 31st	0.076	3.7	5.3	136.8
Sept 15th	0.015	0.7	1.0	141.1

## Season Closure Date-Comments

northern@economics

- The effects of all of the sub-options are likely to be transitory as anglers can adapt to the new regulations.
- Operators indicated that an August 15<sup>th</sup> closure would leave them without enough days at-sea to cover their fixed costs.
- "Any measure that keeps us on the ocean is automatically better than one which shuts us in."
- The emphasis on a season closure date vs. a season opening date combined with halibut migration patterns mean that inside passage communities would see a greater percentage loss in days-at-sea than more western communities.

## Day of the Week Closure- Expected Effects

northern@conomics

- This measure would close a selected day of the week or combination of days.
- A single day could result in savings of approximately 87,000 pounds while two days of closure would save 291,000 pounds.

Sub-Option or Additional Information	Expected Reduction (Mlbs)	Expected Reduction as a % of Current Harvest	Expected GHL Reduction (Percentage Points)	Expected Post-Option Harvest as a Portion of the GHL (%)
One Day-Best Estimate	0.087	4.3	6.1	138.0
Two Days-Best Estimate	0.291	14.3	20.3	121.8

## Day of the Week Closure-Comments

northern@conomics

- When does crowding begin to limit the flexibility of anglers? The average number of clients per trip has risen in recent years to nearly 3.9 per trip in 2006. Interviews seemed to indicate that most anglers would find replacements for a single day of the week closure, but that would fall to less than 50 percent with a two-day closures.
- No day stands out as providing substantially more harvest reductions. Harvest is highest on Tuesday while effort is highest on Friday.
- Multi-day package operators indicated that this option would have large economic effects for them because they effectively wouldn't be able to sell 4-day experiences any more with a one-day closure.

## Day of the Week Closure-Comments Cont.



- A weekday closure will likely have more effect on cruise passengers while a weekend day closure will affect package clients and local residents. Closures of specific days would affect some communities disproportionately if charter operators in those communities depend on cruise passengers.

Community	Haines	Juneau	Ketchikan	Petersburg	Sitka	Skagway
Traffic Share	4.0	29.1	22.4	5.5	11.8	22.5
Sunday	11.2	14.5	8.8	5.7	13.7	13.1
Monday	7.9	14.8	16.8	9.0	19.4	17.5
Tuesday	2.2	17.8	15.4	29.5	16.0	15.9
Wednesday	42.7	16.6	17.6	17.2	16.0	19.9
Thursday	1.1	16.3	18.8	6.6	16.0	16.3
Friday	34.8	7.2	17.0	15.6	15.6	11.1
Saturday	0.0	12.8	5.6	16.4	3.4	6.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

## Minimum Size Limits



- This option would ban the retention of all halibut less than 32" long.
- Fish less than 32" long are 48% of the harvest by number and 23% by weight.
- The analysis is unable to predict the effects of this option because evidence suggests a minimum size limit at this length could increase total harvest weight.

Fishery Component	Area 2C	
	Number of Fish	Yield (lb)
Charter	48%	23%
Non-charter	61%	30%
Overall	53%	26%

## Could a Minimum Size Limit Increase Harvest by Weight?

northern economics

	Number of Fish	Total Weight	Average Weight
Below 32" Limit	51,474	468,050	9.1
Above 32" Limit	55,764	1,566,950	28.1
Replacement Catch Needed to Replace Below Limit Fish	16,657	468,050	28.1
Replacement Catch Ratio	32.36%	01:03.1	

- The average halibut in Area 2C below the proposed size limit weighed 9.1 pounds while the average halibut above that limit weighs 28.1 pounds.
- If one small halibut in three (or better) is replaced by an average halibut above the length limit then the charter industry harvest by weight would increase.
- Operator interviews indicated that in some sub-areas it would be very difficult to replace smaller halibut with larger halibut.
- The analysis notes that the minimum length would likely have to be in the 36"-38" range to ensure a reduction in harvest weight for the entire area.



# Estimated Effects Summary

Management Option	Sub-Option/Bound	Expected Reduction		GHL % with Option
		M Lbs	2006%	
Full Season One Fish Bag Limit	30% Demand Decline	1.178	57.9%	59.9%
Option For A Second Fish-60"	10% Demand Decline	0.822	40.4%	84.7%
Full Season One Fish Bag Limit	No Demand Decline	0.808	39.7%	85.7%
Option For A Second Fish-55"	10% Demand Decline	0.749	36.8%	89.8%
Option For A Second Fish-60"	No Demand Decline	0.684	33.6%	94.3%
Option For A Second Fish-50"	10% Demand Decline	0.671	33.0%	95.2%
Option For A Second Fish-55"	No Demand Decline	0.604	29.7%	99.9%
Option For A Second Fish-45"	10% Demand Decline	0.597	29.3%	100.4%
Option For A Second Fish-50"	No Demand Decline	0.516	25.4%	106.0%
Option For A Second Fish-45"	No Demand Decline	0.434	21.3%	111.8%
July One Fish Bag Limit	30% Demand Decline	0.430	21.1%	112.1%
August One Fish Bag Limit	30% Demand Decline	0.356	17.5%	117.2%
Annual Limit	Four Fish	0.335	16.4%	118.7%
Season Closure	Aug 15th	0.334	16.4%	118.8%
June One Fish Bag Limit	30% Demand Decline	0.297	14.6%	121.4%
July One Fish Bag Limit	No Demand Decline	0.295	14.5%	121.5%
Weekday Closure	Two Days-Best Estimate	0.291	14.3%	121.8%
August One Fish Bag Limit	No Demand Decline	0.244	12.0%	125.0%
June One Fish Bag Limit	No Demand Decline	0.204	10.0%	127.9%
Annual Limit	Five Fish	0.190	9.3%	128.8%
Weekday Closure	One Day-Best Estimate	0.087	4.3%	136.0%
No Harvest by Skipper and Crew	Upper Bound	0.086	4.2%	136.1%
No Harvest by Skipper and Crew	Lower Bound	0.078	3.8%	136.7%
Season Closure	Aug 31st	0.076	3.7%	136.8%
One Trip per Day	Upper Bound	0.049	2.4%	138.7%
One Trip per Day	Lower Bound	0.038	1.8%	139.5%
Season Closure	Sept 15th	0.015	0.7%	141.1%
Minimum Size Limit	No Sub Option	Unclear	Unclear	Unclear

- Many options are not additive in nature. For example, combining the annual limit option and the season closure option would double count estimated savings.

# Estimated Effects Summary

Option	Expected Size and Durability of Reductions	Effects on Industry	Effect on State Managed Fisheries
One Trip per Vessel per Day	1.8 to 2.4% reduction in harvest. Anglers will likely adapt rapidly.	Relatively minor effects on the charter industry excepting those businesses that focus on multiple trips per day. Minor benefits for the commercial industry.	State managers expect a concurrent minor reduction in the harvest of some associated species.
No Retention by Skipper and Crew	3.8 to 4.2% reduction. Skipper and crew demand shifts to non-guided recreational sector	Most preferred option for the charter industry with modest benefits for the commercial industry.	State managers expect a concurrent minor reduction in the harvest of some associated species.
Annual Limit	9.3 to 16.4% reduction depending on the annual limit. Reduction are likely durable.	Generally, the second most preferred option by the charter industry. Commercial industry would receive sizable benefits.	State managers expect a modest to significant increase in the charter harvest of available salmon species, lingcod, and rockfish.
One-fish bag limit	Reductions of between 10% and 60% depending on the temporal length of the bag limit reduction. Reductions are likely more durable.	Highest economic effect on the charter industry with the highest benefits for the commercial fleet. Least preferred option for the charter industry.	State managers expect a significant increase in the charter harvest of available salmon species, lingcod, and rockfish.
Option for a Second Fish with a Minimum Length	Reductions of between 21% and 40% depending on the minimum length for the second fish. Reductions are likely more durable.	Minor demand reductions expected, but a generally acceptable option for much of the charter fleet particularly at the lower minimum lengths. Modest to high benefits for the commercial fleet.	Charter harvest of state managed species would likely increase by modest amounts.
Season Closure Dates	Reductions of less than 1% to more than 16% depending on when the season closes. Anglers will flexible schedules will adapt rapidly after the first year.	Early season closure dates would likely close businesses while the later closure dates would only have minor effects. Modest, but significant benefits for the commercial fleet from an earlier season closure date.	Harvest of Coho salmon and other species available after the season closure would increase.
Weekday Closure	Expect an approximately 4.3% reduction for a single day or approximately 14% for a two-day closure. Most anglers will adapt very rapidly.	One of the least preferred options for the charter industry with minor benefits for the commercial fleet.	All effort on the closed day would shift to state managed species. While overall effort on that day would likely be lower than in the past, there could be a modest effect on state manage species.
Minimum Size Limit	Likely to reduce the number of fish harvested with the possibility of localized savings. Overall effects could be small savings or could result in an increase in overall harvest weight for the entire area.	Could harm the commercial fleet if the total weight increases while increasing costs for the charter fleet.	Charter harvest of state managed species would likely increase by modest amounts.

All  
C-1 Comments  
APRIL 2007



# International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum

300 Gulf Stream Way, Dania Beach, Florida, 33004 U.S.A.  
Phone: (954) 927-2628 • Fax: (954) 924-4299 • Museum Phone: (954) 924-4220

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 15 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

### Officers

- George G. Matthews  
*Chairman*
- Robert E. Rich, Jr.  
*Vice Chairman*
- Rob Kramer  
*President*
- Ralph G. Christiansen Jr.  
*Secretary*
- Pamela S. Basco  
*Treasurer*

February 5, 2007

Chris Oliver  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Dear Mr. Oliver,

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is non profit, membership driven organization dedicated to the conservation of game fish and their habitats. IGFA currently has approximately 30,000 members internationally. In addition, we also have an International Committee of Representatives that number over 300 and represent nearly 100 countries.

The IGFA is very concerned over the International Halibut Commission's (IPHC) decision to impose a 1 halibut bag limit on the recreational halibut charter fleet. There are several reasons why we do not support the IPHC's decision. First and foremost, the current allocation between the commercial and recreational sectors is far from equitable. The commercial halibut fishery, including bycatch and undersized waste, currently harvests nearly 80 million pounds of halibut annually. In contrast, the recreational harvest is approximately 9 million pounds, or roughly 40% of commercial bycatch and undersize waste alone. Furthermore, the role of regional fisheries management organizations, such as the IPHC, is to issue quotas to participating countries, not to define allocation between user groups. Halibut allocation issues in the United States should be under the purview of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Finally, there is no biological data that suggests that halibut are either overfished or undergoing overfishing, especially from the recreational charter boat fishery.

Halibut is one of the most important recreational stocks in Alaska and also a major component to the Alaskan economy. This fishery deserves better management and we urge you to develop a fishery management plan for it that will make the halibut fishery pursuant to National Standards dictated in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and also provide *equitable* allocation between recreational and commercial fisheries.

Sincerely,

Jason Schratwieser  
IGFA Conservation Director

### Board of Trustees

- John W. Anderson II
- Terri K. Andrews
- Jose "Pepe" Anton
- Pamela S. Basco
- Jose Luis Beistegui
- Stewart N. Campbell
- Ralph G. Christiansen Jr.
- Michael L. Farrior
- Peter S. Fithian
- Alfred C. Glassell, Jr.
- Floyd D. Gortwald Jr.
- Guy Harvey, Ph.D.
- George G. Matthews
- K. Neil Patrick
- Kaye Pearson
- Carlos F. Pellas
- Paxson H. Offield
- Robert E. Rich Jr.
- Bill Shedd
- John F. Willits
- Joan Salvato Wulff

### Past Chairmen

- Michael Lerner
- William K. Carpenter
- Elwood K. Harry
- George G. Matthews
- Michael J. Levitt

### Trustee Emeritus

- Maumus F. Clavette Jr.
- Ruben Jacn
- John L. Morris
- Roy E. Neftzger
- Donald J. Tyson

*The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping.*

Email: [HQ@igfa.org](mailto:HQ@igfa.org) • Website: [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org)

THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION  
DIRECTOR AND ALL MEMBERS

RECEIVED  
FEB 16 2007

TO WHOMEVER THIS MAY CONCERN

N.P.F.M.C.

Having been a long time person associated with the halibut fisheries, I am concerned with the lack of diligence on the part of the managers both in the IHPS, and the NPFMC to carry through a management plan that would allow both the Halibut Fisherman and the Charter Boat fisheries to carry on within the restraints of a management plan.

Though Halibut may be and international shared resource that has been managed for the long term, recently due to heavy use pressure this fisheries was rationalized with Halibut quotas for each vessel, this is a contract with those fisherman that they will have a fisheries.

At the same time Charter fisherman were to be allowed 125% of what they had been catching, at this point in time this charter fishing has gotten into a runaway fisheries, because the managers refused to act on their original position.

I have proposed to the Alaska Board of Fisheries that they set a minimum size limit for the sports take at 32 inches, which was done for the commercial fleet many years ago, so that there was more of a chance for a strong juvenile population to continue to feed the halibut population.

Right now I and many like me feel that a no size limit on the sports is making inroads on fish that should reach a more mature stage, thus impairing the inshore stock of fish to a point that these local stocks may not recover, this is not micromanaging, it is good sense.

It is also incumbent on both organizations, IPHC and the NPFMC to put forth a management plan consistent with what was proposed years ago so that all expectations are realized including those folks that eat fish that don't fish, this is the purpose of good management.

I am also concerned about the coastal communities whose bread and butter is dependent on a successful commercial fishing fleet, these boats support crews, they also deliver to our cold storages that support a worker population that contribute to the health of communities that is lacking other commercial entities, this is more so since the pulp mills deserted Alaska, the right to a lively hood is a part of the American Dream.

I will also say that a large portion of what is called the Charter Boat fleet owners head south when the customers quit coming, cold storage workers and fishing crews live here and vote here in Alaska.

RALPH GUTHRIE  
380 KAAGWAANTAAN  
SITKA, ALASKA  
99835  
907-747-8913



**ALASKA LONGLINE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

403 Lincoln Street, Ste. 237 Sitka, AK 99835

Phone: (907) 747-3400; fax: (907) 747-5157

[alfafish@ptialaska.net](mailto:alfafish@ptialaska.net)

February 3, 2007

**RECEIVED**  
FEB 15 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Honorable Condoleezza Rice  
Secretary of State,  
US Department of State (OFS/O)  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rice,

On behalf of the approximately 100 members of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA), I would like to submit the following comments in support of the January 2007 action taken by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPIHC). Our support is based on the following evaluation of IPIHC action.

The Pacific halibut fishery is considered nationally and internationally to be one of the best managed fisheries in the world. The IPIHC has a long history of making tough management decisions to hold catch to biologically sustainable limits, to restrict targeted fishing to gear that limits destructive fishing practices, and to use a market-based system for orderly prosecution of the fishery. IPIHC is a poster child for the President's recently released Statement for Protection of Sustainable Fisheries (10/03/06) and his U.S. Ocean Action Plan.

It is our understanding that the White House has been under pressure to intercede in the recent IPIHC decision to impose a one fish bag limit for guided sport clients during a portion of the season in Alaska. This action was taken in an effort to hold the charter sector to their federally imposed guideline harvest limit (GHL) in order to hold the total halibut catch to biologically sustainable limits (CEY). ALFA would like to call to your attention the consistency of the IPIHC action with recent federal legislation on ocean policy, fisheries management, conservation and resource stewardship, and to urge you to advise both the Administration and the Department of Commerce to implement IPIHC decisions.

The Pacific Halibut Convention, the recently enacted reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA), and the Presidential statement on Protection of Sustainable Fisheries all support the decision made by the IPIHC. Strengths of the new MSA were to support science-based decisions, require that fishery management plans include measures to ensure accountability for harvest overages and to prevent annual catch limits from being exceeded. These standards hold for all users of the resource, including commercial, guided charter, or unguided recreational users.

The President himself stated in his June 5, 2006 speech signing the NWHL sanctuary into law: "my administration released an ocean action plan to promote an ethic of responsible use and stewardship for our oceans and coastal resources. Our duty is to use the land and seas wisely, or sometimes not use them at all. Good stewardship of the environment is not just a personal responsibility, it is a public value." In his statement on Protection of Sustainable Fisheries given on October 3, 2006, the President emphasized that it remains United States policy to support protection and use of sustainable fisheries as a food source and to meet the needs of commercial and recreational fishing.

The IPHC has clear authority to change bag limits as needed to meet their conservation mandate. In fact, sport fishing was recognized by the IPHC and regulations implemented in 1973 at the urging of the federal government and the state of Alaska. Legal counsel from both the Canadian and US governments at that time determined that under the 1953 halibut convention, IPHC had the authority to managed sport fish (See *The sport fishery for halibut: Development, recognition and regulation*. Bernard Einar Skud. IPHC (1975) <http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/pubs/techrep/tech0013.pdf>). In 1973 IPHC implemented a 3 fish bag limit with the understanding that individual agencies could adopt more restrictive measures. In 1974 IPHC lowered the bag limit to 1 fish per day because of conservations concerns and declining stocks. In 1975 IPHC once again changed the bag limit to 2 fish per day and imposed possession limits. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the State of Alaska asked that IPHC be able to deal with sport fisheries and have supported the IPHC actions to implement and lower bag limits in the past.

The National Research Council (NRC) of the National Academies of Science appointed a committee of experts to conduct a review of recreational fisheries survey methods. This study was requested of NRC by NMFS because of the growing interest in the effects of recreational fishing on fish stock size and competition and the increased demands for timely and accurate data from the recreational fishing sector. The committee published their final report in 2006 and copies are available from the National Academy of Sciences <http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11616.html#toc>. In the report introduction the committee states "...current assessments indicate that some marine recreational fisheries have exceeded their quotas, raising concern because fishing effort in marine recreational fisheries is projected to increase. It is important that catch monitoring systems are adequate for timely management of these fisheries."

The 2007 Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization makes specific reference to the conclusions and recommendations of the NRC committee under Section 201. Recreational Fisheries Information: "*NRC REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS.-The program shall take into consideration and, to the extent feasible, implement the recommendations of the National Research Council in its report Review of Recreational Fisheries Survey Methods (2006)*" Specific recommendations and conclusions from this report include the following:

- The Committee agrees with conclusions of previous NRC committees that marine recreational fishing is a significant source of fishing mortality for many marine

species and that adequate scientific information on the nature of that mortality in time and space is required for successful management of those species.

- The for-hire sector of marine recreational fisheries (i.e., charter, guide, head boat operations) is more like a commercial sector than it is like a private-angler sector
- The for-hire sector of marine recreational fisheries should be considered a commercial sector, and survey methods and reporting requirements for that sector should be different from those of private anglers.

It is worth noting that the American Sportfishing Association, the Recreational Fishing Alliance, and the Coastal Conservation Association all lauded the NRC report and supported the new language in the MSA.

Responsible fisheries management should hold all players to the same standard, which is one of the improvements to the new MSA. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) voted for the GHL in 2000, the GHL was noticed in the Federal Register in 2003, and the NPFMC unanimously supported the GHL and the intent to manage to the GHL in April 2006. Even so, no meaningful action was taken and the 2C quota was overrun by over 40% in 2006. Clearly the IPHC Commissioners were acting responsibly regarding management of the halibut resource. **The fact that the NPFMC has been unable to implement management controls should be further encouragement for you to support the IPHC Commissioners.** In order for the IPHC to effectively manage for conservation they need to be able to predict catch: in the absence of management tools to control the charter catch this is impossible. Without these reductions in charter bag limits the CEY is likely to be grossly exceeded yet again and as a consequence, the IPHC will be forced to allocate resource away from the commercial setline fishery to stay within their conservation mandate. This will be counter to published federal policy. In short, the IPHC action promotes conservation and avoids allocation.

In closing, ALFA members urge you to review the Pacific Halibut Convention, the Ocean Action Plan, the especially the new MSA. All of these federally-supported policies urge responsible fisheries management, conservation by all users, and holding to federally assigned annual limits. That is what the IPHC action succeeds in doing in an efficient and timely manner. The IPHC has taken the responsible action to manage within biologically established limits by holding to domestic target policy for the 2007 season. We urge you to support this IPHC action and ensure timely implementation.

We also urge you to support the Council in its efforts to develop a long-term management strategy for the Alaska halibut fishery, and believe the IPHC action provides an interim management framework that allows the Council to focus on this long overdue strategy. It is critical that the US government actively encourage and support the NMFS and the NPFMC to work on long-term management tools to allow controlled management of the halibut resource for all users, including commercial longline, commercial charter, unguided, or subsistence. The MSA and the Ocean Action Plan both identify market-based solutions and limited access privilege programs as a preferred method to develop and control US fisheries. The commercial setline halibut fishery is managed under an



individual fishing quota (IFQ) system. The NPFMC voted twice to accept an IFQ program for charter halibut management. Please encourage the Council to bring these proposals back to the table and work towards a reasonable management plan that allows for conservation and sustainable fisheries for all sectors.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



Linda Behnken  
(Director, ALFA)

Copy:

Governor Sarah Palin, State of Alaska  
Senator Ted Stevens, US Senate  
Senator Lisa Murkowski, US Senate  
Congressman Don Young, US House of Representatives  
VADM Conrad Lautenbacher, USN (Ret), Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
Dr. Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator NOAA Fisheries  
Jim Balsiger, Regional Administrator, NMFS Alaska Region  
Dr. Bruce Leaman, Executive Director, IPHC  
Stephanie Madsen, Chair, NPFMC  
Chris Oliver, Executive Director, NPFMC  
Governor Sarah Palin, State of Alaska  
Commissioner Denby Lloyd, Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Mel Morris, Chair, Alaska Board of Fisheries  
Jim Marcotte, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Fisheries

# Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 70 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska

P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 PH: 907.424.3447 Fax: 907.424.3430

February 2, 2007

Governor Sarah Palin  
Senator Ted Stevens  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Congressman Don Young

RECEIVED

FEB 15 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

## **International Pacific Halibut Commission Management Decisions**

Dear Governor Palin and members of the Alaska delegation:

Recently, the IPHC took action to establish 2007 halibut quotas and to address overages of the Constant Exploitation Yield (CEY) or biologically defined level of sustainable harvest, in three IPHC regulatory areas: 2B (Canada), 2C (Southeast Alaska), and 3A (Southcentral Alaska). To address conservation concerns, the IPHC reduced the setline quota in 2C by 20% and reduced the guided sport bag limit to one fish for the period of June 15-July 31; in 3A the IPHC reduced the guided sport bag limit to one fish for the period June 15-June 30.

We are writing to state our support for the intent of the IPHC's action to impose some short term management measures on the charter sector so that the burden of halibut resource conservation is shared between the longline and charter sectors to prevent area CEY's from being exceeded. If the IPHC did not act, the burden of conservation would fall completely on the longline sector. In light of increasing public scrutiny on sustainable management of our nation's fisheries resources, we believe that all sectors that share in the harvest of those resources – especially those that have exhibited unrestrained and significantly increasing harvests in fully utilized fisheries – must be actively managed.

We believe the IPHC's decisions are necessary for the short term until they can be replaced by NPFMC regulatory action for 2C in 2008, as scheduled. It is our hope that the NPFMC will also consider adding 3A to the scheduled action for 2008, in order to apply appropriate management measures consistently for all areas.

We recognize that the IPHC's actions are not perfect, and that the NPFMC may choose different but comparable management actions. While we believe that the IPHC acted within its authority, it would be preferable to keep these kinds of decisions in the Council process. However, it is extremely unfortunate, disturbing and frustrating to us that the Council cannot act in a timely manner given the lengthy regulatory review process, and that past Council attempts to implement management measures and programs have been stalled and fumbled in

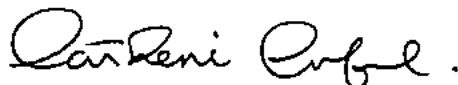
NMFS' administrative review process. We know that these frustrations are shared by many in the charter sector; these problems have confounded resolution of this issue for many years.

We remain hopeful that the Council's plans to establish a moratorium on entry in to the charter sector by 2009 will provide the foundation for subsequent development of a permanent solution. One of our members, Dan Hull, is a member of the Council's Halibut Charter Stakeholders Committee. We know that the Committee is making progress, and is working diligently and constructively to resolve the halibut charter management issue. Unfortunately, a moratorium by itself will not slow down the charter sector's harvest in the short term, and the potential for those harvests to exceed the area CEY's set by the IPHC and the GHL's set by the Council. It will take several more years after the moratorium is in place to develop and implement a permanent solution that both sectors can live with.

In this interim period, the State of Alaska, the NPFMC, and the IPHC have a difficult juggling act to perform to keep both the charter and longline sectors close to their catch limits and GHLS so that the IPHC's conservation goals are met, and to do so in a manner that does not impose too great a burden on either sector. In our view, the key to successfully performing this juggling act is to avoid getting bogged down such that development of a permanent solution is delayed or lost.

We remain committed to working through this difficult interim period and towards a permanent solution.

Sincerely,



Catherine Crawford,  
Executive Director, CDFU

Cc:

Honorable Carlos Gutierrez, Secretary of Commerce  
Honorable Condoleeza Rice, Secretary of State  
Acting Commissioner Denby Lloyd, Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
Dr. Jim Balsiger, Alaska Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Dr. Bruce Leaman, Executive Director, International Pacific Halibut Commission  
Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

The Alaska Sport Fishing Alliance (ASFA) represents the Alaska Recreational Sport Fishing Public, Protects and Defends the Legal Rights and Privileges of all Alaska Recreational Sport Fishermen, resident and non-resident, who hold a valid Alaska Sport Fishing License. An average of one-half-million (500,000) Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses are purchased each year. There were 27,000 fewer licenses purchased in 2006 than in 2005.

# Alaska Sport Fishing Alliance

AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org  
AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.com

FEB 20 2007

## --- WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE STAND FOR ---

The Alaska Sport Fishing Alliance, a "grass roots" Statewide Alliance based in Homer, has retained the Professional Services of a highly regarded Washington, DC Law Firm as Legal Counsel to represent the ASFA in legal issues pertaining to proposed NEW REGULATIONS affecting the Alaska Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing Public. The ASFA is dedicated to defend the Fishing Rights and Privileges of the Alaska Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing Public in the Court of Law, if need be, against any entity who would propose to diminish or reduce those Fishing Rights and Privileges.

Any Individual, Business, or Organization with a vested interest in Alaska Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing who would like to join in the Legal Effort in our Common Interest is very Welcome. We feel the Time Has Come to Stand-up and Defend our Fishing Rights and Privileges before it is Too Late, or they will surely be trampled and violated by those who oppose us.

## --- When Good People Stand-By and Do Nothing - Bad things Happen To Them ---

## --- OUR MISSION STATEMENT ---

We are a Legal Defense Fund solely "Dedicated to the Proposition that ALL SPORT FISHERMEN ARE CREATED EQUAL with Certain Inalienable Rights."

Those Rights shall include, but not be limited to, the Right of the Alaska Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing Public to a "Fair and Equitable Share" of the annual Total Allowable Catch (TAC) allocation of the Public Halibut Resource, and the Right of the Alaska Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing Public to the UNRESTRICTED ACCESS to the Public's Share of the Public Halibut Resource by whatever Mode of Transportation, hired or private, they so choose. We also believe that the Alaska Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing Public's Rights shall Not be infringed upon by the Commercial Halibut Fishing Industry or any Government Agency, Federal or State, that does not treat the Alaska Public's Halibut Fishing Rights and Privileges in a "Fair and Equitable" manner as Mandated in Existing Federal Law.

## --- WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE TRUE ---

The Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act of 1976 and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 both Mandate and Protect the Alaska Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing Public's Rights and Privileges in Existing Federal Law. We Demand that All Government Agencies, both Federal and State, uphold these two Federal Acts to the Letter and Intent of the Law as the United States Congress intended when these Laws were enacted.

## --- MAGNUSON-STEVENS FISHERIES CONSERVATION and MANAGEMENT ACT --- Public Law 94-265

**Sec.2. (b) PURPOSES.--** It is therefore declared to be the purpose of the U.S. Congress in this Act - - (4) to provide for the preparation and implementation, in accordance with National Standards, of Fishery Management Plans (FMP) which will achieve and maintain, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery.

### **Sec.3. DEFINITIONS.--**

- (3) The term "charter fishing" means fishing from a vessel carrying a passenger for hire who is engaged in "recreational fishing." ( charter vessels for hire are not fishing vessels)  
(32) The term "recreational fishing" means fishing for sport or pleasure.

### **Sec.301. NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FISHERY.--**

- (a) In General.--Any Fishery management Plan (FMP) prepared pursuant to this Title shall be consistent with the following National Standards For Fishery and management.  
(4) If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishermen,

such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishermen; and (C) carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges.

--- NORTHERN PACIFIC HALIBUT ACT OF 1982 ---  
Title 16>Chapter 10>Subchapter IV

**773c. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITY.--**

**(c) Regional Fishery Management Council involvement -**

The Regional Fishery Management Council having authority - If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign halibut fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocation shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen, based upon the rights and obligations in existing Federal Law, reasonably calculated to promote conservation, and carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the halibut fishing privileges:

**773i. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.--**

**(d) United States District Court Jurisdiction -** The District Courts of the United States shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any case or controversy arising under this Subchapter. Any such Court may, at any time --  
**(1) enter restraining orders or prohibitions; and (4) take such actions as are in the interest of Justice.**

--- SUMMARY ---

Both the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 Mandate that the Alaska Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing Public receive a "fair and equitable share of the halibut allocation" and that "no other entity acquire an excessive share of the halibut fishing privileges." The ONLY way this will become a reality is through the implementation of a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut, as Mandated by Existing Federal Law in the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act and reiterated by the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982. Together we can demand these Acts must be carried out to the letter of the Law and the Intent of the United States Congress.

"Charter Fishing" is "Recreational Fishing" as Defined by Law and Charter Vessels For Hire are not Fishing Vessels: therefore any Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) or moratorium "given to" or "placed on" Charter Vessels For Hire is, in effect, an Access Restriction placed on the "Recreational Fishing" Public by limiting the Public's access to the Public Halibut Fishery Resource. The Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) for "Recreational Fishing", already in place, is whatever the Daily-Bag-Limit and Possession-Limit is for the Individual Recreational Fisherman while fishing from a Charter Vessel For Hire. No other quotas or restrictions are needed.

--- WHAT WE ARE AGAINST AND WHY ---

Because the Commercial Halibut Fishing Industry has been allowed to "acquire an excessive share of the Halibut allocation" - **We are opposed to any reduction of the daily-bag-limit of Halibut for the "Recreational Fishing" Public.**

Because a Moratorium limiting the number of Charter Vessels for Hire for transportation purposes by the "Recreational Fishing" Public is a Restriction of Public Access to the Public Halibut Resource placed against the "Recreational Fishing" Public - **We are opposed to any so-called Moratorium placed on Charter Vessels for Hire for transportation purposes by the "Recreational Fishing" Public.**

Because the Guideline Harvest Limit (GHL) is an Arbitrary Quota imposed on the "Recreational Fishing" Public with inaccurate-estimated-provisional- numbers produced, NOT FIRM DATA COLLECTED, by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game - **We are opposed to any so-called GHL of Halibut harvest imposed on the "Recreational Fishing" Public.**

Because Charter Vessels for Hire for transportation purposes by the "Recreational Fishing" Public are NOT fishing vessels, and because "Charter Fishing" is Defined in Law as "Recreational Fishing" - **We are opposed to any so-called Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program for Charter Vessels for Hire for transportation purposes by the "Recreational Fishing" Public.**

Because the Halibut Fishery is Federally Managed and Halibut Allocation Regulations are Mandated in Law to be the responsibility of the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) and its' Required Public Input Process - **We oppose the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) entering into the realm of Halibut Allocation Regulations that subvert the Public Process and discriminate between various groups of the duly licensed "Recreational Fishing" Public because of their chosen Form of Employment, by Issuing an Emergency Order (EO) prohibiting the retention of Halibut by duly Licensed Guides and Crew of Charter Vessels for Hire based on the Guideline Harvest Limit (GHL) for 2006 that is most probably in error.**

**We are for the implementation of a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Pacific Halibut as required by Federal Law. Why would anyone be opposed to a FMP for Halibut?**

--- OUR LEGAL REPRESENTATION ---

We have an onsite - Washington, DC - based Legal Counsel with access to the White House Staff, close direct access to the U.S. Departments of Commerce and the State Department, and the political as well as the legal expertise to represent our cause. We have all of that in the **Legal Counsel of Mr. Bill Horn of the Law Firm - Birch, Horton, Bittner, & Cherot in Washington, DC with Offices in Anchorage, Alaska.**

--- BIO OF MR. WILLIAM P. HORN ---

**Mr. William P. Horn** is a shareholder with the law firm of **Birch, Horton, Bittner & Cherot** which he joined in 1988. Prior to entering private practice, he served in a variety of **Congressional** and executive agency posts. From 1985 to 1988, he was the **Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks**, responsible for the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** and the **National Park Service**.

Prior to his **Confirmation by the U.S. Senate**, Mr. Horn served as **Deputy Under-Secretary of the Interior** with responsibilities for western water rights negotiations, **International fishery negotiations**, and **Alaska Programs**. He also held the post of **Chairman of the International Great Lakes Fishery Commission**. During the 1970s he worked in the **U.S. House of Representatives** on the **Staff of the Interior Committee (now the Resources Committee)**.

**Mr. Horn specializes in Natural Resources Law**. He has substantial expertise in **Wildlife Law**, including the **Endangered Species Act** and the **Migratory Bird Treaty Act**. His clients include the **Alaska Legislature, American Outdoors, the Conservation Fund, and the U.S. Sportsman's Alliance**. He has a litigation practice and regularly appears in **U.S. Courts**. Recent cases include the **Alaska Professional Hunters Association vs. FAA** and the **Alaska State Snowmobile Association vs. Babbitt**. Active in Conservation matters, he was appointed in 2002 by the **Secretary of the Interior** as **Chairman of the National Wildlife Refuge Centennial Commission**. He is a recognized expert in the **Field of Natural Resources Law**.

--- OUR ONLY CHANCE FOR "FAIR AND EQUITABLE" TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW ---

We, the **Alaska Sport Fishing Alliance** must **File a Legal Petition** in **Federal District Court** asking the **Court to Issue a Court Ruling and Court Order** directing that there be a **Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut** implemented within a **Certain Time-frame**, and to **Declare a Court Imposed Injunction** preventing any **Federal or State Agency** from implementing additional allocation regulations, other than the **Daily-Bag-Limit and Possession-Limit**, on the **"Recreational Fishing" Public** until such time as the **Fisheries Management Plan for Halibut** is implemented. If we do not act now, the **Commercial Fishery** will have **ninety-five percent (95%) of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of Halibut** and the **Sport Fishery** will have **five-percent (5%)**. We will **ALL, Commercial Fishery and Recreational Fishery** have to live with the **Court Rendered Decision**.

--- WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU ---

We, the **Alaska Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing Public**, also known as, the **Alaska Sport Fishing Alliance** now need the financial support from everyone with a vested interest in defeating the forces who oppose us. The only sure way to lose this fight is to not fight at all. Please send your check for \$1,000, or as much as you are able to afford, to **defend your Sport Fishing Rights and Privileges and Businesses** - make your check payable to: (100% of your donation goes to Legal Defense Fund)

**Birch, Horton, Bittner & Cherot Law Firm**  
1155 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20036  
(Check Memo: Alaska Sport Fishing Alliance)

[\(click here for\)](#)  
**Position Paper to**  
**U.S. Secretary of Commerce**  
(it takes a minute to load)

--- OUR MOTTO ---

**NO REGULATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION**  
&  
**JUSTICE IS FOUND ONLY IN THE COURT OF LAW**

For more information write:  
Bruce Warner  
Box 2807  
Homer, AK 99603

**IGFA**  
**Letter of Support**

2/10/07  
RECEIVED  
FEB 15 2007

Stephanie Maalson NPMC ;  
Bruce Lehman IHPA ;

Sirs: [wants the 'point of license limitation' ~~NAEMO~~ 3 times current effort?]

I would like to express my reservations at the transferability provisions proposed by the "stakeholders" committee on charter halibut issues, respecting the proposed moratorium on halibut charter vessels.

I believe it is important to note the serious extreme potential for latent effort expansion in the "fishery". In Sitka alone there are some three hundred registered charter vessels, only a hundred of which are actively engaged in charter fishing. To effect transferability of these 200 permits alone, would significantly inflate halibut harvest in the Sitka Area. You are well aware of the acute problems <sup>here</sup> as the Council has previously addressed Sitka issues through L.A.M.P. sanctions.

I urge the council to stem latent effort expansion by effecting a tiered license limitation similar to the AK State limited entry actions in the humpback, and other fisheries. That is, the council should issue "non-transferrable" permits to individuals with less than sterling histories of participation.

I also oppose the idea of "bottom fish days" endorsement; because limiting some charter vessels halibut access would extenuate effort in rockfish + salmon fisheries, that are all ready fully utilized, or over-geared.

lv\_nuts@mail.com  
907-747-ns/ka

310 Tilson St Sitka AK  
99835

Respectfully,  
Sylvia D. Butler

# F/V Kruzof

JIM & RHONDA HUBBARD

P. O. Box 3302 • Seward, Alaska 99664  
Phone: (907) 224-7342 • Fax: (907) 224-5572

RECEIVED

FEB 15 2007

NPFMC

Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez,  
Secretary of Commerce,  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

February 10, 2007

**RE: Support of Action by International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)**

Dear Secretary Gutierrez,

As a concerned harvester of Alaskan Pacific Halibut, I would like to express support of recent action taken by the IPHC to limit halibut harvest by the guided sport industry in the IPHC regulatory areas of Southeast Alaska (2C) and Southcentral Alaska (3A). The IPHC worked within its scope of authority to put timely limits on an industry sector that has been experiencing uncontrolled growth for nearly a decade. Following are points to help encourage your endorsement of the IPHC decision as well as future management controls on the Charter/Guide sector.

**1. The IPHC had clear authority and was most capable of taking effective action.**

The IPHC went through lengthy analysis and discussion of the management options. The Commission also received approval and a suite of options for action from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) prior to its decision. The one fish bag limit was the best and most expedient option available until a longer term management solution can be reached by the Council.

**2. This is a solution to an ongoing issue that needs to be brought to final conclusion as soon as possible by the corresponding authorities in Washington and Alaska:**

There have been several earlier attempts of working through the NPFMC process as well as promises from the ADF&G to get control of the growing number of Commercial Halibut Guides working in the Southeast and Southcentral Alaska regions. There was eight years of public testimony before establishing the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) in 2000. In April of 2001 the North Council, approved a long term solution for the charter sector in the form of an IFQ program. However in October of 2005 Mr. Hogarth asked that such decisions be reviewed again by another Council in December 2005. The IFQ decision was rescinded by that council, but not without promise that other limitations and management mandates on the charter sector would be implemented as soon as possible. Then in April, 2006 the NPFMC, by unanimous vote, reaffirmed the commitment to managing the guided sport sector to the GHL.



This is where we are left today. Therefore, it is our hopeful expectation that those earlier promises and mandates will be properly supported and endorsed by the corresponding departments in Washington, our State, and its representatives. While we respect you and other Government constituents having final say in this matter, we hope that you will respect our efforts in faithfully following the public process and procedures necessary to manage this public resource within its biological sustainable limit.

**3. Not accepting the IPHC recommendations, demoralizes their efforts and other systems put in place to manage our fisheries to sustainable levels for all users.**

In spite of the lengthy comprehensive public process and a concert of sincere efforts recently made in instituting controls on the Guided Sport industry, implementation of such decisions are known to be held up in Washington D.C.. Regulation history, facts and hard science pertaining to this issue should not be ignored at the expense of peculiar politics and special interests. Such actions leaves the public with little confidence in the systems and science models that are put in place to protect the resource.


**4. This is a conservation issue for the Halibut resource, not an allocation issue between The Guided Sport sector and the Commercial Fishing sector.**

The Guided Sport Fishery brings people to the resource and the Commercial Fishery brings the resource to the people. Both sectors contribute to the State's economy in complimentary ways that serves Alaskans and the general public. However according to the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) there are 60 million US consumers that eat halibut, while the Alaska Department of Fish & Game estimates a maximum of 600,000 charter clients. Our State infrastructure nor community quality has the capacity to accommodate millions of Alaskan Wild Seafood consumers coming here to catch their own fish. Additionally many consumers cannot afford the time, energy or money for such an elite endeavor, hence commercial fishermen are needed to fill that demand. These facts alone discount the 50/50 allocation split the guided sport sector might be requesting of the commercial sector. The established GHL is adequate and provided room for growth when originally set.

Instead of playing pity to the politicians and statesman in Washington, the guided sport sector, like the commercial fleet, needs to accept and support responsible fisheries management. All players should be held to the same standard. This is not only right for the resource but right for the future sustenance of both the recreational angler, commercial guided, and commercial fishing sectors of the industry.

I encourage you and other corresponding departments to seriously consider endorsing the IPHC's decision in resolving this matter. They have studied and documented their decision with proper care and are truly doing what is necessary for the resource. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and the industry looks forward to a resolution soon.

Sincerely,



Rhonda Hubbard, IFQ & Vessel Owner

Copy:

Honorable Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State

VADM Conrad Lautenbacher, USN (Ret)  
Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere

Dr. Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator NOAA Fisheries  
Senator Ted Stevens, US Senate  
Senator Lisa Murkowski, US Senate  
Congressman Don Young, US House of Representatives  
Jim Balsiger, Regional Administrator, NMFS Alaska Region  
Dr. Bruce Leaman, Executive Director, IPHC  
Chris Oliver, Executive Director, NPFMC  
Governor Sarah Palin, State of Alaska  
Jim Marcotte, Executive Director, Alaska Board of Fisheries

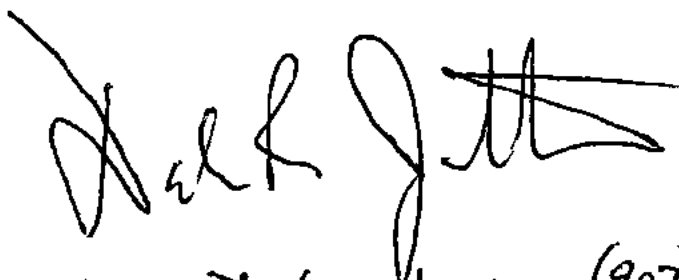
North Pacific Fishery Mgt  
605 W 4th Suite 306  
Anchorage AK 99501-2252

RECEIVED

FEB 18 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

I see in the 2/13 Juneau Empire that a  
pointless \$3000 tracking device will soon be  
required to fish in S.E. Alaskan waters. IN  
area 2C, any meaningful ownership of halibut  
IFQ has already been consolidated into  
the hands of several hundred individuals.  
This expensive stumbling block will certainly  
further the slaughter of the small guys.



Dale Johnston (907) 789-3216  
owner/operator - \$15,000 drift gillnet vessel  
holder of 7,000 lbs H-2C-C (which  
I purchased at the opening price.)  
B.S. Fisheries/Science OSU 1982

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Feb. 22, 2007

RECEIVED

FEB 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Council Members:

During the past 15 years I've been a charter boat owner and captain in Juneau, Alaska. I came to Alaska in 1981 to teach in the Juneau Public School system. I also fished for commercial halibut. I have a small poundage of IFQ's, because of my catch and sale history. During the past several years I've watched the IPHC deal with the charter boat industry and the halibut issue. Their decisions will affect charter boat operators in the state of Alaska.

During the past 15 years I established a halibut trip and catch history determined by my charter boat broker, which is Juneau Sport fishing. **All my trips were determined by that broker.** During that period of time some years my history represented a substantial investment in halibut charters with a high number of trips and catch rate, such as 2000, 2001, and 2002, while during other years the number is far less. During each of the years I've invested time in halibut fishing. **In other words halibut playing (fishing) time was determined by the coach (broker).** Some other players were put on the fishing grounds during some games or years, instead of me. **In fact the most trips were taken by three boat owners new to Alaska, during the past three years, and they will qualify, based upon the proposed standards.**

During recent meeting the IPHC has made comments, in an effort to place limited entry on the charter fleet and determine who will participate in the future fishing for halibut.

**I have the following concerns:**

**#1** The halibut catch data collection process was not handled in the state of Alaska by the ADF&G in an organized fair manner. Log books were used in 1998-2001 to record charter boat halibut trip and catch data. Log books were used in 2002-2005 to gather ground fish trip and catch data, but not for **Halibut. Halibut was not even listed!** During ADF&G meetings I attended, I was told not to record trip and catch data for halibut, it was an IPHC concern and not the state of Alaska. The ADF&G stated they didn't believe the halibut data anyway collected in the log books.

**#2** I was told during the past several years our trip and catch history would determine charter boat future IFQ's or future participation. During my most recent meeting I was told the years 2004, 2005, 2006 would determine future charter boat participation in the halibut charter industry. I was also told a charter boat would need at least 10 trips during a charter season to qualify during a given charter season. **As I stated above my halibut charter history was long term and varies from year to year, and determined by my broker, Juneau Sport Fishing.**

**Note; If the decision years are 2004-2006 and 10 or more trips would be necessary to participate in the future, then I would be eliminated, even with my substantial halibut trip and catch history.**

**#3 There are just so many halibut in Alaska waters. I heard about the high bi-catch of halibut by commercial bottom trollers, I heard about the 20 halibut per day for subsistence use and sale. I heard about the commercial number of killed under sized halibut during release efforts. I heard about the high number of under sized sport and charter boat caught halibut. I heard about the released sand flea eaten halibut by the commercial industry.**

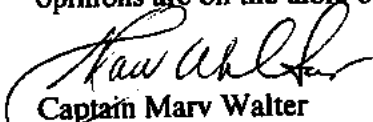
**Note: All these factors affect the total picture for the halibut industry. We can do better with this resource!**

**#4 I was told the non-resident population sport fishing for halibut in Alaska waters needs to be reduced.**

**Note: Many of the commercial halibut IFQ's holders are non-residents to the state of Alaska. Sport fishing should not be singled out!**

**#5 The allocation of halibut for sport fishing and charter, subsistence and commercial industry needs to be determined fairly. I feel equal allocation of the resource would best meet the needs of the halibut industry participants. The final decision should be based upon a long term trip and catch history and equal allocation to the user groups.**

I appreciate your attention to my letter and the thoughts I provided. I know many opinions are on the table on this issue. Thank you for your consideration.

  
Captain Marv Walter  
1480 Fritz Cove Road, Apt. A  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 789-0942

RECEIVED  
FEB 28 2007

February 22, 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

N.P.F.M.C.  
605 W. 4th. Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska  
99591-2252

Gentlemen:

As of this year we will have been charter fishing in the Juneau area continuously for 25 years. At the time we began, in 1983, an authorization was required from the IPHC for halibut charter fishing. We obtained one annually until such time as the requirement was dropped.

We fish halibut, but we primarily salmon fish. We also do whale watching, sightseeing, photo expeditions and just plain cruising. However; this does not mean that halibut fishing is not an integral part of our operation, nor does it mean that we do not need halibut fishing in the future in order to maintain a viable business.

I will note here, that halibut fishing close to port in Juneau is not anywhere near what it once was. At one time, you could go to locations within 1 hour of the dock and find halibut. This is no longer the rule, it is the exception. This could be due to a change in migratory patterns, availability of food, or even "global warming"...I find these possibilities doubtful. What I believe, and what seems apparent, is that the fishing was much better prior to the initiation of IFQs for the longliners. Now they intercept migrating halibut through the summer months, greatly limiting the fish available on the inside waters both in quantity and in size.

As a result of this perceived interception, charters for halibut from this port have entailed traveling farther and farther in search of fish. This has resulted in increased operating and maintenance costs, especially in the area of fuel and oil, the cost of which has doubled.

This affected our operation to the point that, in recent years, we began referring our halibut clients to smaller, faster, and more efficient charter boats, with the expectation that halibut fishing in the local area would one day improve to the point we

could again participate. For this reason, and this reason only, even after 25 years and more fishing in this area, we would not qualify for a quota under proposed qualification criteria.

We consider the NPFMC proposal for 3 or 4 continuous qualifying years with a minimum of 10 trips per year, and in recent history, to not only be detrimental to some long term charter operators; but it holds them in complete and utter disregard.

We believe that, in your deliberations on this important issue, you should give consideration to longevity in the charter industry itself as playing a role in establishing a standard for qualification.

In conclusion, it would be extremely unfair, if someone who recently entered the charter industry and concentrated on halibut fishing, with the intention of qualifying for a future IFQ program was to receive a quota of fish, whereas a long term operator, with a history of halibut charters was to be exempted, and as a result, be required to purchase shares in order to fish a resource he once fished and which helped provide for his livelihood.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Ole & Sandy Bartness  
Islander Charters  
9025 Ninnis Drive  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

cc: Stakeholders Committee  
Senator Ted Stevens  
Representative Don Young

# THE BOAT COMPANY

1200 Fifteenth Street, N.W. Suite 801  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone (202) 338-8055 Fax (202) 234-0745  
www.theboatcompany.com

March 12, 2007

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 13 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West Fourth Avenue  
Suite 308  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

BY FAX 907 271 2817

Dear Ms. Madsen:

In an effort to protect the resource, limits are to be placed on the amount of halibut that can be taken in Region 2c.

The charter industry has been exceeding the quota assigned to it and now NPFMC plans to pass regulations to address that problem.

The Boat Company, founded in 1980, conducts 1-week trips aboard its 2 vessels (each equipped with 4/5 20-ft skiffs) for approximately 500 passengers each summer in Southeast Alaska (3,500 passenger days).

During that time its customers have caught between 100 to 200 halibut each season, or an average of 1 halibut per person every 17 to 35 days.

We understand the current plan is to assign the most quota to those that have caught the most fish, penalizing those of us who make more moderate use of the resource. Besides being unfair, from a resource protection standpoint, it makes little sense.

Our trips feature off-vessel activities (hiking, canoeing/kayaking, wildlife viewing etc.). However, although fishing (salmon, halibut and stream) is not the major focus of our trips, it is an important part. Consequently to curtail our ability to offer halibut fishing will have an adverse impact on our business.

It seems to us that for operations such as ours (limited users of the resource) a more equitable way to address the matter would be to allow us to continue to catch what we have in the past, but perhaps limit us to that.

Sincerely,



**Michael A. McIntosh Sr.**

*West Coast Operations, Construction and Recreation Office*

*19621 Viking Avenue, NW, Poulsbo, Washington 98370 Tel (360) 697-1212 Fax (360) 697-5951*

cc: David Crosby Esq.

*"Nowhere else on earth is there such an abundance and magnificence of mountain, fiord, and glacier scenery. The Alaska coast is to become the showplace of the earth, and pilgrims, not only from the United States but from far beyond the seas will throng in endless procession to see it. Its grandeur is more valuable than the gold in its fish or its woods, for it will never be exhausted." Henry Gannett, Chief Geographer, Alaska Harriman Expedition, 1899*



To The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (IFQ program charter halibut fishery)

Garry D. Edson Bx.19246 Thorne Bay AK. 99919 [rededson@hotmail.com](mailto:rededson@hotmail.com)

Member---South East Alaska Harvest Diver Ass.

Member---Thone Bay Business Ass.

Owner----Quiet Cove Excursions Charter Service Thorne Bay AK.

Participant-Harvest Diver S.E.Alaska Cucumber Fishery 14 Years

Participant-Abalone Fishery untill fishery closed

Participant-Sea urchin 2 Years

Holder-----100 Ton Masters Lic.

20 Years Tug Boat,Rafting Operations

5 Years Owner Operator Log Salvage/Saw Mill/Log Truck

5 Years Charter Captain,working in Thorne Bay

RECEIVED  
FEB 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Sirs; First of all let me say that I agree we must control the growth of the charter industry, and stay within guideline harvest levels, as someone who in 2006 started a charter service (single boat, owner operated) the decisions of the Council will impact me directly one way or another, I will ask you to consider the following, which in my opinion are important to the decisions you will make.

Some of the things I would like implemented would be;

1--One Halibut Per Day Limit, The quickest way to bring catches down, this with a floating limit should abundance increase,

2--Permanent prohibition on skipper and crew catches.

3--Limit the number of lines fished to the number of clients on board.


4--COMMUNITY PROVISIONS-- This is the topic which will impact not only myself, but my community as well, Thorne Bay is a rural community which does not have a fully developed charter industry, Thorne Bay is trying to emerge from a timber based infrastructure to a recreation/tourist and business oriented community, I would like some provisions to help Thorne Bay and small towns like it to be able to survive.

**SOME FACTORS TO CONSIDER AWARDING COMMUNITY PERMITS(CQE)  
AFTER PERMITS ARE GRANTED TO COMMUNITYS**

(1) a later qualifying date-to protect those who have invested in the community

(2) permits going to persons with locally owned business only-

Provisions might include -must be used within first year after issuance-designated for area in which the community is located-sold only to business in the town of issuance-

  
2-23-07

February 16, 2007

Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez  
Office of the Secretary  
US Department of Commerce  
Mailstop 61  
14<sup>th</sup> & Constitution Avenue  
Washington, DC 20230



ANCHORAGE CHAMBER  
of COMMERCE

REC'D  
FEB 20 2007

EDUCATION

Dear Secretary Rice:

N.P.F.M.C.

For more than 90 years the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce has worked to represent and protect the needs of business and to champion economic development and job growth in Alaska.

LEADERSHIP

The Anchorage Chamber is greatly concerned about the possible negative economic impact from the International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) decision to limit anglers to a one-halibut limit if they use a charter boat service (down from the current two halibut per day limit). The economic significance of both the fishing and tourism industries is great. Fishing and tourism represent the second and third largest industries in Alaska, respectively.

CONTACTS

The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) estimates that Alaskan sport anglers spend an estimated \$540 per year and visitors spend another estimated \$199 million, most of which is spent on sportfishing charters. In addition, sportfishing directly creates 6,635 jobs and generates \$142 million annually; indirectly, the industry is responsible for an additional 2,600 jobs and \$67 million in payroll.

Studies and surveys show (including the Alaska Visitor Statistics Program) that sportfishing is an important reason visitors choose to travel to Alaska and most visitors choose to sportfish with a charter business. Halibut charters are only second to salmon in popularity statewide. Leading business organizations in Alaska question the decision of the IPHC since it will require visitors to pay the same price to catch fewer fish.

ADVOCACY

Alaskans also value their sportfishing opportunities as ISER estimates seven out of 10 Alaska households have at least one sport angler. It is apparent that if the visitor and sportfishing industries suffer, the economy of Alaska and its coastal communities suffer.

CONNECTIVITY

On behalf of our Board of Directors and more than 1,200 member businesses, we request you take no action on the IPHC's proposal, and instead appropriately refer the issue to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for consideration and review.

Sincerely,

ACCESS

Stacy Schubert, IOM, president  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

William J. Evans, chair  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of  
Directors

cc. The Honorable Ted Stevens, United States Senator  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senator

SERVICE

The Honorable Don Young, United States Congressman  
The Honorable Sarah Palin, Alaska Governor  
The Honorable Mark Begich, Municipality of Anchorage Mayor  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors  
William T Hogarth, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Stephanie Madsen, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Chambers of Commerce throughout Alaska

February 16, 2007

Secretary Condoleezza Rice  
US Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

FEB 16 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

EDUCATION

Dear Secretary Rice:

For more than 90 years the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce has worked to represent and protect the needs of business and to champion economic development and job growth in Alaska.

LEADERSHIP

The Anchorage Chamber is greatly concerned about the possible negative economic impact from the International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) decision to limit anglers to a one-halibut limit if they use a charter boat service (down from the current two halibut per day limit). The economic significance of both the fishing and tourism industries is great. Fishing and tourism represent the second and third largest industries in Alaska, respectively.

The Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) estimates that Alaskan sport anglers spend an estimated \$540 per year and visitors spend another estimated \$199 million, most of which is spent on sportfishing charters. In addition, sportfishing directly creates 6,635 jobs and generates \$142 million annually; indirectly, the industry is responsible for an additional 2,600 jobs and \$67 million in payroll.

CONTACTS

Studies and surveys show (including the Alaska Visitor Statistics Program) that sportfishing is an important reason visitors choose to travel to Alaska and most visitors choose to sportfish with a charter business. Halibut charters are only second to salmon in popularity statewide. Leading business organizations in Alaska question the decision of the IPHC since it will require visitors to pay the same price to catch fewer fish.

ADVOCACY

Alaskans also value their sportfishing opportunities as ISER estimates seven out of 10 Alaska households have at least one sport angler. It is apparent that if the visitor and sportfishing industries suffer, the economy of Alaska and its coastal communities suffer.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and more than 1,200 member businesses, we request you take no action on the IPHC's proposal, and instead appropriately refer the issue to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council for consideration and review.

CONNECTIVITY

Sincerely,

Stacy Schubert, IOM, president  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce

William J. Evans, chair  
Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of  
Directors

ACCESS

cc. The Honorable Ted Stevens, United States Senator  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senator  
The Honorable Don Young, United States Congressman  
The Honorable Sarah Palin, Alaska Governor

SERVICE

**The Honorable Mark Begich, Municipality of Anchorage Mayor**  
**Anchorage Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors**  
**William T Hogarth, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**Stephanie Madsen, North Pacific Fisheries Management Council**  
**Chambers of Commerce throughout Alaska**



"MIKE & SHIRLEY CHIHULY"

## SALMON & HALIBUT FISHING AT IT'S BEST

P.O. BOX 39294, NINILCHIK, ALASKA 99639

On Sterling Highway next to Chinook Service.

11 March 2007

NPFMC  
FAX 907-271-2817

Re: Halibut Charter Boat Issues Written Testimony



To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mike Chihuly and I live in Ninilchik, Alaska. I am a 50 year resident of this state and have been a charter skipper fishing for halibut and salmon in the waters of Cook Inlet for 25 years. My business operates four boats and employs four skippers, all life long Alaskans who depend on this business for their livelihood. Each skipper runs 70-95 trips a year. We run once a day and do not believe in multiple trips per day. We operate 1 May till 1 Sept. Halibut is the bread and butter of our business.

I could write pages on my opinions about this very large and complex issue. I made the decision years ago not to get too involved as I knew the issues could consume me and I really wanted to have a life, i.e. stay healthy, spend time with my family, volunteer in the community(I am the fire chief), go to my children's basketball games, be involved in my children's lives, etc. So I will make this short and to the point.

1. I support a halibut charter moratorium with the earliest possible control date. I also support halibut charter IFQs. In my opinion, the Council has dropped the ball on this point. Many of the charters here at Deep Creek/Ninilchik have seen the need for a moratorium and supported a moratorium for over 14 years. We first met in 1993 in the Creekside Inn in Ninilchik to discuss the need for some control and recognized local depletion as a real issue facing our industry. IFQs were widely supported but because of the time issue and new players in the industry and on the Council, they failed. This was a travesty in my opinion.
2. I support a 20 day trip threshold for qualification. If you are not running more than 20 trips a year, you are not a serious and legitimate guide. There are too many fly-by-night operations just trying to keep their finger in the pie so that if

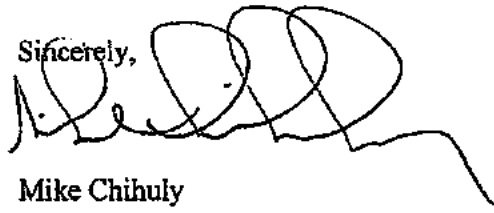


1-907-567-3374

there is some benefit in the future, they might qualify. I know several individuals including serious commercial fishermen in Ninilchik that got their Coast Guard Licenses and pretended to be guides and filled out logbooks for short periods of time just to cover their bases and hedge their bets (speculation) that someday there would be a moratorium or limited entry which could result in some net benefit to them. They really had no more interest in guiding than the "man in the moon" and were fully allocated to their other activities.

3. I support the Council revisiting the "fair share" issue between sport and commercial fishermen and perhaps making some adjustments to the GHL to accommodate a higher demand by the U.S. public to harvest their own fish either with their own resources or the use of guided charters. This is not just a "tourist" issue. Over 50% of my clients are Alaskan residents who would prefer harvesting their halibut for personal use and recreation from my charterboat instead of having to purchase an expensive boat of their own, maintain it, and trust themselves to be safe on the sometimes big and dangerous waters of Cook Inlet.
4. I oppose anything short of a two fish of any size limit. Targeting large or "trophy" fish is not the answer and a one fish limit is just not acceptable. Despite all the rhetoric, 15-25 pound halibut are our bread and butter. They are also more and more becoming the fish of choice for eating purposes. All the charter skippers like to puff up their chest and tell you about their average catch sizes, and there is that undeniable element to charter fishing for some people. It is that possibility of catching "the big one" that makes deep water fishing for halibut exciting and interesting, but we all know the reality of our fishery.
5. We need to know what our fishery is going to look like with respect to regulation no later than 1 January of that fishing year. Having management options applied to our fishery any later than that is totally unacceptable and unworkable due to the nature of our fishery. Some of our clients are making travel plans many months in advance. Our industry has to be able to accommodate this unique aspect of our business.
6. We need a solution to this whole halibut issue now! The wheels of government have turned far too slow and that is partly why this issue has become so difficult. I feel we have the information and the management tools to deal with this issue and we need to do it now. Anything that causes further delays in this process and puts off making definitive decisions towards a timely solution is unacceptable. Don't make the halibut issue another "Exxon Valdez." How frustrating!

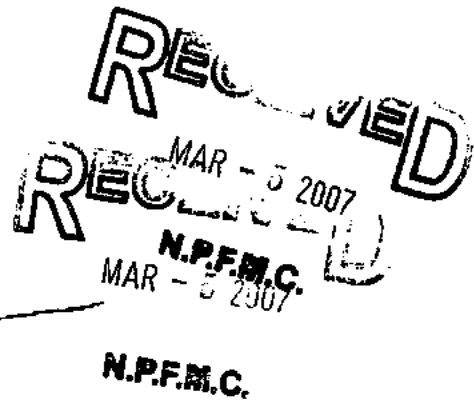
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Chihuly', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Chihuly  
Chihuly Charters  
PO Box 39294  
Ninilchik, Ak. 99639  
907-567-3374



DATE: March 2, 2007  
TO: Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair NPFMC  
FROM: Steve Thurneau, Harvest Charters  
Valdez, Alaska  
SUBJECT: HALIBUT CHARTER MANAGEMENT



Please move forward in an expeditious manner and enact a moratorium on charter boats consistent with the December 2005 date already published in the Federal Registry. This needs to be in place for the 2007 season under an emergency order if need be. This is a very important first step for stability of our charter industry. It is hard to run a viable business with so much instability and uncertainty. Set a threshold of participation at ten ADF&G log book halibut days as a minimum to make the cut on a moratorium

Everyone who makes the cut should be issued a charter license with no differentiation of class. The only way to expand your existing business would be to purchase someone else's charter license so you could operate another boat.

There needs to be a mechanism in place to expand the charter GHL by a minimum of 15% whether it be through a Federal buy back of commercial IFQ or some other avenue. With a moratorium and a 15% upward adjustment of our GHL there would be no further action required because the amount of charter boats left in the industry would never go over an adjusted GHL.

I've heard talk about angler days or charter IFQ and although I am against this, if somehow you decide to enact one of these measures, then the only equitable way to do this would be to receive angler days/IFQ based on the average of your best three years of fishing from 1998-2005.

As for a 2007 short term fix in area 3A, if the moratorium was in place this year along with no captain or crew fish retention, that would be sufficient in reducing our catch to stay below the current GHL. In area 2c if you put a size limit on the second fish, it should be no larger than 40 inches as it would be very tough to get an accurate measurement on a fish any larger, and would result in hurting or killing many undersized fish if the second fish had to be 50 or 60 inches.

March 6, 2007

RECORDED  
MAR - 9 2007

Dear Chair Madsen,

N.P.F.M.C.

I am writing to comment about the halibut charter issue. I encourage you to take final action on a moratorium at this meeting and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough so that the qualifying boats can stay within the published GHL. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut. In southeast over 90% of the charter clients are non-resident and the continued expansion of the charter harvest and effort severely impacts local access to the resource.


Please implement management measures for 2008 to hold the charter fleet to the GHL. This GHL was recently implemented (2000) and included a liberal allowance for growth. The fact that the charter fleet has continually exceeded this GHL should not be a reason to raise their allocation. The GHL was exceeded because of ineffective management. Would you raise a commercial GHL because we over-ran our quota? Of course not! You would impose additional management measures to hold catch to the GHL. Annual limits could be a solution for 2008. All regulations require a degree of trust that fishermen will follow the rules – annual limits are no less enforceable and no more expensive than the current federal bag and possession regulations.

I support converting the GHL to a percentage that moves with abundance but the percentage must stay tied to the initial allocation. This is more than equitable given the fact that the US consumer (60 million portions of halibut sold annually), personal use, and subsistence fishermen relied on this resource long before the development of the charter fishery. It is unethical to continue to give away an already fully utilized resource to the newest user. Don't forget, the commercial harvest is constrained by regulation – many young fishermen would welcome a chance to expand the commercial fishery as well.

An expanding charter fleet restricts opportunities for subsistence and local fishermen who rely on halibut distributed close to town.

A long term solution is obviously a market-based solution. Since the Council voted twice in favor of charter IFQs this approach obviously has merit. Please put this at the top of the list. An IFQ type program allows for a market-based solution without a government hand-out – those that are interested will participate and balance will be achieved.

Sincerely,

  
Dick Curran  
F/V Cherokee  
Sitka, Alaska

March 9, 2007  
TO: NPFMC

907 271 2817

I am very concerned about the gross overages by the charter fleet fishing halibut. This part of the fishery is totally out of control and is a great example of terrible management- or I should say of no management. Is this what the Council and NMFS want to be known for?

I feel the guided charter fleet needs a hard fast GHL that they are accountable for. If they exceed it then overages should come from their GHL not out of other user groups. I do not see a moratorium as being effective in slowing down the catch as there is too many in the fishery for that to work.

I do not think a trophy fish size limit will work as so many of the fish in 2C (where I am) are under the proposed limits so there will be a lot more catch and release which will cause a lot more mortality- and studies have shown that halibut that stay in the same areas will be caught over and over and that mortality on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, or 4<sup>th</sup> time have a higher and higher mortality rate. This might make the landed numbers lower but it will not make the numbers of dead fish lower which is obviously what really counts.

The only two things I can think of that would slow the charter fishery effectively is a 1 fish bag limit and the crossover proposal that would allow them to lease or buy longline IFQ's for clients who want more than one fish. The IPHC should be applauded for not bowing to political pressure and trying to impose a 1 fish bag limit for part of the season. I feel the Council should impose it for the whole season as the IPHC 's limit was to bring the fish removal level to under the overfishing level- but it really needs to come down to the GHL. The charter fleet needs to both advertise their trips in such a manner as not to be geared for maximum production and to explain to their clients that everyone needs to play their part in staying within limits and a 1 fish limit with the option to pay more for the opportunity for more fish via leased or bought IFQ's is just how it is.

I do not think giving management of this fishery to the State of Alaska is a good idea at all. They have a bad track record of doing anything with the charter fleet to keep them within limits. I feel the IPHC would be a way better choice as they are the only ones to step forward and try to do anything so far.

The longline fleet is held responsible for every pound caught and fined if there are overages. Why is this not true for other commercial users? Why is the charter fleet allowed to run amok causing losses to the longline fleet in overages and causing losses to all other users (sport and subsistence) by jeopardizing the health of the fishery with their overfishing? Any other fishery that runs over so grossly is immediately reprimanded.

Why not the charter fleet? We keep hearing how the Council, the Alaska Fish and Game, and NMFS are going to come up with all these ways to keep the guided charter fleet under their GHL- but we NEVER see them happen. Why?

It is way past time for the Council to do their job. Please do it as quickly as possible. Do it by emergency order if possible so as to get going.

Thank You  
Carolyn Nichols  
305 Islander Drive  
Sitka, AK 99835

Carolyn R Nichols

N.P.F.M.C.

3/18/07

Please put in place effective measures necessary to keep the halibut charter fleet within their GHL.

My family and I have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in halibut Quota. We accept conservation minded Quota reductions, but are unwilling to see expensive Quota we've bought reallocated to the charter fleet. The GHL established in 2000 gave the charter fleet 125% of their harvest at the time. Just because they've been allowed to exceed the GHL year after year shouldn't entitle them to more halibut.

I would support an allocation split, like the one proposed by fish and game a year or so ago. (86% commercial / 14% sport) Also the charter fleet needs a moratorium/limited entry program.

Then a halibut charter stakeholder committee could hash out any needed management decisions to stay within their allocation, example bag limits, annual limits etc.

This would stabilize both the halibut charter and longline fleets.

I recently talked to an IFQ broker in Petersburg AK, and they said potential halibut IFQ buyers are somewhat hesitant to buy halibut Quota because of the uncertainty with the halibut charter issue.

Sincerely, Marty Remund  
P.O. Box 8147  
Port Alexander, AK 99836

P.S.

Any halibut taken over the GHL in a given year should be paid for in the following years GHL, (not taken from the commercial fleet)

RE

MAR 1 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

March 13, 2007

RECEIVED

MAR 13 2007

To North Pacific Fishery Management Council:

NPFMC

My name is Tim Erion and I have been chartering on Cook Inlet for 20 years. I am the owner & operator of Alaska Vader Charters.

I am in favor of a Halibut Charter moratorium with December 9, 2005 the control date with a 20-day trip qualification for the moratorium; with a second 20-day trip threshold for a moratorium permit transferability. The 2004 or 2005 logbook data should be used for this information.

We need an initial allocation that represents a fair share and is adequate enough to allow for a permanent solution. NPFMC already has all the data they need to establish a Permanent Solution. It has been 14 years in the process and it needs to be resolved this year.

I do strongly oppose any allocation delegation to ADF& G because their potential in-season management decisions could devastate my business.

Sincerely,



Tim Erion  
Alaska Vader Charters  
P.O.Box 526  
Clam Gulch, AK. 99568  
907-567-3387



# Winter King Charters

All Season Salmon and Halibut Charters  
Smooth Comfortable Ride • 32' Heated Catamaran



North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

March 12, 2007

Members of the North Council:

I am writing to you today regarding the halibut charter moratorium.

While I support the concept of a charter moratorium as a means to get a handle on managing the sector, I am concerned over the addition of an option that would prohibit transfer of moratorium permits for vessels that qualified at trip levels less than 10, 15 or 20 trips.

The moratorium will cap the number of allowable charter boats and consequently cap access opportunities for charter anglers. Under the non-transferability option, as holders of non-transferable permits exit the industry, their permits would retire, further reducing access opportunities for charter fishermen as time goes on. Does the North Council really want to restrict recreational access to the resource beyond the reductions already imposed by implementation of the moratorium?

As holders of vessel permits retire, they will naturally want to sell their businesses or at least the business assets. Who in their right mind would want to buy a charter business or a charter boat if such a critical prerequisite as a moratorium permit is not available? Holders of restricted class permits will not be able to convert the value of their sizable investments into retirement funding. They will be stuck with a valueless asset.

In effect, instead of excluding businesses before the moratorium is implemented, this option proposes to exclude them once the moratorium is in place. Depending on the threshold chosen, this exclusion has the potential of eliminating hundreds of permits and thousands of charter angler's access to the resource. All this option does is delay the damage to certain operators until years after the moratorium is implemented while further reducing public access to the resource.

It is obvious that once the non-transferable permits go away, the holders of transferable permits will be the benefactors. If further consolidation of the charter sector is the goal of this option, perhaps the North Council should consider a charter boat buy out plan.

Does the North Council, really want to destroy the value of an individual's business investment when the business owner decides to exit the business, or is it just trying to weed out the speculators? If the intent of this option is to eliminate speculators, I would suggest a 3 to 5 year non-transferability restriction coupled with a "use it or lose it" clause, specifying a required number charter log entries to retain the permit.

**Rex Murphy** owner/operator

P.O. Box 3309 • Homer, AK 99603 • 907-235-9113 • [www.winterking.com](http://www.winterking.com)

REC  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

The North Council drew a line in the sand by setting a December 9, 2005 control date. The moratorium adds conditions to the control date that will most likely exclude some operators who legitimately operated halibut charter businesses before that date. Please do not blur that line any further by adopting an option that will further reduce recreational access to the resource while financially damaging a sizable number of charter operators.

Sincerely,



Rex Murphy  
Winter King Charters  
907-235-9113



# Winter King Charters

All Season Salmon and Halibut Charters  
Smooth Comfortable Ride • 32' Heated Catamaran



North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

March 12, 2007

Members of the North Council:

I am writing to you today regarding the permanent solution to recreational charter halibut management.

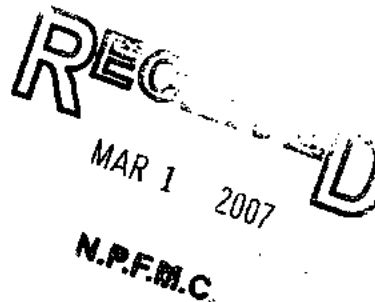
As a member of the Stakeholder team, I have worked with members and staff to develop options for a long term solution. At present, two models are emerging from the Stakeholders, both awarding QS or angler days based on the past histories of moratorium permit holders. Unfortunately, plans both still amount to a giveaway of a public trust resource. There will be a value to each operator's allocation, comparable on a per pound basis to commercial IFQs, which will serve as a barrier to new entry, growth and for that matter, sale of an existing business. There are no guarantees that the initial allocation will be sufficient to allow shareholders to operate at their historical levels. Additionally, when the biomass decreases, yearly poundage allocations will shrink, requiring operators to scramble to purchase more QS just to maintain their current level of clients. In summary, both plans are fatally flawed, and should be dropped from consideration, the sooner the better.

Today I am enclosing a proposal that manages the recreational charter sector using a simple first come, first served model. Here are some key features:

- This proposal manages the harvest within an allocation, *with no in-season or post season management actions required*; its single operating premise is that ticket sales stop when there are no more available tickets.
- This proposal fairly distributes a limited resource to recreational anglers in a way we all understand, since virtually all goods and services are distributed on a first come, first served basis.
- This proposal contains options for an inter-sector catch sharing plan, allowing for dynamic, in-season growth of the recreational allocation via IFQ leasing, as well as end of season mop up of recreational underages by the longline sector. This minimizes the need to ever cease ticket sales, while fully utilizing the resource.
- This proposal provides for a permanent, compensated allocation shift via QS purchase.
- This proposal works with any size allocation

Rex Murphy owner/operator

P.O. Box 3309 • Homer, AK 99603 • 907-235-9113 • [www.winterking.com](http://www.winterking.com)





- This proposal works with or without a moratorium.
- This proposal does not gift a public trust resource to a privileged few.

Today the necessity of managing the charter sector within an allocation and the need for a compensated allocation adjustment mechanism are more painfully obvious than ever. We need to resolve this issue once and for all, but we must take the time to do it right the first time. Please take a hard look at this proposal and consider including it for analysis.

As always, your questions, comments and suggestions are appreciated.

Sincerely,



Rex Murphy  
Winter King Charters  
rbmurphy@ptialaska.net  
www.winterking.com  
907-235-9113

**Problem Statement:**

Halibut is a fully utilized resource whose harvest must be actively managed to preserve long term sustainability of the resource. The recreational harvest is not currently controlled. As recreational catches increase, the commercial share of the catch is reduced in an effort to keep the overall catch within sustainable levels. This results in economic uncertainty in the commercial sector while still leaving open the possibility of over-harvesting due to uncontrolled harvest by the recreational sector.

Any successful long term solution to these problems must:

- Fairly manage the recreational harvest within its allocation without bag limit reductions or mid-season closures.
- Allow for recreational allocation growth while compensating the commercial sector for its corresponding allocation decrease.
- Account for the recreational harvest in a timely and accurate manner.

Here is an integrated plan that satisfies the above requirements.

**Harvest Management:**

Each year, the recreational allocation in fish is determined using harvest data from the previous year and the fishery allocation policy. This allocation is divided into a finite number of Harvest Tickets, each good for a limit of fish for one person on any single day of the season. Harvest Tickets are made available to the public on a first come, first served basis via the internet or retail vendors, and are non-transferable to prevent hoarding or scalping. Harvest Ticket distribution stops when all available tickets have been dispensed, essentially pre-reserving the allocation.

**Allocation Growth:**

A holding entity is created to purchase quota share (QS) or lease IFQs on behalf of the recreational sector. Funding could be from halibut stamp or harvest ticket purchase, donations, grants, bequests, bond sales, etc. QS could be purchased for permanent growth of the sector allocation. In season IFQ leasing would allow the recreational sector to catch more than its allocation in a managed and compensated manner. At the end of the season, any unfished recreational allocation could be leased back to the commercial sector for an end of season cleanup.

**Accountability:**

A harvest record can be incorporated into the harvest ticket and could be used to report data such as number and length of fish harvested, date harvested, charter utilized, etc. This information is critical for harvest count and average fish weight calculations that are used in the following year's allocation decisions and is also necessary for enforcement purposes. Timely reporting of this data would also allow distribution of more harvest tickets, since many anglers will not catch their limit and uncaught fish could be added back to the available pool.

**Alaska Coastal Marine**

www.alaskacoastalmarine.com

P.O. Box 3149, Soldotna, Alaska 99669

(907) 262-4355 fax (907) 262-9756

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
Chris Oliver, Executive Director  
604 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

**RECEIVED**

MAR 12 2007

**N.P.F.M.C.**

March 12, 2007

Dear Council Members,

My family owns Alaska Coastal Marine in Homer Alaska. We have been operating sport recreational halibut charters in Homer since 1988. We own five charter vessels and employ over 22 Alaskans.

- We are in full support of a Halibut Charter Moratorium with a December 9, 2005 Control Date. This must be done to give this industry some stability.
- We support using a 10 day threshold for qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary of a 20 day trip threshold for moratorium permit transferability. Use of 2005 log book data is preferred.
- We request an initial allocation that represents a fair share and is adequate enough to allow for a permanent solution.
- Fair allocation numbers need to be developed.
- NPFMC already has all the data they need to establish a Permanent Solution and don't need to keep going forward for more data collection and studies.
- We strongly oppose any allocation delegation to ADF&G because their potential in-season management decisions could devastate our business. We would have no ability to manage our business with short notice on seat availability.
- We request NPFMC to move as rapidly as possible to a Halibut Charter Permanent Solution that allows for individual business choices.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Cashman Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Timothy J. Cashman Jr.  
Vice President

**RECEIVED**

MAR 13 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
907-271-2817

Dr. Bruce Leaman, Director of the IPHC, recently addressed a Halibut Forum in Homer. His agenda was: 1) To update data gathering techniques and summaries, and 2) explain recent IPHC proposed sanctions on the Charter fleet. The first was educational, the latter was a joke! In the process, he inadvertently validated what many have long suspected - the mismanagement and abuse of the council process by the NPFMC members.

Past councils have been derelict in their responsibilities to manage the Halibut resource. Council members have functioned primarily as agents of "special interest" - specifically to protect the commercial sector stronghold on the resource and trade favors for future voting considerations. No conscientious attempt has been demonstrated to actually protect or preserve the Halibut resource.

Since the implementation of the Commercial IFQ program (the Council's scheme to divide the wealth from the resource), there has been a sharp decline in the Halibut biomass as demonstrated by Dr. Leaman. Commercial fishing, in its haste to rationalize the "obvious" has blamed the sport catch (specifically the Charter Harvest). No facts support their claim, which is hardly possible when ADF&G statistics show an actual decline in Charter businesses since 2000, a 20% reduction in client trips since 2000 and 27,000 fewer fishing licenses sold last year alone.

The "Blame" must be properly assigned! Trawlers kill and waste the majority of unprocessed halibut (20-30 times the horrid charter GHL overage). But processors and longliners are irresponsible as well. Processors reward harvesters with higher prices for larger fish and indirectly encourage the targeting of spawn-capable adults and the upgrading of catches. Dr. Leaman offered the perfect summary, "In terms of pure numbers, the commercial fleet kills and wastes more Halibut each year than they harvest and sell with the majority of these fish being under 3 lbs." The future of the Halibut resource IS its breeding population and its juveniles - Both groups are facing accelerated demise!

Dr. Leaman indicated the same conditions existed within the Canadian commercial fleet. But, Canadian management authorities faced the hard facts. Their commercial fleet was threatened with immediate loss of harvest privileges if conservation practices were not implemented. They were implemented - video monitoring was mandated, and waste/bycatch was lowered 85% in a single year!

Dr. Leaman was repeatedly challenged as to "why" similar efforts to reduce the commercial waste weren't in effect in the American industry. He deflected all management responsibility to the NPFMC, and explained that waste remained high in the US commercial fleet because "nothing commercially restrictive has been considered or implemented by our regional management authority - the NPFMC."

In direct contradiction to the IPHC's commercial posture, Dr. Leaman rationalized the IPHC's participation in the charter harvest issue. He indicated that "with no NPFMC charter policy in place, they felt the responsibility to take some restrictive action" BULL! The IPHC's restrictive proposals were purely a "political" response to the appeal of the Halibut Coalition to spotlight and restrict the sport harvest.

Dr. Leaman was challenged as to the IPHC verification process of the Charter harvest data and the claims offered by the Halibut Coalition. He stated simply "No attempt was made to verify the catch data by us." An employee of ADF&G in attendance offered further clarification: "No such data has been released, and none was expected before August of '07."

Once again, the Agenda of the NPFMC, March '07 meetings include considerable attention to Charter harvest and ZERO for serious restrictive consideration pertinent to the commercial fleet. The problems continue while the resource suffers and declines!

The public is watching more closely than ever and challenges to the inappropriateness of council proceedings are becoming more common.

Sincerely,



Dr. John E. Bondioli  
PO Box 66  
Homer, AK 99603

**RECEIVED**

MAR 13 2007

**N.P.F.M.C.**

Charles E Wilber  
705 Etolin  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
1 907 747 5819  
[cwilber@sci.net](mailto:cwilber@sci.net)

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

Dear Council members,

Seafood Producers Co-op is the oldest fisherman's cooperative in the U.S. 450 of our members are Alaskans. 262 of our members own Halibut IFQ totaling 5.7 million pounds, most of which is in 2C and 3A. Halibut is a significant business for the Co op.

The Co op wants the de facto reallocation of Halibut IFQ to the charter fleet to end. In 2006 the Charter fleet went over their GHL by 47% in 2C and 6% in 3A. This overage is coming right out of the QS held by our members. We estimate that we have handed over 100,000 # of Halibut to the 2C charter fleet in 2006.

Some of our members have borrowed heavily in good faith to purchase Halibut Quota. The Co-op has spent funds to increase marketing on Halibut, and we've spent to retool some of our processing equipment in order to produce a value added product. Our customers love Halibut and they pay a good price for it.

For some time we have seen Halibut flowing from the tightly regulated Commercial Halibut fishery to the ever expanding Charter fishery. If a commercial IFQ holder goes over his/her exact number of pounds he/she is subject to serious penalty. If the Charter fleet goes 47% over their GHL there are no repercussions or penalties. However, the Commercial IFQ fleet is expected to make up the overage of the Charter fleet.

Years of regulatory stagnation have allowed the Charter fleet to become unconstrained, leading to a flood of new participants and a ballooning catch of the Halibut resource. The unregulated growth of the Charter fishery now threatens not only the Commercial longline fishery but the health of the entire Alaskan Halibut resource. When the Charter fishery exceeded it's 2C GHL by almost 50%, the Constant Exploitation Yield was exceeded and the long term health of the Halibut resource came into question. NMFS and the Council must commit to immediately establishing effective harvest control measures by mid June 2007 for the Charter fleet. Otherwise, the Charters will again be rewarded for exceeding their GHL.

- I am urging the NMFS and the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter Halibut fishery and to initiate analysis of the crossover proposal

- Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date. The moratorium is a meaningful first step to reduce the GHL overage, but is not enough in itself to effectively reduce the catch.
- The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the current GHL. When instituted, the current GHL was 125% of the charter catch. Increasing the GHL would only reward irresponsible resource management. A hard allocation with separate accountability seems to work well with King Salmon and could be effective for Halibut.

The IPHC did not get involved in this problem to solve an allocation dispute between resource users. It did get involved because of genuine conservation concerns for the Halibut resource. It's time for the Council to show effective leadership and solve this problem. The time for more assessment and three year studies has already happened. Please implement the difficult but effective measures to protect our Halibut resource. The Halibut and all those who depend on them need you to act decisively and quickly on this long festering issue.

Thanks for your consideration,

*Charlie Wilber*

Charles E Wilber  
Chairman, Seafood Producers Cooperative

*In order for our Halibut program to be successful, we need to be assured of a consistent supply. Thanks again,  
Charlie*

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 13 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the **crossover proposal**.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

*Peter T. Thompson*

*3/10/07*

Name/Date  
Vessel name  
Address

*F/V DUES PAYER II*  
*P.O. Box 3037*  
*KODIAK, AK. 99615*



3-13-07

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

RECEIVED  
MAR 13 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is in regard to the Halibut Charter Issue slated for the March NPFMC meeting. I have owned and operated Van Saun Charters for 15 years. I am worn out by the NPFMC process and lack of a final solution. The Council has been ripping our industry in different directions for 14 years. It is important the NPFMC move rapidly to a permanent solution that allows personal choices.

I am in strong opposition to any allocation delegation to the ADF&G. Their in-season management strategies would devastate my business.

The NPFMC has more than enough Data to make a final decision. There is no need for delays to collect more data.

Fair allocation numbers need to be developed. I want an initial allocation that represents a fair share and allows me to continue to offer my same historical service to my clients. I want this allocation to be a permanent solution.

I support a Moratorium using the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 control date. I also support a 20 trip threshold to qualify for a transferable limited entry permit.

I am very tired of watching the NPFMC make decisions benefiting new comers. These are the exact group the Council originally defined as "The Problem Area". All longtime operators have suffered extreme financial hardships because the Council chose to allow this group to grow while holding threats over us about limited growth and IFQ. Quit rewarding the cheaters.

The time has come for the NPFMC to issue a permanent solution that addresses the issue of longevity and does not reward the speculators and the problem area for their growth. After all it is their inclusion into the fleet that has pushed us over the GHL.

Sincerely,



Rod Van Saun  
PO BOX 39622 Ninilchik, AK 99639

March 12, 2007

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West Fourth Avenue  
Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

BY FAX 907 271 2817

Dear Ms. Madsen:

In an effort to protect the resource, limits are to be placed on the amount of halibut that can be taken in Region 2c.

The charter industry has been exceeding the quota assigned to it and now NPFMC plans to pass regulations to address that problem.

The Boat Company, founded in 1980, conducts 1-week trips aboard its 2 vessels (each equipped with 4/5 20-ft skiffs) for approximately 500 passengers each summer in Southeast Alaska (3,500 passenger days).

During that time its customers have caught between 100 to 200 halibut each season, or an average of 1 halibut per person every 17 to 35 days.

We understand the current plan is to assign the most quota to those that have caught the most fish, penalizing those of us who make more moderate use of the resource. Besides being unfair, from a resource protection standpoint, it makes little sense.

Our trips feature off-vessel activities (hiking, canoeing/kayaking, wildlife viewing etc.). However, although fishing (salmon, halibut and stream) is not the major focus of our trips, it is an important part. Consequently to curtail our ability to offer halibut fishing will have an adverse impact on our business.

It seems to us that for operations such as ours (limited users of the resource) a more equitable way to address the matter would be to allow us to continue to catch what we have in the past, but perhaps limit us to that.

Sincerely,

Michael A. McIntosh Sr.

*Director of Operations, Conservation and Restoration*

*12623, 12624, 12625, 12626, 12627, 12628, 12629, 12630, 12631, 12632, 12633, 12634, 12635, 12636, 12637, 12638, 12639, 12640, 12641, 12642, 12643, 12644, 12645, 12646, 12647, 12648, 12649, 12650, 12651, 12652, 12653, 12654, 12655, 12656, 12657, 12658, 12659, 12660, 12661, 12662, 12663, 12664, 12665, 12666, 12667, 12668, 12669, 12670, 12671, 12672, 12673, 12674, 12675, 12676, 12677, 12678, 12679, 12680, 12681, 12682, 12683, 12684, 12685, 12686, 12687, 12688, 12689, 12690, 12691, 12692, 12693, 12694, 12695, 12696, 12697, 12698, 12699, 12700, 12701, 12702, 12703, 12704, 12705, 12706, 12707, 12708, 12709, 12710, 12711, 12712, 12713, 12714, 12715, 12716, 12717, 12718, 12719, 12720, 12721, 12722, 12723, 12724, 12725, 12726, 12727, 12728, 12729, 12730, 12731, 12732, 12733, 12734, 12735, 12736, 12737, 12738, 12739, 12740, 12741, 12742, 12743, 12744, 12745, 12746, 12747, 12748, 12749, 12750, 12751, 12752, 12753, 12754, 12755, 12756, 12757, 12758, 12759, 12760, 12761, 12762, 12763, 12764, 12765, 12766, 12767, 12768, 12769, 12770, 12771, 12772, 12773, 12774, 12775, 12776, 12777, 12778, 12779, 12780, 12781, 12782, 12783, 12784, 12785, 12786, 12787, 12788, 12789, 12790, 12791, 12792, 12793, 12794, 12795, 12796, 12797, 12798, 12799, 12800, 12801, 12802, 12803, 12804, 12805, 12806, 12807, 12808, 12809, 12810, 12811, 12812, 12813, 12814, 12815, 12816, 12817, 12818, 12819, 12820, 12821, 12822, 12823, 12824, 12825, 12826, 12827, 12828, 12829, 12830, 12831, 12832, 12833, 12834, 12835, 12836, 12837, 12838, 12839, 12840, 12841, 12842, 12843, 12844, 12845, 12846, 12847, 12848, 12849, 12850, 12851, 12852, 12853, 12854, 12855, 12856, 12857, 12858, 12859, 12860, 12861, 12862, 12863, 12864, 12865, 12866, 12867, 12868, 12869, 12870, 12871, 12872, 12873, 12874, 12875, 12876, 12877, 12878, 12879, 12880, 12881, 12882, 12883, 12884, 12885, 12886, 12887, 12888, 12889, 12890, 12891, 12892, 12893, 12894, 12895, 12896, 12897, 12898, 12899, 12900, 12901, 12902, 12903, 12904, 12905, 12906, 12907, 12908, 12909, 12910, 12911, 12912, 12913, 12914, 12915, 12916, 12917, 12918, 12919, 12920, 12921, 12922, 12923, 12924, 12925, 12926, 12927, 12928, 12929, 12930, 12931, 12932, 12933, 12934, 12935, 12936, 12937, 12938, 12939, 12940, 12941, 12942, 12943, 12944, 12945, 12946, 12947, 12948, 12949, 12950, 12951, 12952, 12953, 12954, 12955, 12956, 12957, 12958, 12959, 12960, 12961, 12962, 12963, 12964, 12965, 12966, 12967, 12968, 12969, 12970, 12971, 12972, 12973, 12974, 12975, 12976, 12977, 12978, 12979, 12980, 12981, 12982, 12983, 12984, 12985, 12986, 12987, 12988, 12989, 12990, 12991, 12992, 12993, 12994, 12995, 12996, 12997, 12998, 12999, 13000*

cc: David Crosby Esq.

*Faint footer text at the bottom of the page, possibly containing contact information or organizational details.*



P.O. Box 508, Sterling, AK 99672

L O D G E

907-262-1747 FAX 907-262-6747



RECEIVED

MAR 1 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

March 15, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

We are the owners of Anglers Lodge in Sterling Alaska and have been in the charter fishing business for 20 years. We strongly support a halibut charter moratorium with a December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 control date, as soon as possible.

We support using a 20 day –annual trip threshold for qualification for permit transferability. We support the use of 2004-2005 logbook data.

We want an initial allocation that represents our fair share and is adequate to provide a long term permanent solution to the halibut allocation issues. Allocations numbers need to be developed that are fair and take into account business history.

NPFMC already has all the data they need to establish a permanent solution and they do not need to gather more data and have more studies. Use the date we have and establish the guidelines now.

We strongly oppose any allocation delegation to ADF&G because their potential in season management decisions could and would devastate our business. Their best schedule if this would happen is to let us know what restrictions we face by January 1st each year.

We want NPFMC to move as rapidly as possible to a halibut charter permanent solution that allows for individual business operational success. It has already been 14 years in the process and we need to have it resolved.

Thank you,

Roger and Marlene Byerly  
Anglers Lodge  
PO BOX 508  
Sterling, Alaska, 99672

[anglers@alaska.net](mailto:anglers@alaska.net) [www.AnglersLodge.com](http://www.AnglersLodge.com) Reservations 1-888-262-1747

Member of: Alaska Sportfishing Association • Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau • Alaska Visitors Association • Deep Creek Charterboat Association • Alaska Master Guide Association • Master Guide, Kenai River Professional Guide Association • Soldotna Chamber of Commerce

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am an Alaska resident and commercial fisherman. I own Halibut IFQ in 3A and 2C. I have been buying small chunks of IFQ since the inception of the program and have built my business with halibut as a major investment.

I was not issued any original pounds at the inception of the IFQ program and I don't hold it against those who were there and took the risk; and put in the time and investment.

I have invested in the program fully understanding the risk of natural stock fluctuations and coinciding management actions. That it would be properly and fairly managed through good science and common sense; but not that another user group could exploit the resource to the point of harming my business and the resource.

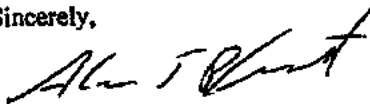
I have worked within the system in order to participate in the commercial halibut fishery. The reallocation of halibut resource from the longline sector to the charter sector needs to stop. This is both an issue of fairness as well as an issue of responsible resource management.

Please take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery. Adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date. In my point of view this is very generous.

This issue must be dealt with immediately and I'm counting on you to deal with it fairly, keeping in mind as you do that there are many people in my position.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Alec Pfundt \March 14, 2007  
FV Haley Marie  
PO Box 1342, 205 Galveston St.  
Petersburg AK 99833

NPFMC

Written Testimony for Council meeting

March 26-30, 2007

Anchorage, Alaska

RECEIVED  
MAR 14 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Issue: Military Exemption, Charter Moratorium

My name is Hill Norvell, and I have given public testimony previously regarding the Charter Industry and the potential charter moratorium. I am concerned about the stipulations of military exemptions being limited to 4 clients because of no participation in 2004 or 2005 because of military service. I am against such a limitation in exchange for service to our country.

I have participated in this fishery as a recreational fisherman operating a vessel for hire since 2001. I am a resident of Alaska and had full intent of starting my own saltwater guide business in 2004; however, I decided to join active duty in the U.S. Military and postpone my guide business for 3 years, assuming that I was not one of the soldiers who paid with their life. I should not be punished by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for serving my country during a time of war. A permit of 4 clients is a punishment.

I am requesting that the council allow military exemptions to be accepted on their log book nearest the 2005 time frame and require participation in the year prior to implementation. My log book would be 2007.

I have received a letter from a voting member on the NPFMC stating that allowing an exemption for me would be unfair to other new entrants. I disagree. I did not go on vacation. I served our country to protect our freedoms. I am not asking for a chance to "GROW" my business. My boat contract is prior to Dec. 2005 showing my full intent to enter the business after receiving my Honorable Discharge in 2006.

With the information received from NPFMC, I do not support a moratorium nor find justification for one. The commercial fishery harvest has grown from 43,882,000lbs in 1995 to 71,823,000 in 2005. Recreational landings went from 7,470,000 in 1995 to 9,963,000 in 2005. The commercial fishery has increased approximately 99% the rate of the recreational catch. There is no justification for not allowing me full entry into the Guided Halibut Sport Fishery.

Sincerely,



G. Hill Norvell

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

3.11.07  
RECEIVED  
MAR 15 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the **crossover proposal**.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Ben G. Gross  
F/V Martina  
Petersburg, AK 99833

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

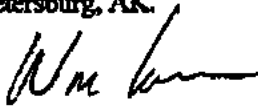
To The NPFMC,

Council members, I seek your help in support of maintaining the GHL for the commercial charter operators established in 2000. This GHL at that time provided 125% of their harvest at the time. In 1996 I testified at the Anchorage council meeting that we needed to adopt accountability and control of the potential explosion in the commercial charter fleet at that time. To be at the junction we are today is irresponsible especially in light of the fact, that as early as 1995 we knew that all the halibut quota was being harvested at this time.

I have harvested halibut since 1975 as a crew member and have harvested as a boat owner since 1980. Since 1975 I have abided by the quota established by the IPHC. In 1995 I invested in IFQ and as of today have spent over seven figures in the acquisition of IFQ. My investment along with my crew, the community I live in, and support all need to be credited with a stake in a GHL that is abided by the commercial charter industry. The commercial charter industry can, as all other business individuals, invest in their business by buying IFQ if they need more fish for their clients. To continue to reward the commercial charter industry overages without consequence sets a poor precedence.

My crew, my family, my community, the business that I support, and myself need your support NOW in maintaining the GHL established in 2000, the implementation of an effective harvest control measure for 2008, along with a mechanism for limited compensation reallocation that allows limited leasing of commercial quota to the commercial charter industry. The moratorium control date should stand as of 2005.

Thank you for your time  
Bill Connor  
Box 1124  
Petersburg, AK.

  
3-15-07

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

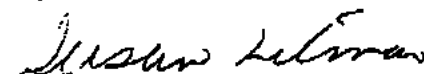
I am writing to you with concerns about the huge growth in the charter industry in the last years. I have lived in Alaska for the last 30 years and own, with my husband, a boat repair business that does work for both the charter and commercial fleets. I am concerned that if something is not done to control the charter halibut fishery, that both the commercial and charter fisheries will be the big losers.

I am writing to urge the Council to adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and maintain the existing GHL as the basis for allocation. It is essential that the Council implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. I have read about the cross-over proposal and I believe the Council should look into this.

In closing, I hope the Council continues to support sustainable fisheries management. The charter fishery must be governed by a responsible management plan that includes a moratorium, harvest control, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Susan Litman



**Robert L Jaynes  
Delsbrat Charters  
POB 2941 Valdez, Alaska  
99686  
(907) 835-5935**

**RECEIVED  
MAR 15 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.**

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

**Anchorage Meeting 25-31 March 2007**

**Fax: 907-271-2817**

**Council members,**

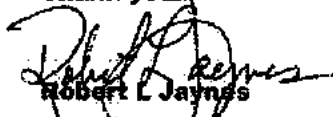
**March 15th, 2007**

**My name is Robert L Jaynes. I am the owner operator of Delsbrat Charters located in Valdez, Alaska. I have been in the charter business for twelve years.**

**It is my opinion that it is time for the council to take steps to establish a permanent solution to correcting the long time allocation differences between the Commercial sector and the Guided Sport Charter sector. The NPFMC has in their position all the necessary data to establish a permanent solution and it isn't necessary for them to keep going forward for more data collection and studies. I am opposed to any allocation delegation to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I believe that their potential in season management decisions could be devastating to my business. I strongly recommend that the Guided Sport Charter Sector be given an initial allocation that represents a fair share and is adequate enough to allow for a permanent solution. Fair allocation numbers need to be developed. I would ask the NPFMC to move on this issue as fast as possible, it has already been fourteen years in the process and I would like to see it resolved once and for all.**

- 1) I support the establishment of a Halibut Charter Moratorium with a December 9th 2005 control date. Please accomplish this as soon as possible.**
- 2) I support the using a five day trip threshold (or 0, 10, 15, 20) for qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary twenty day trip threshold for moratorium permit transferability. Use of 2004 or 2005 Log Book data is preferred.**
- 3) I support the passage of State of Alaska Bill HB 186, "Sport Fishing Guide Records", introduced by Rep John Harris of Valdez, Alaska 12 Mar 2007, to allow Logbook data sharing with NPFMC and other Federal Agencies.**

**Thank you.**

  
**Robert L Jaynes  
DELSBRAT CHARTERS**

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 9 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

One part of the commercial fishing industry should not grow at the expense of the other when rational measures can be taken to assure equity and fairness. As the demand for charter fish grows, simply allow charter operators to buy or lease quota shares from the commercial fisherman. Charter fisherman will thus buy out the investment of market fisherman and the fight will be over. Conservation limits will apply rationally to the entire biomass and the allocation fights will not be necessary. Therefore, I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL coverage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

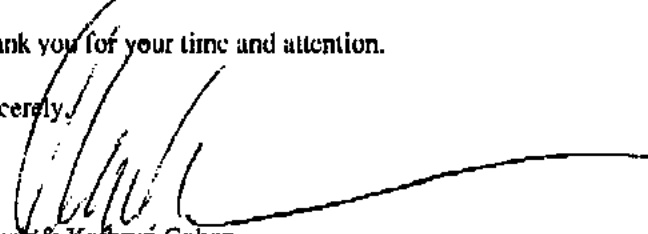
The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is unfair and wrong.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

  
Chuck & Kathryn Cohen  
F/V LADY BARBARA  
P. O. Box 020670  
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Dear Ms. Madsen

RECEIVED

MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

I Took out a Loan a  
Few years Back To purchase  
most of my Halibut IFQs  
I now Fish. The Fishery has  
been stable over the years  
since the inception of IFQs.  
There is A Dark cloud hanging  
over our once stable Fishery.  
The unregulated commercial  
charter Fishery, I Fish in  
Area 3A where the charter  
Fishery is ~~slowly~~ slowly  
eating away at my livelihood.  
Im still Trying To pay  
off my IFQs, I have about  
14 years To go. IF Their industry  
is left unchecked, I will lose  
many IFQ pounds To them For Free!  
Thanks Sincerely Ken Jain

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

R  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the **crossover proposal**.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHIL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHIL. The current GHIL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHIL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHIL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHIL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in

3/11/2007

Page 2 of 4

place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

*Vern E. Jamison*

Name/Date Vern E. Jamison 3-11-07  
Vessel name Gloria ANN  
Address 1425 NW Sugar Maple CT  
McMinnville, OR 97125



# SEAFOOD PRODUCERS COOPERATIVE

PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS & MARKETERS OF PREMIUM QUALITY SEAFOODS

March 16, 2007

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 16 2007  
NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

Seafood Producers Cooperative urges the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal. Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHLL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHLL. The current GHLL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHLL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHLL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same accountability.

In order to manage to the GHLL, we urge the Council to implement effective harvest control measures for 2008. The measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector.

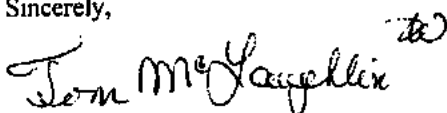
Commercial fishermen have invested \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota, based upon the stated intentions of the Council. All of the Co-op owner/members have worked hard to become commercial halibut quota holders and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please restore this reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter halibut fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Seafood Producers Cooperative is the oldest and largest fisherman owned cooperative in the United States. Almost half of our 500 owner members have invested in quota share. Our plant in Sitka is one of the few Alaskan facilities operating year round. The charter overage last year reduced production by over 100,000 pounds. The unmanaged overages negatively impact the Alaskans working at our facility by reducing hours and pay. Their paychecks go into the community. An unmanaged fishery hurts everyone involved.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Tom McLaughlin  
President/CEO  
Seafood Producers Cooperative

March 18, 2007

REC

MAR 1 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Chair Stephanie Madsen  
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Madsen:

Will it ever end? The commercial charter industry never wants to end their ever-expanding catch of all species in Alaska. The charter fleet's overage of demersal shelf rockfish, lingcod and halibut should alert you voting council members to pay attention to their unbridled growth and overcapitalization of their lodges and fleet, solely for the good of their industry and without regard for the resource.

The uncollaborative stakeholders committee's vote at its last meeting speaks for itself: a vote of eight to one in favor of the 2006 actual halibut catch numbers plus 25 percent for a new guideline harvest level and a second vote of five to four against the crossover proposal.

The unbalanced stakeholders group is not working in good faith and the charter faction does not want to solve its own long-term problem.

All of you voting members asked the International Pacific Halibut Commission for help with the 2007 season which was overruled by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Director Hogarth. Now it's in your court again. How long must this issue go on?

Please help,

*Walter C. Pasternak*

Walter C. Pasternak  
Box 830  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907-747-5943  
mwpstnk@ptialaska.net

Kari Johnson  
PO Box 6448 Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Anchorage, AK

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Ms. Madsen and Council Members

I live in Sitka and have been involved in the commercial longline fishery for 27 years.

I feel that the reason the halibut fishery is so strong and viable at this time is because it has been managed so well.

The commercial fisherman listen and do what the IPHC recommends for their yearly allocation. We have all spent a lot of money buying quota and working so hard at keeping it a strong fishery.

Why should the charter boats go against the one fish a day recommendation? It is based on scientific study and lots of research time. We need to preserve our resource today so we have something to manage tomorrow.

Don't bow into the pressure from the charter boats and stick with how the resource has been managed for years. Please.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kari Johnson

March 18, 2007

Harry C. Sinz  
Fishermen's Wild Alaskan Seafood, Inc.  
Db/a/ Wild Alaskan Seafood  
P.O. Box 110985  
Anchorage, AK 99511  
90522-5314  
907-522-5319 (fax)  
[hsinz@ak.net](mailto:hsinz@ak.net)

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

**VIA FACSIMILE**

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chairperson  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite #306  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-271-2817 (fax)

Chairperson Madsen:

Once again, I am writing to urge the North Pacific Fishery Management Council ("Council") to decisively and promptly deal with the growing halibut charter fishery issue. Neighbors have been pitted against each other, and media rhetoric has risen to the level of vilifying commercial fishers. It has gone way past the time to deal with this contentious issue, and the Council's leadership is needed now more than ever. Please consider the following:

1. ***GHL Management harvest control measures ("short-term solution")*** – the Council needs to take action at once to insert meaningful harvest control measures, and manage the charter sector to the existing GHL. You have identified your "suite" of proposals at your disposal to do so, and irregardless of what measure(s) you select...something needs to be done now to arrest the excess harvest by the charter sector while you once again seek a long-term solution.
2. ***Moratorium Implementation ("mid-term solution")*** – please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date. This issue reminds one of our nations illegal immigration problem...while most were talking about dealing with the "growing" problem of illegal immigrants in our country, little attention was being paid to a continuing tide of new ones crossing our borders. Simply put, it's time you draw a line and stop the open access to the charter sector.



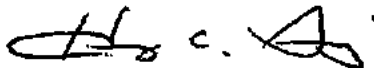
3. ***Charter Industry Management Program with Crossover Proposal Inclusion ("long-term" solution)*** – with effective harvest controls and a moratorium in place, the Council can substantially reduce pressure on themselves, and the public in general as you immediately embark on focused efforts for a longer-term solution. You have several options to again consider in this discussion, and I trust you will do so in a fair and reasoned manner. Inclusion of some form of the "crossover proposal" (allowing a limited leasing of commercial IFQ by the charter sector), is something that I strongly urge you to do. This represents a reasonable solution to the long term growth needs expressed by the charter sector, while at the same time protecting the resource and substantial investment of the commercial sector.

The recent entrance of the IPHC to this fray exhibits how serious this issue is, not just from an allocation perspective, but from a baseline biological one. Since the previous Council's passage of the now defunct Charter IFQ Program, an open-access environment has ensued, and these "new arrivals" are the ones screaming the loudest today. They expect to just buy a license; get a boat; book some clients; do some trips, and; to be "fully vested" in the fishery. You do not get a degree by simply showing up at a university, you must earn it. I've earned every single pound of commercial IFQ I own, and will continue to for years to come as I service my debt(s). I can assure you I won't sit back and watch some form of a "take" ensue.

You are the Council that tossed aside your predecessor's hard work when you voted down the previously passed IFQ Charter Program, now it's up to you to show the leadership we expect and solve this mess we all find ourselves in.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Harry C. Sinz

Inlet Charters  
**Across Alaska Adventures**

HOMER ALASKA  
P.O. Box 2083 Homer, Ak. 99603 1-800-770-6126 or 235-6126

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

I would like to show my support for the HALIBUT CHARTER MORATORIUM, with a 9 Dec 05 Control Date.

I support using a 20 day trip threshold for qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, Use of 2004 or 2005 log book data is preferred.

We need an initial allocation that is up to date, represents a fair share and is adequate enough to allow for a permanent solution.

NPFMC already has all the data they need to establish a Permanent Solution and don't need to keep going forward for more data collection and studies.

I strongly oppose any allocation delegation to ADF&G because their potential in-season management decisions could devastate my business.

Their best schedule if this happens is to let us know what restrictions we face on March 1 each year. How can we sell seats when we don't know what we are selling?

I urge the NPFMC to move as rapidly as possible to a Halibut Charter Permanent Solution that allows for individual business choices. It's already been 14 years in the process and we want it resolved!

Thank you for your time.

Gary Ault  
Inlet Charters  
P.O. Box 2083  
Homer, Ak. 99603



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suit 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

This letter is supporting the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in the analysis, adoption and implementation of the crossover proposal. This crossover proposal will help control the charter industry growth for the future. It also allows charter operators to contribute to our fisheries management and sustainability.


The charter industry needs a hard cap allocation. The Guideline Harvest Level can not continue to be overlooked. Charter operators need to be held separately accountable for over fishing our resource. A delivery system should be put into place, better accounting for pounds of fish taken on charter vessels.

A limit on the halibut guide licenses' is necessary. Do Adopt the halibut charter Moratorium, to limit the participants in this unregulated fishery. The December 2005 control date should be used in the implementation of this Moratorium, as it is over due. A person can come to Alaska from anywhere in the United States and begin taking as many people as they would like out to catch halibut, without investing in our sustainable fishery and its regulation. This is not fair to me and my family, nor is it fair to the charter boat operator traditionally involved in the industry.

I've bought into the Halibut IFQ program, paying 21 dollars for every pound of halibut I catch in the central Gulf of Alaska each year. I'm proud to be a member of a fishery that accepts the financial burden of its conservation and regulation. In return we've been rewarded with a sustainable and well managed fishery. Please allow the charter operator to join the halibut IFQ holder, and contribute to our fishery. Hiding behind sport fisherman needs to stop.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Nick Nekeferoff  
F/V NoKaOi  
P.O. Box 1331  
Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MARCH 18 2007  
March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I am contacting you in regards to the effective management of the charter halibut fishery and to look at the crossover proposal as a relief measure to ease the transition to a hard allocation for the sport fishing sector.

As a business owner, who caters to both the commercial and charter industries, I understand the economic importance of both. Therefore, we can not continue to rob the commercial quota to supplement the sport charter catch. Furthermore, ineffective management will have little effect on curbing the localized depletion of halibut stocks within the range of charter vessels.

It has become apparent in Sitka's surrounding waters that increased sport fishing pressure due to rapid expansion of Sitka's charter fleet has made it increasingly hard to find halibut. It is in the charter industries own interests to curb the pressure on halibut and other bottom fish to ensure the future resource for their own use as well as the future for commercial use and local users.

The essentially unrestricted harvest of halibut by the charter sport fishing industry will have devastating effects on all interested parties. I believe an effective and fair solution would be a moratorium on the number of charter vessels allowed to fish around Sitka using the 2005 control date. Effective catch reduction measure also needs to be in place to keep the sport charter sector with the current and original GHL. By taking action now, we can assure a viable resource for all who use the resource.

Thank you for your time and attention to this most important issue.  
Best regards,

Matt Stroemer  
Owner, Alaska Skiff Aluminum Boatworks  
Sitka, Alaska



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

As a lifelong Sitkan, I have seen the commercial fleet go through good and bad times. Fish, permit and boat prices moving up and down the board. With careful planning and a watchful eye to preserve our precious resource, our commercial fishermen have worked and lived by the rules and regulations. Families have been raised and generations have passed on the fishing trade in harmony with nature.

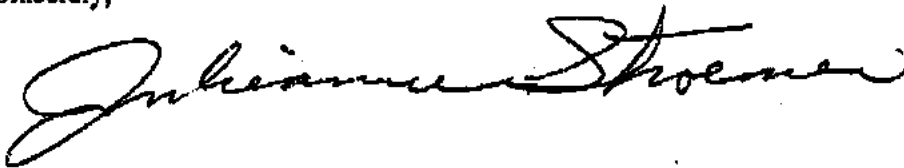
All of this eminently threatened by the loosely regulated practices of the sportsmen fishery.

With three sons commercially fishing (2 for their living) and a recently purchased power troll permit, I look forward to well regulated fishing for both commercial and sport/charter alike.

We can either regulate the sport fishing/charter fleet to have fish for all, or not, and everyone would loose.

Please adopt the moratorium the December 2005 control date as the first step in a long term solution.

Sincerely,



Julianne Stroemer  
Sitka, Alaska

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 17 2007

ANCHORAGE

March 17, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

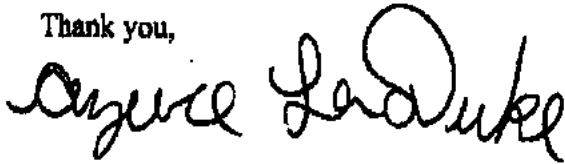
I am 16 years old and have six family members who commercial fish. The IFQ's cost my brother a lot of money. He is in his twenties and it is a struggle all the time.

We are all concerned about the fish harvest in the future years.

I know you are the ones to put in the right controls to manage the problem.

The charter fleet exceeded the agreed harvest entitled to them for halibut. These people who catch fish with charters are doing it for the fun and want even more fish entitled to them. Please protect our local commercial fishermen!

Thank you,



Azure LaDuke  
1403 Edgecumber Dr.  
Sitka, AK 99835



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MARCH 18 2007

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



F.V. Gunn



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

REC'D  
MAR 16 2007  
ANCHORAGE

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

We are counting on you to use your tools, knowledge, persuasions and better judgments to make the right decisions. It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery.

Thank you,

*Dennis Heck - Sitka*  
F/v E H

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 16 2007  
ANCHORAGE, AK

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

My name is Lewis Schumejda and I have been commercial fishing in Alaska since 1992. I participated in derby style halibut fishing and continue to work as a crewman on commercial halibut trips.

Moving to Alaska from Long Island, New York, I have seen what mismanagement of fisheries can do. From environmental impacts and socioeconomic impacts to the tearing apart of communities, I have watched this happen first hand. I had participated in lobster fishing and now work and live in Alaska where longlining for halibut and blackcod, seining and trolling for salmon and crabbing make up my income.

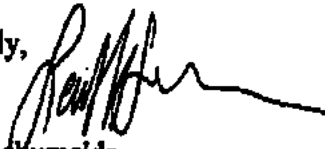
Although I own no commercial IFQ, I do work as a crewman on various commercial halibut boats. It is hard for me to understand why the sport guided charter fleet can not be held to a sustainable quota. Both enforcement and the state logbook program need to be strengthened such that numbers are accurate and anglers comply with regulations.

Fisheries management in Alaska is top notch. The commercial fisheries are held to high standards. The guided sport sectors unwillingness to participate in a sustainable management plan shows the instability that makes me question the sincerity of their efforts. Getting a handle on the situation by forcing the charter fleet to live within their means without sacrificing the well being of the rest of the community is not an unreasonable request.

Please move forward with the moratorium using the analysis that is available. Action on this issue is long overdue. The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on their existing GHL. The Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be ready for the 2008 season.

Thank you for your work on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Lewis Schumejda  
F/V Cori Ann  
Sitka, AK

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 20 2007  
MADSEN

March 17, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I have commercial fished in Southeast Alaska for all of my life. There is a lot of misunderstanding about the management of the commercial halibut fleet. Commercial fishing has been a sustainable industry for hundred of years and the industry has benefited from strict regulations and proper enforcement.

Charter fishermen assume that most halibut IFQ holders were given their quotas for free. Although many fishermen were allocated poundage through historical records, I have purchased quota and make the majority of my income fishing other permit holder's pounds.

It is important for guided sport fishermen and commercial fishermen to coexist. Their businesses should not be in direct competition and one sectors overage should not translate into the other sectors penalty. Proper management would resolve the conflict that has developed from over fishing in certain areas, which has lead to localized depletion and hostility between the two user groups.

When the commercial IFQ program was implemented, not everyone was very happy about it but those who really want to fish have figured out how to remain in the industry. Change will not be easy for the charter fishermen because they are accustomed to being totally unregulated. To keep their industry alive for as long as commercial fishing has survived, they need similar taxes, regulation and enforcement. If the council continues to not act aggressively to resolve this issue, it will just get worse.

What would happen if the commercial 2C fishermen caught 47% more quota than they were allocated last year? That is why we have regulations, because we don't want the fishery to close.

Sincerely,



Chris Slaughter  
F/V Indigo  
2007 Sawmill Creek Rd.  
Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MARCH 17 2007  
ANCHORAGE, AK

March 17, 2007

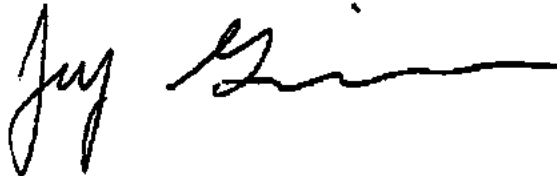
Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I have a unique perspective to the allocation dispute between commercial and charter halibut fishermen in Southeast Alaska. I support sufficient regulations to prevent the over harvest of halibut. If a hard amount was set and the charter fleet was required to stay within their limit, then the situation would be better for both user groups and for the health of the halibut stock.

My business situation is such that I am sufficiently diversified and am not significantly stressed financially when the quota fluctuates. However, a nephew of mine has just bough 12,000 pounds of 2C quota at \$22/pound. The instability in the halibut quota that comes from the charter industry exceeding their GHL makes it very difficult and stressful for those who are trying to enter the commercial halibut fishery now.

The charter industry does need regulations and they need to be held accountable for over harvest when they exceed their annual limit. If the council could work hastily towards a solution, it would provide protection for both the charter and commercial industry as well as the wild fish stocks.

Sincerely,



Jay Gilman  
F/V Stella  
15599 Yokeko Dr.  
Anacortes, WA 98221

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

My name is Jay Skordahl and I have commercial fished for halibut for 27 years in Alaska. I have served on the NPFMC advisory panel as well as on the board of ALFA. My son Lucas, my nephew Kelsey and I have all purchased halibut IFQ.

We made a huge commitment to this fishery for many factors. We felt the IFQ program offered many positives in terms of sound fishery management policy including sustainability, environmental issues, safety and entry level participation including a NMFS loan program.

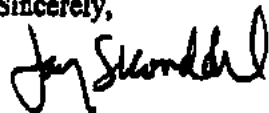
We also felt the IFQ plan addressed allocation issues that can and have played both fishermen and fishery managers in other fisheries. Yet, here we are faced with reallocation eroding our businesses, our investments and our faith in the council's ability to do the right thing.

You can imagine our dismay at seeing our investments and our futures being reallocated to a new user group. On one hand you offer to loan us money to purchase IFQ and then on the other hand, give some of the IFQ to charter operators.

Every user needs to be accountable for their impact on a resource. We urge you to:

- (1) Adopt the moratorium with a 2005 control date
- (2) Use existing GHIL for hard allocation
- (3) Implement effective measures such as compensated reallocation.

Sincerely,



Jay Skordahl  
F/V Kelly Marie  
Sitka, AK

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 16 2007  
March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

My name is Joli Remund and I am 19 years old. I grew up in a very rural town in Southeast Alaska called Port Alexander. My family and I have depended on commercial fishing for longer than I can remember. My dad moved here more than 25 years ago and started fishing out of a skiff. He slowly built his way up to a 48" wood troller and enough IFQs to live off of since the salmon troll industry is not always dependable.

I grew up on my dad's boat with my brother. At a young age, my brother and I were fortunate enough to have enough hours on sea to purchase our own IFQs. As I get older, I become more aware of how much the old-time fishing families are getting jerked around by the fishing industry. It is not right. It seems as if the locals whose lives are built around fishing are not being considered as much as they should. I don't understand how or when the state of Alaska started to consider the non-residents more important than the folks who have lived here for generations.

I am appalled by the charter fishermen who come here for a few months each year to disrupt Southeast and South-central Alaskan's way of life. They leave the day after their season is over to return to their lives in the lower 48 with what seems to be total disregard of how their actions will disrupt the locals who all seem to get a little more limited each year.

This past year was the last straw for me. I don't understand why mine and my family IFQs got cut by 20% after we had followed all of the regulations, while the charter industry went over their GHL in the Sitka area by over 40% and have no consequences. This means that I will have 20% less money that I depend on for my college education, which is not cheap. Something needs to be done!

We have such strict boundaries, small margins of error and huge penalties if we accidentally catch more than our allocated quota or fish out of bounds. Every commercial fisherman that I know follows the rules because they can not afford not to. Commercial fishing is the sole source of income for entire families oftentimes in Southeast Alaska.

The charter industry needs more boundaries and limits. They need a strong financial burden when they break the rules. They need to be regulated to stay within their quota. It needs to be the charter guides that are penalized when they go above their GHL. It should not affect commercial fishermen more than it already does by their over extraction of the resource.

Sincerely, *Joli A. Remund*

Joli Remund  
F/V Dorothy Ann  
330 Wachusett St.  
Sitka AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 16 2007  
ANCHORAGE, AK

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Hello, my name is Cale LaDuke. Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and consider my concerns and opinions. I am a lifetime resident of Sitka, Alaska. I began fishing for salmon as a summer job in high school onboard a seine boat. I graduated high school in 2000, so while I was in high school, charter fishing was just started getting going here. Many of my peers commercial fished and a few did charter fishing. At that time, there wasn't much tension between commercial and charter fishermen. As the charter fleet grew and problems became more apparent there came a more definite tension in our town. That tension has been growing and has become impossible to ignore. People have been arguing about this in heated discussions all around town. It's gotten to the point where people have physically been in fights about this issue. I live in a town of 8,000 people and our town is seemingly being torn in two. It's not a good feeling when you know everyone in town. This shouldn't be a problem and to me this is a problem that could be resolved with some basic management of a fishing sector known as the charter fleet.

After graduating high school I began longlining for rockfish, halibut and blackcod. I am 25 years old, I was not allocated IFQ because it was impossible for me to have qualified for them. I wasn't given any IFQs from anyone, however, I did buy IFQs. In 2003 I bought a small amount of blackcod quota. Prices were lower than they are now but they still weren't cheap. Since then I have purchased 3A halibut and more blackcod quota. I have a bank loan for all of the quota that I have purchased. I understand and support increases and well as decreases in the quota due to abundance in biomass. I knew this when I applied for my loan, but what I didn't consider were the impacts due to the charter fleet. I am extremely pissed that the charter fleet has been so poorly managed, to the point that it is literally taking money from my pockets, and the pockets of my fellow fishermen, just so some greedy charter business can promote out-of-state trophy hunters and flaunt that they fished in Alaska. The experience of fishing in Alaska and catching a few fish should be enough.

I support charter fishing but under management. I am very perturbed that a fishery managed as well, and for as long, as the halibut fishery has been managed, is endangered due to the mis-management of another fishing sector, who hardly has to buy into the fishery, while commercial fishermen spend hundreds of thousands to be allowed to catch the fish they do.

I fish aboard a boat that has a significant amount of 2C and also 3A halibut. As one of six crew members I'm losing thousands of dollars due to the decrease in 2C quota. I'm just one deckhand but I know a lot of others who are equally affected and concerned about our long term existence in commercial fishing. So I ask you, Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date, do not push the qualifying dates forward any further. The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate allocation based on the existing GHL. The Council must implement effective control measures for 2008 to hold the charter harvest to the GHL. It might take a few more years to get a permanent plan in place so these measures must be effective. For 2008 I think the cross over plan could work to help both sides, but only in the instance of a one fish a day bag limit.

I know the Council has a lot to think about and I'm sure you are getting tired of reading redundant letters from both sides, so please use your persuasions and tools to make the most fair decisions.

Sincerely,



Cale LaDuke  
F/V Coral Lee  
Sitka, Alaska

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 1994  
NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

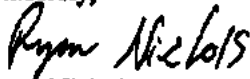
I just bought into the halibut fishery three years ago when I purchased my first quota. I have been fishing halibut on our family boat since I was 12 years old. I want the fishery to be maintained for the future. I want to continue fishing and be sure there is halibut available for future fishermen.

I feel that the charter fleet needs to do their part in helping to keep this fishery sustainable, which at this time, I don't believe they are doing. They should be held to their GHL. This means that management measures must be in place that actually reduce their harvest so that they stay within their GHL. I personally think that a one-fish bag limit is a good management tool for controlling harvest. IPHC, who is responsible for the health of the halibut resource, initiated the one-fish bag limit but were over-ruled by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Commerce. Politics don't do the resource any good, which is how it seems the charter halibut fishery is currently being managed. The Council should set politics aside and start managing this industry.

As it stands now, the charter fishery, when they go over their GHL, has their overage taken off the commercial fishery quota. This negatively impacts every commercial fishermen and is particularly hard on young fishermen, such as myself, who just bought into the fishery at great expense. The Council should impose separate accountability immediately. This way the charter industry will be responsible for their own overages, not getting free fish from the commercial fishery.

I follow fishery management regulations to be sure that our resource stays healthy. I expect the Council to be sure that the charter fishery is regulated to share the conservation burden and ensure a healthy resource as well.

Sincerely,



Ryan Nichols  
F/V Nekton  
Sitka, Alaska



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
RECEIVED March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I am writing to urge the council to control the unlimited growth of the charter halibut fishery. This type of growth can not be sustained indefinitely and I do not feel that limiting them to 1 fish a day will be at all detrimental to their business. The charter fishery has already destroyed all the fishing on the entire west coast of the USA, from California to Washington. They must not be allowed to do the same thing in Alaska. Every plane that leaves Sitka is full of fish caught by charter customers. The amount of fish that is being caught is way beyond what any "sportsman" could possibly justify. You can see truckload after truckload of fish being loaded onto every plane in Sitka in the summer.

Commercial fishermen are being forced to take substantial cuts in the amount of fish we are allowed to harvest in order to subsidize this abuse of the resource. The charter industry must be limited in some way and be forced not to repeatedly exceed their limit. The commercial fishery would not be allowed to exceed their allowable catch limits year after year without severe consequence. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

I have been a commercial fisherman for thirty years and have been paid for the right to catch these fish with blood, sweat and broken bones. To have my income slashed to supplement the charter industry is totally unacceptable and must be controlled in whatever manner possible. Any help in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you and good luck,



Mark Bestler  
PO Box 3104  
Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
ANCHORAGE, AK

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to ask that you enact regulations to keep the charter industry harvest to their GHL. The IPHC recommended reducing the guided sport bag limit to one fish a part of the season in areas 2C and 3A, but NMFS rejected these recommendations. These bag limit recommendations were the best way to hold the charter fleet within their GHL and they were the best measures for the resource. Any control measures that involve a size limit or trophy fish are detrimental to the resource. Promoting catch and release to avoid a reduction in bag limit is irresponsible. There will be increased effort, increased releases, and increased impacts to other fish such as yelloweye rockfish. If the Council does impose size limits or trophy limits they should also require the use of circle hooks as I have seen how they lip hook fish, reducing hooking mortality.

I am very discouraged at the lack of progress made by the Council. It has been over 13 years since we first asked for management of the Charter fishery and the Council has been unable to implement any effective management measures. We have run out of time, the CEY has been exceeded and the resource health is at stake. If the NMFS regulations for 2007 do not control charter catch the resource will have been fished in excess of the CEY two years in a row.

I think a one fish limit should be acceptable – there is a one fish limit for King salmon and an annual limit for lingcod and king salmon. However, if the Council lacks the will to impose this regulation then they should support the cross-over provision to allow for a second fish without increasing the charter GHL.

Somebody has to start holding the charter fleet responsible for their fishery. The only agency that has been willing to do that has been IPHC and they have been undermined by the Secretary of State and Secretary of Commerce – once again politics trumps resource management.

Finally, the State of Alaska has not been very forthcoming with data, how data is generated, and how precise and accurate the charter data actually is. Yet, people's life's and resource health are greatly impacted by these estimates. Enforcement and catch accounting must be held to the same standard for all resource users.

Sincerely,  
  
Randy Nichols  
F/V Nekton  
Sitka, Alaska

RECEIVED

MAR 16 2007

ANCHORAGE

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I was born and raised in Sitka, Alaska and have commercial fished for all of my life. I, as a single individual commercial fisherman, contribute more to the management and protection of fisheries than the entire charter fleet combined.

The charter industry offers in newspapers, \$50,000 for 100 days of work as a charter captain. How can taking away one halibut going to affect their livelihood?

Without the management and protection of these fish, there would be nothing left to catch for either industry: charter or commercial. The charter industry hides behind the sport category. A true sport fisherman is not motivated by money. The ones that are should be recognized. The sport charter fishery should be considered a business!

The moratorium is a great start for controlling the growth of the charter fleet, but keeping that sector within the OHL is the most important aspect of managing the guided sport charter fleet.

Hopefully,



Patrick Parrish  
F/V Chancy  
PO Box 2895  
Sitka, AK 99835

RECEIVED  
MAR 16 2007  
N. P. F. M. C.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I am from a family of commercial fishermen and was raised longlining for halibut and trolling for salmon with my father, siblings, cousins, and uncles.

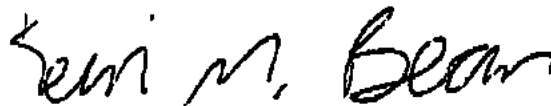
I do not think the charter fishery has adequate monitoring and enforcement. I don't think ADF&G fully documents the catch or the impacts of release mortality to the resource and to local waters.

I think the Council has to implement management measures that hold the charter fishery to within their GHJ and show us clearly that this can be accomplished. Going over quota and then using that as an excuse to get more quota is not something that should be rewarded or accepted. The Council has let this terrible situation develop by a lack of will to treat the charter industry like the commercial fishery it is.

My family has been limited by fisheries management and the imposition of a commercial quota. Our investment is compromised by the charter fishery since it is not being managed.

I support the Charter Moratorium with a control date of December 2005 – also the moratorium should be strict enough to prevent increased effort through latent capacity. The moratorium alone is not a solution but it is needed to prevent a train wreck.

Sincerely,



Kevin Beam  
F/V Ida June, F/V Kathleen, F/V Rosalynn, F/V Motive  
Sitka, AK

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
NPFMC

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I have been commercial halibut fishing since I was physically able. I was raised fishing and own halibut quota, as does my sister and my father. It is my lifestyle and I hope that it can continue to be a viable lifestyle.

Every commercial fishing industry in Alaska has been limited when seen fit. It is childish to not see charter fishing as a commercial fishery. Alaska has done well with managing fisheries and has set quotas for each to be obeyed.

I do not believe that changing limits on charter fishing for halibut would damage the fishery. For example, limits on salmon catches have been reduced, as well as rockfish and the charter industry has done nothing but grow. The ability of a charter lodge or charter captain to make a living is not taken away or threatened by adjusting fishing limits. Tourists will always come up for a fishing trip. The difference of one halibut a day would not cancel trips. Limits have always been at the responsible mercy of resource management. Each client is leaving with probably over 100 pounds of fish and that is plenty. The charter fishing industry needs to be responsible just as every other commercial fishery is.

I make a living longlining and my livelihood is affected directly by charter induced IFQ cuts.

Thank you for your work on this important issue and taking my comments into consideration,

Jesse Remund  
F/V Dorothy Ann  
330 Wachusetts St.  
Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 1 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I am a lifelong Sitka resident having lived here for all 24 years of my life. I have been fishing since the day I was born, working with my Father and my Uncles in salmon and halibut fisheries. Recently I took over operation of my father's troller. The majority of the income I make is through the halibut fishery, worked as crew with my uncles.

I want the Council to implement strong management measures for the charter fishery so that they stay within their GHL. It is totally unacceptable for them to have an open ended grab of the commercial quota. The charter industry is new to Sitka and I have watched it spiral out of control because of the lack of political will to manage this industry. This would never have been allowed to happen with a commercial fishery and it is not acceptable.

The Council should also consider the effects to local resources near communities when they decide on control measures. We can not have increasing catch taken from near town and the impacts of regulations on other species like yelloweye, and even release mortality of halibut need to be considered.

It is way past time to impose a solution. The resource health is now in danger as well as young people like myself who make my living on the ocean. I hope to be a commercial fisherman for life, and expect fisheries to be managed so the next generation of Lawries also has that opportunity. All users must share the conservation burden.

Sincerely,

B.

Ben Lawrie  
F/V Jennie Leigh  
Sitka, AK

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 16 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

My name is Nathaniel Lara. I make my living longlining in the Gulf of Alaska. I currently fish out of Sitka, and have been following the plight of the Charter Fisherman since I first arrived here 13 years ago. I have also traveled and lived in other small fishing towns throughout our great United States. In these travels I have come to realize that Sitka has a special resource here that has not yet been totally exploited. Please support our movement to limit the so far virtually unregulated fishing in Sitka that is being perpetuated by the Charter fleet in Sitka. Let's not let Sitka become another Westport Washington, or Boca Grande, Florida.

Sincerely,



Nathaniel Lara  
PO Box 6013  
Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am a charter fisherman from Sitka. When I moved to Sitka I knew I wanted to work in the fishing industry – a job opened on a charter vessel and I have been crewing with the same charter business ever since. I was fortunate in that the skipper and owner of this charter business are conservation minded and I have been proud to work for them.

I support the moratorium, even though I would not be included under this plan. I think it is necessary to stop the growth of the charter industry and obviously some folks will be left out. I also support the December 2005 control date and hope that the final moratorium regulation will be effective in limiting latent capacity.

I strongly believe that the charter fleet should be required to use circle hooks when fishing for halibut and bottomfish, and also when trolling for salmon in known halibut nursery grounds, such as Shelikof Bay.

In order to manage to the GHL the Council must impose effective management measures. I personally support a 1 fish bag limit and whatever tools will get us to our GHL. I think we have an opportunity to re-sell the Alaska Charter Experience as one where total catch is not the most important aspect of a trip to Southeast Alaska.

There are too many charter businesses in Sitka that are owned by residents from down south, and I think that has contributed to the stalemate in accepting harvest control measures. Without living in Sitka, and getting a real feel for what drives the town, a non-resident charter owner can not understand the importance of commercial fishing, personal use and subsistence to the character of the community.

I have considered leaving the charter industry because I have been disappointed by the lack of regard for fishery management and conservation. However I have decided not to leave, because I believe it is very important that the charter fishery include conservationists such as myself and my skipper. We feel that we are a minority in our ethic and it is up to the Council to effectively manage our industry.

Sincerely,  
  
Erik Bahnsen  
Sitka, Alaska



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 19 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

March 14, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am a southeast Alaska resident living in Sitka. I fish less than 5,000 pounds of commercial halibut quota. Presently this is my only source of income. Having stability in the market and sustainable levels of quota is very important to me.

My concern is the expanding growth of the guided sport harvest fleet. As they have gone over their guideline harvest level (GHL) for the past several years. Since this overage is deducted from the TAC and thus reduces commercial quota, it greatly affects us in the D class share holders. It is important to me to see the council make an effort to stem the growth of the charter fleet. I would like to see the charter sector held to a cap of their GHL. Adopting effective harvest control measures to keep them within this allowable harvest is only healthy for the sustainability of the established charter fleet and the stability of the commercial sector.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Terry Perensovich  
F/V skiff  
506 Baranof St.  
Sitka, AK 99835

RECEIVED  
D/07

MAR 19 2007

Dear Ms. Madsen:

N.P.F.M.C.

I truly feel like I am writing  
The same letter over and over  
with sky high frustration unending.  
I appeal that a real decision  
limiting the charter fleet's excessive  
catches in SE be made.

years go by in fisheries issues  
before decisions are made creating  
additional problems along the way.

In Sitka I see so many crew  
members who have purchased quota only  
to now see their investments in  
danger as well as all the seafood  
workers who depend on the fishery.

A decision that first protects  
the resource, then provides some  
stability for both the commercial  
and charter fleets is needed now.

Sincerely,

423 Verstovia

SITKA AK

99835

Amy Johnson

March 14, 2007

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Sirs,

My name is Mike Hopley. I own and operate Alaskan Adventure Charters, located in Soldotna, Alaska, for the past 16 years. I operate my halibut charter business out of Ninilchik, Alaska where I fish in area 3A.

I support a Halibut Charter Moratorium in Area 3A with a Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Control Date.

I would support a 10 trip threshold for qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary 10 trip threshold for moratorium permit transferability. Use of the 2004 or 2005 Log Book data would be preferred.

I would like to see an initial allocation that represents a fair share that would be adequate enough to allow for a permanent solution.

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council already has all the data, gathered from pervious years they need to establish a Permanent Solution for the guided halibut charter fleet. There should be no need to keep going forward for more data collection and studies as this issue has been previously studied at length.

I strongly oppose any allocation delegation to ADF&G because their potential in-season management decisions could be devastating to my charter business. If ADF&G becomes involved with the management portion I would like to see a March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for any restrictive measures as this would allow enough time to contact clients to make them aware of any restrictions to the fishery.

In closing I would like to see NPFMC move as rapidly as possible to a Halibut Charter permanent solution that would allow for individual business choices. This process has been on going for 14 years and it is past time to make a final decision for the benefit of all halibut charter business owners. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Mike Hopley

  
Alaskan Adventure Charters

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007

NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the **crossover proposal**.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

*Steve Honnason SR*  
3-16-07

Name/Date

Vessel name

Address

BALTIC  
BOX 742  
WRANGELL, AK.  
99929

I have been halibut fishing for 50 years and when halibut went into quota shares I ended up having to buy more shares to make a decent living. Now they want to take a portion of that away too. At this rate I will have nothing left to pass down to my children/grandchildren, or to use to supplement my income if or when I retire.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen and Council members,

I am writing you today to express not only my deep concern but also my disgust at the evolution of the halibut fishery over the last 10 years. The implementation of IFQ's was supposed to effectively manage the fishery in Alaska and has worked well for the longline fishery, however charter IFQs were politically derailed and the charter industry is being grossly mismanaged. It's upsetting to me that while my fellow deck hands and I are investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in a federal management program the Council has been willfully reallocating halibut to the charter industry. I don't understand how up and coming deck hands can buy IFQs (fishing rights) just to have them taken away due to reallocation.

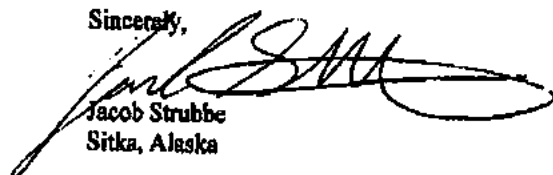
It outrages me to see the quota reallocated to a user group that has historically destroyed it's own fishery in California, Oregon, and Washington at the expense of commercial fishermen who have not only invested 90 years but also millions of dollars. So far the Alaska charter industry has been unwilling to take on any conservation responsibility or management measures and instead keeps asking for more and more of the resource having already taken 47% over their allocation. These overages also affect locals who can no longer count on catching a fish in Sitka Sound for their dinner. This means that locals have to go further in their skiffs increasing costs and risks just to provide for their family.

Please support separable accountability with a percent that moves down when abundance moves down based on the current GHL. Also please adopt management measures for 2008 that hold the charter fleet to their current GHL. This does not mean just reducing their catch, it means reducing it to the GHL. The commercial fishery would like to be able to expand as well. I am young and have worked hard on the ocean for many years - why should the charter industry be given special opportunities to grow when this resource is already fully utilized, and if they are, why aren't commercial deckhands given similar opportunity?

NPFMC and NMFS should have equal responsibility to the commercial fishery - right now it seems that you have gone to great lengths to minimize impacts to the charter industry while clearly hurting the commercial fishery and now the resource. Please get back on track and hold the charter industry to their allocation, and require enforcement and accountability as you do for longliners.

I urge you not to be swayed by the political pressure, inside deals, and corruption that we deal with on a daily basis, but rather, do the right thing.

Sincerely,



Jacob Strubbe  
Sitka, Alaska

FAXED TO (907) 271-2817

Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

SANITY CHARTERS  
Ken L Larson  
1074 Eliz Street  
North Pole, AK 99705  
[larsen\\_ken@hotmail.com](mailto:larsen_ken@hotmail.com)  
19 March, 2007

REC  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

REF: Support Moratorium on New Charter Entrants, NOW!

Dear Madam Chairman:

I own and operate a 6-pack Charter and Lodge out of Valdez, Alaska, and have been fishing in Prince William Sound (PWS) since 1984. I am again writing to express my strong support for the immediate establishment of a Moratorium on new Halibut Charter entrants with a control date of 9 December 2005. Using the 2004 and 2005 ADF&G Log Book data base, I also support using a minimum 5 day trip threshold for qualification in this Moratorium, with a secondary 20 day trip threshold for Moratorium Permit Transferability. In other words I support trying to limit Gold Rush speculators from achieving an undue windfall. However, I do support a fair appeal process for special situations affecting qualification for the Moratorium, like Old Timers who don't meet the 5 day trip threshold and hired skippers who have worked for non-USCG-certificated vessel owners.

I realize that the guided sport industry is in need of a better regulatory process. I do want an initial halibut allocation that represents a fair share for Sports Fishermen and is adequate enough to allow for a Permanent Solution. I have hopes that a Permanent Solution will soon follow because NPFMC already has all the data they need to establish the Permanent Solution and you don't need to keep going forward for more data collection and studies. I strongly oppose any allocation delegation to ADF&G because their potential in-season management decisions could devastate my small business. I strongly support the State of Alaska's passage of Rep John Harris's HB 186, *Sport Fishing Guide Records*, in order for ADF&G to share our Log Book data with NPFMC and other Federal Agencies.

In summary, I understand the need for stabilizing the halibut fishery in Alaska, for commercial and recreational users alike. I want NPFMC to move as fast as possible to a Halibut Charter Permanent Solution that allows for individual business choices. You've already used 14 years in this process and I probably won't survive as a business for another 14 years so I urge you and the Stakeholders Committee to complete your work!

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, and we'll see you at the end of March meeting in Anchorage.

Sincerely,



Ken L Larson  
(907) 488-2960

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

REC  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

My name is Eric Blankenship. I am writing out of concern for my lively hood and numerous others just like me. I am a 3rd generation commercial fisherman from Sitka. I have been fishing halibut for the last 14 years. In 1998 at the age of 18, I made my first investment into the IFQ halibut fishery. Over the years I have purchased more quota and a boat with the help of the Alaska Division of Investments loan program. I am married with two kids. I work hard to make IFQ, boat, house payments, and support my family.

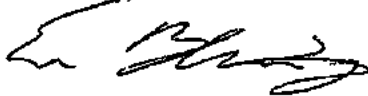
I strongly urge the Council to take immediate action, to control the charter halibut fishery. It is obvious to me that a number of actions must be taken to ensure sustainability in both the charter and commercial fisheries, and to protect subsistence and sport users from local depletion. I feel an analysis of the crossover proposal is important, as it may be a good tool for those guides that "NEED" more halibut. A moratorium using the December 2005 control date must be enacted in order to cap a growing problem. Daily bag limit reductions, trips per day limits, and annual bag limits all sound like good ways of bringing the charter halibut catch back down to the GHL. Increasing the GHL is no way to control over fishing! Keep in mind the charter industry has already agreed to the GHL which at the time allowed for future growth.

The commercial fleet has been held to strict regulations, and accountability. I feel its time for the charter fleet to step up and accept some new regulations and more accountability for their industry. None of these potential new regulations would be devastating to charter operations when coupled with a crossover plan. Especially when you consider the fact that a charter boat can harvest any fish in the ocean aside from halibut while on a trip. If its more halibut they need, then they should be able to lease it from commercial quota holders. It's well known throughout the commercial fleet, that a fishery worth being in, is worth investing in.

I have worked hard to become a halibut quota holder. I fully accept quota reductions for conservation, and regulatory measures, in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable halibut fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible. That option should not even be considered.

The NPFMC has reputation of being a leader in sustainable fishery management. I challenge the council to live up to that reputation by establishing an effective, and responsible management plan for the Alaska charter fishery. I strongly believe that the plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal. I am confident, that with those three things in place, the charter and commercial fishing industries can work side by side in a well balanced sustainable halibut fishery. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,



Eric Blankenship  
Jennifer Blankenship



F/V Leeward  
Sawmill Creek Rd.  
Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Suite 306  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

March 19, 2006

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

My name is Brian Blankenship. I have commercially fished halibut out of Sitka for 35 years. I have invested heavily in the Halibut IFQ system to gain stability in the fishing business. My four children have also have invested heavily in the Halibut IFQ system. Now it seems we are being penalized for investing in the Federal IFQ system your Council developed.

Why is the commercial fleet, which operates under biological management regulations and taxation, held accountable for the burgeoning charter fleet total disregard for the halibut resource? I don't think it is fair to destabilize one fishery to try and attempt to stabilize another. Why should the charter industry continually be rewarded with additional GHIL for poor management? A hard allocation with separate accountability based on the current GHIL is desperately needed.

The council needs to take serious steps to regulate the exploding charter fleets' take of halibut. Enforcement of the charter fleet is a must. I strongly urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery. I also urge the council to initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely



Brian L. Blankenship  
F/V Lisa-Jean  
104 Chirikov Dr.  
Sitka, Alaska 99835



March 19, 2007

RECEIVED

MAR 1 2007

North Pacific Management Council  
Attn: Voting members  
Re: Halibut Charter Moratorium

**N.P.F.M.C.**

I have been a co-owner of our halibut charter business in Homer for 28 years.

It is time to listen to our industry. We are not represented by the Management Council's sport fish representatives. I urge you to approve the moratorium date of December 9, 2005 as soon as possible with the most restrictive provision of a 20 day trip threshold to qualify and a 20 day trip threshold for moratorium permit transferability. If you approve a lesser restriction it allows the very small time operators to grow, pushing us back over the GHL only to be faced with restrictions, such as reduction of bag limits or other emergency closures. Logbooks dating back to 2004 and 2005 should be the guide.

Data collections have been on going for years. This data collection and the different studies were imposed on us by various agencies; use this data to move forward. There is always going to be some faction that does not like the data interpretation.

I am not happy with the GHL because it puts us up against the wall. With no restriction on the growth of our fishery, we are going to turn this charter industry into a hobby fishery if the GHL remains the same or the TAC goes down and the effort goes up. Until we can resolve a more fair and equitable allocation system we need this moratorium now.

Please move rapidly on passing the moratorium. Having been in this business since long before the charter industry regulation process started more than 14 years ago, I think it is time to resolve this issue so we can manage our business without emergency closures, shortened seasons, bag limit reductions and any other ideas that are not conducive to a stable business environment.

Thank you for your time.



Gerri Martin  
North Country Charters, Inc.  
P.O. Box 889  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
907 235-7620

**ALASKA LONGLINE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

403 Lincoln Street, Ste. 237 Sitka, AK 99835  
Phone: (907) 747-3400 Facsimile: (907) 747-3462  
[alfafish@ptialaska.net](mailto:alfafish@ptialaska.net)

March 18, 2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Ste. 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Members of the Council,

On behalf of the Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA), I would like to submit the following comments on agenda items C-1: Halibut charter management.

**C-1(a) IPHC Action:** ALFA continues to support the IPHC recommendation to manage the charter industry to the Council's harvest target (GHL) by reducing the halibut bag limit on charter vessels for an appropriate period. Clearly the IPHC acted within its management authority to address a widespread overage of the Constant Exploitation Yield (CEY) and control harvest in the sector that has consistently exceeded its allocation. Since the bag limit recommendations were rejected by the Secretary, ALFA maintains that the NMFS now has the responsibility to implement measures by June 15<sup>th</sup> or earlier that are comparably effective in reducing halibut mortality without increasing bycatch mortality of other vulnerable species (e.g., rockfish and lingcod).

**C-1 (c) Moratorium:** ALFA urges the Council to adopt the halibut charter moratorium at this meeting, holding the December 2005 control date. If charter operators agree that a tiered system could further strengthen the moratorium, such action should be considered as a trailing amendment. Action on the moratorium should **not** be delayed.

**C-1 (d) Federal/State Management:** ALFA supports continued federal management of the halibut sport fisheries, and does not support delegation of authority to the State of Alaska at this time. ALFA believes the Council, working closely with the IPHC, has the ability to effectively manage the halibut sport fisheries—provided the Council makes the necessary decisions and NMFS lives up to its responsibility to implement and enforce Council actions. A sport conference board could be established as part of the IPHC annual meeting process, providing additional stakeholder involvement in IPHC decision making. Further refining the Council/IPHC process will allow more responsive and timely management then delegating to the State and involving the Alaska Board of Fisheries.

**C-1(f) 2C GHL Management Measures:** ALFA urges the Council to release for public review the EA/RIR for the 2008 2C GHL measures **after adding two critical elements** to the document:

1) identifying harvest control measures sufficient to constrain charter harvest to the reduced GHL under the likely scenario that the total 2C CEY may drop sufficiently to trigger a 15% stair step reduction; and,

2) the crossover proposal to provide charter operators with the opportunity to buy or lease a limited amount of commercial quota in order to provide clients with the option of harvesting additional halibut during times of reduced bag limits or season restrictions.

1. **Reduced GHL-** As the Council may recall, the GHL final rule established the 1999-2000 total CEY by area as the baseline against which changes in abundance are measured to determine when GHL reductions are triggered. Our understanding is that a 2C total CEY of 9.02 million pounds or lower will cause the 2C GHL to be reduced by 15% (from 1.4 to 1.1 million pounds). IPHC projections for 2C suggest that the GHL reduction could be triggered in 2008. In order to prepare for this very real possibility, ALFA recommends that the Council identify two harvest control regimes for 2008 in the proposed rule, one that would constrain charter harvest in 2C to the existing GHL (1.4 million pounds) and one that would constrain 2C charter harvest to the reduced GHL (1.1 million pounds) in case the total CEY for the area triggers the GHL reduction. Comments would then be solicited on both regimes, allowing NMFS to proceed with a final rule after the IPHC established the 2C CEY in January, 2008. Failure to include the two regimes could result in the Council's recommended harvest control measures being completely inadequate to constrain charter harvest to the lowered GHL or unacceptably delayed while the Council and NMFS scramble to re-evaluate.

2. The **crossover proposal** has evolved through discussions between charter and commercial fishermen. Both sectors recognize the opportunity for a win:win situation by allowing charter operators to buy or lease a limited amount of commercial quota, termed crossover shares, which could then be used in the charter fishery. Crossover shares would allow charter operators to provide clients the opportunity to catch and retain a second halibut during times of reduced or modified bag limits. By allowing charter operators to lease a limited number of shares (estimated to lease for approximately \$2-2.50 /pound), charter clients and operators could match expectations to halibut harvest on an individual basis. For example: charter operators who emphasize the fishing experience (wildlife viewing) while providing clients with a modest amount of fish to take home, may need few or no crossover shares. Those charter operators who cater to clients focused on filling bag limits and freezers will have the opportunity to purchase/lease crossover shares sufficient to meet their clients interests—or encourage satisfaction with less.

By limiting the amount of quota that can be leased as crossover shares to 10% of an individual commercial fisherman's holdings, ALFA believes the crossover proposal will allow a limited compensated reallocation without destabilizing the commercial quota share program or compromising entry level opportunities. Implementation of the crossover proposal will also develop capacity in monitoring and enforcement, allowing a limited market-based mechanism to moderate the allocation. The crossover proposal will encourage resource conservation by requiring those charter operators who have a greater

impact on the halibut resource (i.e., harvest more halibut) to make investments comparable to their impact, paying more than charter operators whose businesses rely more on the experience and less on extraction, and encouraging charter clients to retain only what they will consume. By attaching costs to increased charter halibut harvest, the crossover will lend some controls to growth, reducing impacts to subsistence and sport fishermen associated with localized depletion. Finally, the regulatory changes needed to implement the crossover proposal were largely identified and drafted when the Council adopted the charter IFQ program in 2001. We have relied on these regulations in drafting the attached version of the crossover proposal

ALFA considers it essential that the Council understand the differences between the crossover proposal and the Rasmusson proposal. While ALFA appreciates Mr. Rasmusson's efforts to draft a proposal for compensated reallocation, his approach creates a host of problems without addressing the underlying issues demanding resolution. Increasing the GHJ, whether or not as a hard allocation, ignites fires in communities already smoldering over localized depletion and reduced local access to the halibut resource. With no individual costs attached to additional growth in the charter sector, such growth will likely occur, intensifying tensions in small communities and driving further localized depletion. Dumping \$20 million on the quota share market will substantially distort the market and dramatically increase entry level costs for commercial deckhands and those wishing to expand operations. If charter harvest grows beyond the one million pounds purchased through the federal, state or private loan outlined in the Rasmusson proposal, no mechanism exists to address the allocation—other than an ongoing fight in front of the Council. In short, the Rasmusson proposal does not offer a short or long-term resolution; instead it promises to intensify conflicts and further destabilize both the halibut industry and the coastal communities that depend on it.

In sum, the crossover proposal creates a win:win for the charter and commercial sectors by allowing a limited and ongoing compensated reallocation between sectors responsive to the individual interests of charter operators and clients. The necessity of implementing harvest control measures in the charter fishery for 2007 and 2008, and the very real possibility of triggering a 2C GHJ reduction by 2008, make the crossover proposal an essential pressure relief valve for an explosive situation.

The halibut management situation in 2C has reached a crisis level due to NMFS' repeated policy reversals and management failures; it is incumbent on the Agency to provide the necessary staff and resources to analyze and implement the crossover proposal in time for the 2008 season. The crossover proposal is the only management measure on the table that offers relief and resolution to what has been labeled by the press a 13 year halibut war.


**C-1 (g) Halibut allocations:** ALFA supports the Council initiating action to transform the GHJ to a fixed percentage that fluctuates with abundance, either directly or in small stair steps tied to the fishery CEY. Clearly all sectors should share in conserving the resource, accepting lower harvest during times of reduced abundance. It is unthinkable that charter operators would want to operate outside conservation limits. It is also

unthinkable that the Council would award the charter sector more halibut simply because charter harvest has repeatedly exceeded the Council recommended GHL. Clearly rewarding overages would set a bad precedent for fisheries management.

As identified in the EA/RIR, charter harvests in 2C have increased by more than 75% between 1995 and 2005. The commercial harvest has increased by 14% over the same time period. Due to revised assumptions about halibut migration, the amount of quota apportioned to 2C is likely to decrease significantly in the next two years. Clearly both sectors will be facing reduced harvest opportunities despite strong demand for halibut both by recreational anglers and the American consumer. When considering the allocation, the Council needs to balance impacts to all sectors—consumers as well as harvesters. The Council can significantly mitigate the impacts of the allocation by implementing a market based system such as the crossover proposal. Regardless, the Council has repeatedly committed to managing the charter fleet to the GHL published in the federal register until superceded by a long-term management strategy. ALFA expects the Council to live up to this commitment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I will attach a copy of the crossover proposal to provide the Council with additional detail. Please feel free to contact me with questions related to the crossover proposal or any other part of these comments.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Behnken  
(Director, ALFA)

3/19/2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Attention to all voting members  
Re: Halibut charter boat moratorium

**RECEIVED**

MAR 17 2007

Dear Sir or Madam,

N.P.F.M.C.

I have been a charter boat operator in Homer for 28 years. I feel that a moratorium should be implemented on new entrants into our fishery using December 9, 2005 as the control date.

The charter boat GHL is unfair as it does not float with abundance as the commercial GHL does. How unlevel the playing field when only one user group sets the rules of the game. However unfair it is though, the GHL is a reality for now. Because of the current GHL and the current management measures to keep us within its bounds our businesses climate is becoming too unpredictable and unstable.

Keep the moratorium simple. After a moratorium is in place then we can all work together to find the best long term management solution. After reading the various blogs, postings, newsletters and news articles I have come to the conclusion that there are about 612 different plans to manage the fishery. My plan of course is by far the best one.

I want to see a halibut charter permanent solution that allows me to make individual business decisions myself and not some meddling government body who does not have my best interests at heart. An IFQ plan for charter boats where I can buy and sell shares as needed as the TAC (total allowable catch) changes works for me.

Regardless of whose plan we use we all know that when a plan is devised then the various state and federal regulating bodies will move it through the system at the galloping pace of a glacier. Any plan will therefore be years away from implementation as we have seen in the past.

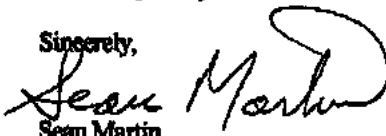
So perhaps you could first deal only with a moratorium. I would like to see you use the 20 trip option as qualification for an entry permit. My reason is this: In 3A we are over the GHL by about 9%. By eliminating crew fish we may be able to bring the catch in line with the GHL in 2007. That is at current capacity. If the GHL remains the same in the near term then those boats that have been fishing only 5 - 10 trips per season can grow their businesses to 50 to 60 trips per year pushing us right back over the GHL, triggering emergency type closures such as we saw in January.

I would also like to see the entry permits be transferable as it makes for a better business climate when things can be moved quickly and easily.

I do not want Alaska Department of Fish and Game involved in allocation decisions because of their past history of in season closures. Any management decisions should be made a year in advance or our booking process will be severely damaged. Decisions made in January are too late for current year bookings.

The world is not standing by while we drag our feet. Be decisive and if a little pain is caused now it will be less than the pain caused later if you delay. I only want to be able to take my charter clients fishing for a 2 fish limit per day in a season of historic length which seems less and less possible all the time.

Sincerely,



Sean Martin  
North Country Charters  
P.O. Box 889  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
1-800-770-7620

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Suite 306  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

March 19, 2006

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

My name is Lisa Blankenship, and I am writing to express my concern about the management, or lack of management, with the charter halibut fishery. I feel the council needs to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery.

I have been commercial fishing for 10 years out of Sitka and have captained a charter boat for 3 years. In 2001 I invested in the Federal IFQ system your council developed. It seemed to be a smart move on my part, and I would love to invest more in the system, but the poor management of the charter halibut fishery has raised a lot of red flags. Every time the charter industry goes over the GHF, it seems the commercial sector is held accountable by having their overall quota reduced to compensate for the charter overage. Does this seem fair?

When I was a charter captain for 3 years in the industry, I was able to witness first hand the need for management on the halibut species. Participating in the commercial sector (which operates under biological management regulations and taxation), and participating in the charter industry, it is without question the charter sector needs heavier regulations to ensure the halibut resource remains viable. Having a Bachelor of Science degree in marine science I was focused on recognizing the "signs" of species depletion. Year after year, it was getting harder to catch a halibut, they were substantially smaller in size, and I witnessed boats heading further and further offshore just so they could catch a halibut. Knowing the biological process of halibut, it makes sense to me why we are starting to see a "local" depletion. If the charter industry continues to keep undercutting the stock (keeping small halibut that haven't matured yet), we are going to have a serious negative impact.

Commercial halibut IFQ holders have accepted conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed and sustainable fishery. I think it is past due for the charter halibut fishery to accept the need for conservation and regulations so that they too can do their part in helping keep a sustainable fishery. I just hope the council can step in before it is too late, before the impact is too devastating beyond an economical recovery for both industries.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa J. Blankenship  
F/V Lisa Jean  
147 E. Price St.  
Sitka, AK 99835



## SELDOVIA FISHING ADVENTURES INC

David and Peggy Cloninger  
 P.O. Box 121, Seldovia Alaska 99663  
 Phone: 907-234-7417, Fax: 907-234-8444  
 www.fishhalibut.com  
 e-mail: fishfun@xyz.net

FAX

To: North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 604 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501-2252  
 Fax # 907-271-2817

From: David Cloninger *David Cloninger*

Subject: Fisheries Management Plan

Date: March 19, 2007



I've been in the halibut charter fishing business in Seldovia, Alaska for 21 years. This has been my family's sole source of income all these years, and I am deeply concerned that the commercial fishing industry is trying to totally eliminate my ability to support my family. I live in an area that has very few job opportunities and taking sportsmen fishing is one of the few ways a person can make a living here.

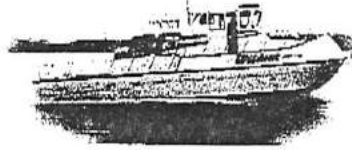
I am NOT defined as a commercial fisherman in either the Magnuson-Stevens Act or the Halibut Act of 1982. On the contrary, both of these Acts state that I am a boat for hire taking sportsmen fishing. As such, I cannot be defined in any way as a commercial fisherman, and therefore, cannot be included in any commercial fishing plan, as you have been trying to do for years.

I do not support the halibut charter moratorium and do not support any threshold qualification for inclusion in the moratorium. I oppose any allocation delegation to the Alaska Fish and Game, because of their potential in-season management decisions that could totally ruin my business.

What I would like to see is a Fisheries Management Plan for halibut, which I understand should have been implemented many years ago under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This plan should allocate the halibut resource to all users in a fair and equitable allotment, and no one user should have an excess allotment. If a Fisheries Management Plan had been put in place 14 years ago, there would not be a problem now. I would like to see one implemented before the 2008 season.

In closing, I am a sportsman fighting for the right to have a fair and equitable amount of fish available for me, my children, and all other sportsmen. It doesn't make any difference if a sportsman hires me to take him fishing on my boat or if he goes fishing on his own boat, because either way we are – RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN NOT COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN!





Captain Mike's Charters  
PO Box 269  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
(907) 235-8348

*"Halibut Fishing is Our Specialty"*

907-271-2817

R

MAR 19 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

March 14, 2007

North Pacific Fisheries Council  
Chairman Stephanie Madsen

First of all let me introduce myself. My name is Mike Huff; my company is Captain Mike's Charters. I started fishing in 1982 and have been taking sports fishermen out every day of the summer for 25 years. All of these years have been out of the Homer Harbor.

The charter fleet has grown with a few down years but still growing. I am seeing several boats do 1/2 day trips and over night trips to get 4 fish per person, in addition to lots of new entrants into the business. If the GHJ goes away I am willing to support a moratorium with the December 5<sup>th</sup> 2006 control date, but it needs to stick. I support a 5-day trip threshold for qualifying to be included in the moratorium. I would like to see the day trip permits able to transfer so a person could build their business. I would like to see the log books used to determine amount of fishing activity.

I would like to see enough allocation of fish to be able to make this a permanent solution. I would like this done as soon as possible and not be dragged on for years.

I oppose any allocation delegation to Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Due to their emergency regulations, which are disruptive to the schedule and flow of our businesses. Lots of our fishermen are prebooked up to a year in advance and it's hard to book with the uncertainty of new emergency orders from ADF&G.

This allocation issue has been going on way to many years now and it needs a permanent solution. I prefer status quo, but realize it won't happen. The IFQ solution would work for me.

Final Note: The driving force is not the amount of boats available but the amount of folks wanting to pay to go fishing on charters.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Mike Huff  
Captain Mike's Charters  
PO Box 269  
Homer, Alaska 99603  
(907) 235-8348  
cell: 399-1179  
Web site: [www.captmike.com](http://www.captmike.com)  
e-mail: [flatfish@pci.net](mailto:flatfish@pci.net)

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the **crossover proposal**.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,  
Otto Florschutz  
Box 547  
Wrangell, AK

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

REC-10  
MAR 21 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



please!  
It is past  
time for  
action.

Name/Date SCOTT M. VISSCHER 3/15/07  
Vessel name F/V GEORGIA  
Address HC-60 #2842 HNS, AK. 99827

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-271-2817 (fax)

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen:

We are writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and hold them at their current GHL.

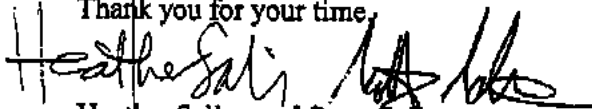
As a commercial fishing family, we had to buy halibut quota to keep our livelihood when the IFQ program was implemented. We were among the first of the deckhands to lose our jobs as a result of boat share restructuring, and crew size reductions. Participation in open access resulted in our being the first NMPS loan applicant ok'd for approval, and the very last to close that first year waiting for a decision then on how much fish charter would take from our initial unit pounds purchase. Our "D" class pounds are fished in the exact same area as the charter fleet within 30 to 40 miles of town. Best example being issued pounds caught in a 24 hour period in open access is unattainable in 24 hours now and takes us many more trips to get our quota caught in the same area as the charter fleet. As a result, our family has lost 20% of our quota and income this year.

We feel by rewarding the charter fleet by going over their GHL, it is not establishing good conservation methods for personal and subsistence fisherman as well. The charter fleet complain of their loss of income, what has happened to our family? Our young sons' future. Has the cost of our loan decreased as well as the fish quota we had to buy?

We appreciate the efforts of the council for being a leader in sustainable fisheries management, but wonder how many council members have actually been on a charter vessel and witnessed the mortality and bycatch rate, when trying to catch the big one. If conservation is to be achieved, a plan must include a meaningful moratorium and effective harvest control measures.

We have not yet seen mortality numbers on chicken halibut getting caught and released only to be caught and released only to be caught again the next day and again the next as the charter boat fleet targets halibut nursery's let alone rockfish caught while shaking chickens for the barn door.

Thank you for your time.



Heather Saline and Scott Saline  
Class D pounds  
PO Box 3183  
Sitka, AK 99835

# Wild Iris

*Fishing & Sightseeing Adventures*

RECEIVED  
MAR 20 2007

N.P.F.M.C.  
20 March 2007

TO: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our views on the Halibut Charter issues. I am Barbara Brooks and I own and operate Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Adventures out of Valdez, Alaska. I have been in business since 1996 and have been involved in this process since going into business, and understand the frustration of both the businesses that have been in business for a long time, and those trying to start up now.

I support the establishment of a Halibut Charter Moratorium using the existing control date of 9 December 2005, to be established as soon as possible, and also support the following actions.

1. Using a 5 day per year trip for initial qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary 15 day trip for moratorium permit transferability. I also prefer the use of either 2004 or 2005 Log Book data.
2. I want an initial allocation that represents a fair share and is adequate to allow for a permanent solution and allow me to operate my business as I have in the past. For this, fair allocation numbers need to be developed.
3. All data needed to establish a permanent solution is already on hand and no further data collection or studies are required. Continued studies would only cloud the issue.
4. I very strongly oppose any allocation delegation to ADF&G, as in-season management decisions would devastate our business. I have trips booked for August 2007 that were booked in 2006!
5. I want you (the Council) to move as rapidly as possible to finding a permanent solution that will allow me to make our own business choices, not be worrying about when a new change will come down. This process is already 14 years old and it is time to be resolved.
6. I also support establishing a fair appeals process for special situations affecting qualification for the Moratorium, such as long time charter operators with less than 5 day trips per year and non-owner (hired) charter skippers who may wish to enter the fishery on their own.
7. And finally, I support the passage of the State of Alaska Bill HB 186, "Sport Fishing Guide Records" introduced by Rep John Harris on 12 Mar 2007, allowing Logbook data sharing with NPFMC and other Federal Agencies. This data could help facilitate a final resolution to this continuing problem.

Thank you again for allowing me the time to air my views on how my business is to operate in the coming years.

Capt. Barbara J. Brooks  
Wild Iris Fishing and Sightseeing Adventures  
Valdez, Alaska

3/20/07

Yngve Olsson  
P.O. Box 603  
Haines, AK 99827

REC

MAR 21 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Re: Halibut Charter Issues C-1 a-h

I started Halibut fishing in 85' Halibut for many years has helped supplement my income when gillnetting was bad. We've already given up 20% it's time the charter group gives up 30% halibut.

**Halibut Moratorium:** I support the moratorium. This is a necessary first step in regulating the charter industry into a long term solution. The moratorium is not a complete solution by itself.

**State/Federal Management:** I do not support at this time changing the Halibut Act to allow the Council to grant management authority to the State. If a final long term solution is chosen that makes this step necessary then it should be pursued at that time.

**2C GHM Measures:** I support implementing appropriate management measures on the charter industry. Please consider that in 2C with a declining biomass that the charter industry's GHM step down provisions will likely be triggered in 2008 and take action that accounts for this sharing of the conservation burden between commercial users.

**3A GHM Measures:** I support the Council initiating an analysis for 3A GHM management measures for the 2008 season.

**Discussion Paper on Allocation w/action as necessary:** I support the GHM being changed into a hard allocation with separate accountability. I believe that the GHM was a fair allocation when implemented that provided for growth. It is not the commercial fault nor should they be penalized economically because the charter fleet surpassed the growth envisioned and a long term plan that was passed was later rescinded. To implement a moratorium and then provide for growth appears to be contradictory and unjust.

Sincerely,  
Yngve Olsson

3/20/07

Joel Pasquan  
845. Piedaal Rd  
Hus. AK 99827

REC

MAR 2

N.P.F.M.

I've Halibut fished since 1975. I've purchased 2 blks of quota, and I don't like being cheated out of it. Especially since most charter people don't even live here or put anything back into the fishery.

**Halibut Moratorium:** I support the moratorium. This is a necessary first step in regulating the charter industry into a long term solution. The moratorium is not a complete solution by itself.

**State/Federal Management:** I do not support at this time changing the Halibut Act to allow the Council to grant management authority to the State. If a final long term solution is chosen that makes this step necessary then it should be pursued at that time.

**2C GHM Measures:** I support implementing appropriate management measures on the charter industry. Please consider that in 2C with a declining biomass that the charter industry's GHM step down provisions will likely be triggered in 2008 and take action that accounts for this sharing of the conservation burden between commercial users.

**3A GHM Measures:** I support the Council initiating an analysis for 3A GHM management measures for the 2008 season.

**Discussion Paper on Allocation w/action as necessary:** I support the GHM being changed into a hard allocation with separate accountability. I believe that the GHM was a fair allocation when implemented that provided for growth. It is not the commercial fault nor should they be penalized economically because the charter fleet surpassed the growth envisioned and a long term plan that was passed was later rescinded. To implement a moratorium and then provide for growth appears to be contradictory and unjust.

Sincerely,

Joel Pasquan

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, CHAIR

Re: Moratorium Halibut Charter Entry, Issue 10

I am concerned about the definition of 'trip' in the discussion of Issue 10 options for qualifying for a permit to charter for halibut. I do about 4 or 5 trips a season, but they last three to nine days each. The commonly accepted definition of a 'trip' will shorten my qualifying number of days fished aboard my vessel chartering for halibut, potentially disqualifying me for a permit after ten years in the halibut chartering business.

The definition of "trip" is pivotal for multi-day charter owner/operators like me.

**NOAA OLE Definition:**

A charter halibut fishing trip begins when a halibut is brought onboard a charter fishing vessel and ends when any halibut is offloaded from that vessel or when any person that was present on that vessel when the first halibut was brought onboard disembarks the vessel, whichever comes first.

**Alaska State Definition:** an outing with one group of clients.

Using these current definitions, it appears that I will NOT receive credit for my 'days fished.' So while I will have fished perhaps 20 or 30 days, I will get credit for 4 or 5 'trips.' This is troubling. This has the potential of disqualifying my business simply because I do not ordinarily do day trips. All the while, I have put in my charter time since 1996 and made a substantial part of my yearly income chartering. The current preferred alternatives for Issue 10 will not work for us who have put in our time unless 'trip' is defined as 'days fished.'

*"If you filled out a logbook for each day, then ADF&G records will verify your participation. I think this is a critical point and one that should be clarified with the Council during its deliberations." Jane DiCosimo, from email correspondence.*

*"I agree with Jane. The ADF&G logbook should indicate your trip history, not the NOAA OLE trip definition for the Community Quota Entity (CQE) portion of the moratorium program. The Moratorium analysis explains that while the definition provided in the analysis is subject to change, a similar definition would apply for the CQE portion of the moratorium program because it has a requirement to begin/end in certain ports." Jason Gasper, from email correspondence.*

Unless this 'trip' definition is addressed and clarified fairly by the council, my extended distant water charters will be removed from the halibut chartering equation. Mine is a relatively low impact on the resource. A seven day long charter still allows only 4 fish per client in possession, while seven, single day charters yields 14 fish per client. Worse yet, I could be potentially replaced by the "double dipper" (two charter trips per day), who most likely catches ping pong paddle halibut, close to town, exacerbating local area depletion.

A careful definition of 'trip' must include 'days fished' if it is to give fair credit to those of us who do multiple day, long distance charters.

Respectfully,

David Kubiak, F/V Mythos, Kodiak



March 20, 2007

Bengie Stuart  
PO Box 130  
Haines, Alaska 99827-0130

RECEIVED

MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council,  
Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Ak 99501

RE: Halibut Charter Issues C-1 a-h

I am fishing my own IFQ's and those of Bengie Stuart. I have been a fisherman since my senior year in High School in 1987. Ever since the decline of Gillnetting I have been depending more and more on the income receive from Halibut fishing.

**Halibut Moratorium:** I support the moratorium. This is a necessary first step in regulating the charter industry into a long term solution. The moratorium is not a complete solution by itself.

**State/ Federal Management:** I do not support at this time changing the Halibut Act to allow the Council to grant management authority to the State. If a final long term solution is chosen that makes this step necessary then it should be pursued at that time.

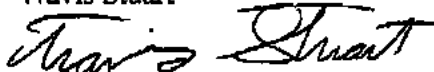
**2C GHM Measures:** I support implementing appropriate management measures on the charter industry. Please consider that in 2C with a declining biomass that the charter industry's GHM step down provisions will likely be triggered in 2008 and take action that accounts for this sharing of the conservation burden between commercial users.

**3A GHM Measures:** I support the Council initiating an analysis for 3A GHM management measures for the 2008 season.

**Discussion Paper on Allocation w/action as necessary:** I support the GHM being changed into a hard allocation with separate accountability. I believe that the GHM was a fair allocation when implemented that provided for growth. It is not the commercial fault nor should they be penalized economically because the charter fleet surpassed the growth envisioned and a long term plan that was passed was later rescinded. To implement a moratorium and then provide for growth appears to be contradictory and unjust.

Sincerely,

Travis Stuart



March 20, 2007

Bengie Stuart  
PO Box 130  
Haines, Alaska 99827-0130

North Pacific Fishery Management Council,  
Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Ak 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 20 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

RE: Halibut Charter Issues C-1 a-h

I am leasing the IFQ's of my late husband. During our marriage we purchased approximately \$100,000 of shares. Needless to say I depend a great deal on the return of this investment, as we planned it to be part of our retirement.

**Halibut Moratorium:** I support the moratorium. This is a necessary first step in regulating the charter industry into a long term solution. The moratorium is not a complete solution by itself.

**State/ Federal Management:** I do not support at this time changing the Halibut Act to allow the Council to grant management authority to the State. If a final long term solution is chosen that makes this step necessary then it should be pursued at that time.

**2C GHM Measures:** I support implementing appropriate management measures on the charter industry. Please consider that in 2C with a declining biomass that the charter industry's GHM step down provisions will likely be triggered in 2008 and take action that accounts for this sharing of the conservation burden between commercial users.

**3A GHM Measures:** I support the Council initiating an analysis for 3A GHM management measures for the 2008 season.

**Discussion Paper on Allocation w/action as necessary:** I support the GHM being changed into a hard allocation with separate accountability. I believe that the GHM was a fair allocation when implemented that provided for growth. It is not the commercial fault nor should they be penalized economically because the charter fleet surpassed the growth envisioned and a long term plan that was passed was later rescinded. To implement a moratorium and then provide for growth appears to be contradictory and unjust.

Sincerely,

  
Bengie Stuart

Philip Warren  
Comfort Charters  
PO Box 4 Homer, Alaska  
(907) 235-1374

March 19, 2007

MAR 30 2007

NPFMC

NPFMC  
FAX: 907 371 2817

Council members,

I have been chartering out of Homer for over ten years and run about 100 trips per season.

I support a halibut charter moratorium starting december 2005.

I support a 5 day trip threshold for inclusion, with a secondary 20 day threshold for permit transferability.

We need an initial allocation that will get us through to a permanent solution.

The charter industry has supplied a wealth of data. It needs to be used now.

I oppose any allocation delegation to ADF&G as sudden changes would greatly disrupt my business. Many of my clients rebook a year in advance to hold choice dates.

My main concern is to get a long term solution.

I oppose haveing the industry as a whole, or its clients, purchase a block of IFQ's for allocation. It could never be purchased or distributed fairly. I am in favor of IFQ's, but only on an individual basis.

Thank you for your time,

Philip Warren



3/20/07  
Dean Risley  
Box 1012  
Haines, Alaska 99827

North pacific fishery management council  
Stephanie Madsen, chair  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Ak 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
NPFMC

RE: Halibut charter issues C-1 a-h

I started fishing halibut in 1987 after a stint in the army. I've watch it grow from a fishery that just supplemented your income to one that now accounts for a large portion of it. I recently purchased more quota believing that the charter issue was being resolved, only to discover that politics has reared its ugly head. I don't believe there is a business in this world that can survive when you lose 20% or more of your income to pirates every year. THIS NEEDS TO STOP!!!!!!

I support the moratorium. This is a necessary first step in regulating the charter industry into a long term solution.  
I do not support at this time changing the Halibut Act to allow the council to grant authority to the state. If a final long term solution is chosen that makes this necessary, then it should be considered.

2C GHJL measures: I support implementing appropriate management measures on the charter industry. Please consider that in 2C with a declining biomass that the charter industry's GHJL step down provisions will likely be triggered in 2008 and take action that accounts for this sharing of the conservation burden between commercial users.

3A GHJL Measures: I support the council initiating an analysis for 3A GHJL management measures for the 2008 season.

I support the GHJL being changed into a hard allocation with separate accountability. I believe that the GHJL was a fair allocation when implemented that provided for growth. It is not the commercial fault nor should they be penalized economically because the charter fleet surpassed the growth envisioned and a long term plan that was passed was later rescinded. To implement a moratorium and then provide for growth appears to be contradictory and unjust!

Sincerely, Dean Risley  
F/V Rogue  
*Dean Risley*

# Cap'n Patty Charters

Captains Mike and Patty Wing \* PO Box 3667 \* Valdez, AK 99686

19 March 2007


TO: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council

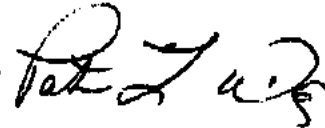
Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our views on the Halibut Charter Issues. We are Michael and Patricia Wing and operate Cap'n Patty Charters out of Valdez, Alaska. We have been in business since 1995 and have been involved in this process since going into business, and understand the frustration of both the businesses that have been in business for a long time, and those trying to start up now.

We support the establishment of a Halibut Charter Moratorium using the existing control date of 9 December 2005, to be established as soon as possible, and also support the following actions.

1. Using a 5 day per year trip for initial qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary 15 day trip for moratorium permit transferability. We also prefer the use of either 2004 or 2005 Log Book data.
2. We want an initial allocation that represents a fair share and is adequate to allow for a permanent solution and allow us to operate our business as we have in the past. For this, fair allocation numbers need to be developed.
3. All data needed to establish a permanent solution is already on hand and no further data collection or studies are required. Continued studies would only cloud the issue.
4. We very strongly oppose any allocation delegation to ADF&G, as in-season management decisions would devastate our business. We have trips booked for August 2007 that were booked in 2006!
5. We want you (the Council) to move as rapidly as possible to finding a permanent solution that will allow us to make our own business choices, not be worrying about when a new change will come down. This process is already 14 years old and it is time to be resolved.
6. We also support establishing a fair appeals process for special situations affecting qualification for the Moratorium, such as long time charter operators with less than 5 day trips per year and non-owner (hired) charter skippers who may wish to enter the fishery on their own.
7. And finally, we support the passage of the State of Alaska Bill HB 186, "Sport Fishing Guide Records" introduced by Rep John Harris on 12 Mar 2007, allowing Logbook data sharing with NPFMC and other Federal Agencies. This data could help facilitate a final resolution to this continuing problem.

Thank you again for allowing us the time to air our views on how our business is to operate in the coming years.

  
Captains Mike and Patty Wing  
Cap'n Patty Charters



REC

MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Phone: (907) 835-2139 or (907) 831-0031  
E-Mail: [info@capnpatty.com](mailto:info@capnpatty.com) \* web site: [www.capnpatty.com](http://www.capnpatty.com)

# FAX COVER SHEET

Address (line 1)  
 Address (line 2)  
 City, State or Province / ZIP or Postal Code  
 Phone number  
 Fax number

MAR 2 2007  
 N.P.F.

<b>Send to:</b> NPFMC	<b>From:</b> Patrick Bookey
<b>Attention:</b> Halibut Charter Moratorium	<b>Date:</b> March 19, 2007
<b>Office Location:</b> Anchorage, Alaska	<b>Office Location:</b> North Pole, Alaska
<b>Fax Number:</b> 907 271-2817	<b>Phone Number:</b> 907 488-9890

- Urgent
- Reply ASAP
- Please comment
- Please review
- For your information

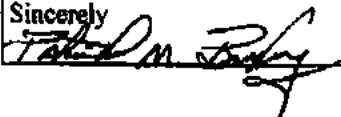
Total pages, including cover:

**Comments:**

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am the owner operator of Luck of the Irish Charters from Valdez, Alaska. I have been in the halibut charter business since 1981. I support the establishment of the Halibut Charter Moratorium with the December 9 2005 control date. This should have been done ten years ago. I also support the 15 day trip threshold for qualification of a transferable permit. The data for establishing these numbers need to be taken from either the 2004 or the 2005 Alaska Department of Fish & Game logbook program records. This is recent data. An initial allocation must represent a fair share and be adequate for permanent solution. Fair allocation numbers need to be developed. No further data needs to be gathered. Make all decisions on the data on hand. No further studies need to be taken. I am very much against the Alaska Department of Fish & Game being assigned any allocation because they are a political organization and their decisions for in season management could be detrimental to my business. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council need to move as rapidly as possible to a permanent solution that allows for individual business choices. The council has been working on this issue for 14 years and the end is still not in sight. A Fair appeals process needs to be established effecting moratorium participants and I support Alaska House Bill 186 to allow the sharing of Logbook data.

Sincerely



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 16 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.  
March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

We are counting on you to use your tools, knowledge, persuasions and better judgments to make the right decisions. It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

# F/V Kruzof

JIM & RHONDA HUBBARD

P. O. Box 3302 • Seward, Alaska 99664  
Phone: (907) 224-7342 • Fax: (907) 224-5572

Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Denby Lloyd, Commissioner  
Kelly Hepler, Sport Fish Division Director  
P.O. Box 115525  
Juneau, Ak 99811-5526  
FAX: (907) 465-2332 / 2772

March 20, 2007

National Marine Fisheries Division, Alaska Region  
Jim Balsiger, Regional Administrator  
Sue Salvason, Sustainable Fisheries Division  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, Ak 99802-1668  
FAX: (907) 582-7249

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

RE: Reporting Error in Federal Register of Guideline Harvest Level in 3A

Per the recently published federal register, Vol 72, No 49 dated March 14, 2007 as attached, inconsistent reporting of data is evident. The highlighted portion under "Rejected Sport Fishing Regulations" notes that the GHL of 3.650Mlbs was exceeded in area 3A by an estimated 8-9% (.32Mlbs) in 2006. This information, reportedly gathered from survey data by the Alaska Division of Sport Fish did not include additional crew and skipper catch as reported in Halibut Sport Guide logbook data. This amount of .469 Mlbs was formally passed on to the International Pacific Halibut Commission before its annual meeting in January.

As the IPHC documented in their annual report and subsequently to NMFS North Council in Portland, halibut pounds harvested by the Guided Sport Anglers in 3A was 3.97Mlbs plus .469 Mlbs of harvested crew and skipper fish for a total of 4.439 Mlbs of halibut harvested. Taking this into account harvest is actually 21% over the GHL.

Without including the skipper and crew fish in the total guided sport harvest in area 3A you are not only misleading the public in actual harvest numbers, you are also suggesting inadequate management measures that will help keep the guided sport industry within their GHL and from allowing harvest to go over the total allowable catch. Additionally, in light of the state's request for delegation of authority of halibut management, this confusion in data further retracts from the State's ability to adequately manage an already very contentious fishery among sectors.



I suggest it prudent that the corresponding State and Federal divisions clarify the logbook data and either confirm or correct the harvest numbers with IPHC and the North Council as soon as possible. This information is crucial at a time when management options and long term allocation measures for the guided sport sector is being considered.

Your consideration and action on this issue would be greatly appreciated and helpful. As a commercial participant in the halibut fishery, I look forward to the sector allocation issues being finalized soon. This battle is not healthy for the resource or the social fabric of our small communities. Your assistance in a final resolve to this matter is not only welcomed but encouraged.

Sincerely yours,



Rhonda A. Hubbard

CC: Bruce Leman, Executive Director IPHC  
Chris Oliver, Executive Director North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Dr. Bill Hogarth, Assistant Administrator NOAA Fisheries

**Report Date for CDQ Managers**

Current regulations at sec. 7 of the Halibut Act allow persons fishing for CDQ halibut in Areas 4D or 4E to retain sublegal sized halibut for their personal use provided that they land their total annual halibut catch in these areas. In addition, managers of the CDQ organizations that authorize CDQ harvest in these areas must report annually to the IPHC the total weight and number of undersized halibut retained in Area 4D and 4E CDQ fisheries. The IPHC changed the due date for this report from December 1 to November 1 to facilitate the incorporation of these data in its annual meeting materials.

**Sublegal Halibut Possession Allowance**

Current regulations at sec. 14 of the Halibut Act require all halibut caught in the commercial fishery for halibut, but that are not retained, to be immediately released and returned to the sea with a minimum of injury. The IPHC recognized that this rule technically would prohibit retaining a halibut on the catcher vessel to determine whether it meets the minimum size limit for commercially harvested halibut. Hence, the IPHC recommended a regulatory change that would allow the temporary possession of a commercially harvested halibut to determine its length and if it is of sublegal size, it would be returned to the sea with a minimum of injury to enhance its survival potential.

**Change to Sport Fishing Regulations off Alaska**

Current regulations prohibit in all areas the filleting, mutilation or other disfigurement of sport-caught halibut that would prevent the determination of the size or number of halibut possessed or landed. In areas in and off of Alaska (Areas 2C through 4E), however, the IPHC recommended that this prohibition apply only to halibut on the catcher vessel. Once landed or offloaded from the catcher vessel, this prohibition would not apply. This change is intended to facilitate the processing of sport-caught halibut in Alaska for personal use.

**Rejected Sport Fishing Regulations**

The IPHC recommended decreased sport fishing daily bag limits for anglers on charter vessels in Areas 2C and 3A from two fish to one fish per angler during specific time periods. In Area 2C, the one-fish bag limit was recommended to apply to charter vessel anglers from June 15 through July 30 and in Area 3A from June 15 through June 30. The IPHC intended for these reduced bag limits to

apply until superseded by regulations promulgated by the AA.

The IPHC took this action because it believed that its management goals were at risk by the rapid growth in charter vessel harvest of halibut in excess of the NPFMC's guideline harvest level (GHL) for charter vessel harvest, especially in Area 2C. The IPHC recognized the role of the NPFMC in developing policy and regulations that allocate the Pacific halibut resource among fishermen in and off of Alaska, and that the NPFMC is actively developing a program to manage the charter vessel fishery for halibut. However, the NPFMC management program has not yet been recommended to the AA, and if approved, could not be implemented before the 2008 charter vessel fishing season. Therefore, the IPHC determined that its recommended bag limits in Areas 2C and 3A were necessary to prevent further growth in the halibut harvest by charter vessel anglers as an immediate but interim measure until the NPFMC management program for this fishery can be implemented.

The United States is unable to accept the IPHC's reduction in the daily bag limit for halibut caught from sport charter vessels in Areas 3A and 2C. These regulatory decisions are more appropriately handled through the development and implementation of regulations by domestic fisheries management agencies. For Area 3A, the State of Alaska Commissioner of Fish and Game (State) issued an emergency order on January 26, 2007, prohibiting a sport fishing guide and a sport fishing crew member working on a charter vessel in salt waters of Southcentral Alaska from retaining fish while clients are onboard the vessel. This emergency order will be effective from May 1, 2007, through December 31, 2007. Also, the emergency order limits the maximum number of lines that may be fished from a charter vessel to the number of paying clients onboard the vessel. The State estimates that this action will reduce the harvest of halibut on charter vessels in Area 3A by 7.7 percent to 10.8 percent. This reduction in the charter halibut harvest in Area 3A likely will be sufficient to maintain it at about the level of the GHL because the GHL was exceeded in this area by an estimated 8 percent to 9 percent in 2006.

For Area 2C, the IPHC recommended bag limit reduction would likely reduce the estimated charter vessel harvest in 2006 by about 20 percent in 2007. Although the recommended one-fish bag limit on charter vessel anglers in Area 2C could lower the total charter vessel harvest somewhat, the AA has determined that a comparable mortality

reduction could be achieved by alternative regulations that would minimize potential negative economic impacts on the charter vessel industry. Hence, the IPHC-recommended reduced bag limits for the charter vessel fishery in Area 2C were rejected in favor of substitute alternative restrictions which will be implemented through a separate domestic regulatory action. The AA's goal in implementing substitute restrictions is to reduce sport fishing mortality of halibut in the charter fishery sector in Area 2C to a level comparable to the level that would be achieved by the IPHC-recommended regulations. The AA intends for the substitute restrictions to minimize negative impacts on the charter fishery, its sport fishing clients, the coastal communities that serve as home ports for this fishery, and on fisheries for other species.

**Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 2A**

This action also implements the CSP for regulatory Area 2A. This plan was developed by the PFMC under authority of the Halibut Act. Section 5 of the Halibut Act (16 U.S.C. 773c) provides the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) with general responsibility to carry out the Convention and to adopt such regulations as may be necessary to implement the purposes and objectives of the Convention and the Halibut Act. The Secretary's authority has been delegated to the AA. Section 5 of the Halibut Act (16 U.S.C. 773c(c)) also authorizes the Regional Fishery Management Council having authority for the geographic area concerned to develop regulations governing the Pacific halibut catch in United States Convention waters that are in addition to, but not in conflict with, regulations of the IPHC. Pursuant to this authority, the PFMC's Area 2A CSP allocates the halibut catch limit for Area 2A among treaty Indian, non-treaty commercial, and non-treaty sport fisheries in and off Washington, Oregon, and California.

For 2007, PFMC recommended changes to the CSP to modify the Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2A in 2007 to (1) constrain the Washington North Coast subarea June fishery to two specific nearshore areas on the first Tuesday and Thursday following June 17; (2) reopen the Washington North Coast subarea June fishery in the entire north coast subarea on the first Saturday following June 17; (3) if sufficient quota remains, reopen the entire Washington North Coast subarea for one day on the first Thursday following June 24, otherwise, reopen the nearshore areas on the first Thursday following June 24 for up to four days per week (Thursday-

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
 Chair  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

2007

NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the QHL, overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing QHL. The current QHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its QHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the QHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the QHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Mark and Karen Severson

Mark & Karen Severson  
 3/29/2007  
 F/V Odin  
 PO Box 1502  
 Petersburg, AK 99833

Dear Chair Madsen,  
 Please put an end to this fight; it is tearing communities apart. Commercial fishermen have invested millions for the right to fish, and pay their management fees and taxes to protect the resource. It's time the Charter Industry do the same. It is past time for them to take responsibility for their growing industry. It has nothing to do with commercial or public access.

**Juneau Charter Boat Operators Association**  
**P. O. Box 34522**  
**Juneau, Alaska 99803**

**2007 Board  
of Directors**

*Todd Wicks  
President*

*Chris Conder  
Vice President*

*Chris White  
Secretary*

*Ole Bartness  
Treasurer*

*Edwin Honey  
Member at  
Large*

*Bill Benning  
Member at  
Large*

*Jack Cadigan  
Member at  
Large*

*Toni Wisner  
Member at  
Large*

*Jahn Marrell  
Member at  
Large*

March 21, 2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 21 2007

**N.P.F.M.C.**

Dear Council Members,

I represent the Juneau Charter Boat Operator's Association (JCBOA). We are an organization of 18 privately owned charter businesses that operate from Juneau, Alaska.

The Juneau area presents unique challenges for fishing charter businesses. We are based on the Inside Passage, 70 nautical miles inland from the West coast. Since we are so far inland, Juneau is not "known" as a halibut-fishing destination, but does provide a quality halibut fishing experience. Given that we are not a destination for halibut fishing only, most of our members participate in many diverse activities with our guests. A typical Juneau Charter boat may fish salmon one day, halibut the next, and find him or herself on a whale watching/sightseeing tour the next day. Every one just as important as the next in making ends meet during the season! Many of our members, though they have been participating in halibut fishing for years, take only a small number of halibut charters per year. Although it may appear that the small number of halibut charters many of us take is insignificant compared to full time halibut operations in other parts of the state, these trips are a necessary component to our overall business success.

It may be that an operator who takes 5 halibut trips a year in Valdez or Sitka is a "hobby operator," but in Juneau, 5 halibut trips (approximately \$9750.00 + tax) may be what makes or breaks a full time charter operator's season. Our logbook records show this characteristic in the Juneau charter fleet. If the Council sets a high trip threshold for participation in the halibut fishery it will put most of our membership out of business. We do not wish to see those of us who have participated in the fishery for many years at low levels excluded. Halibut fishing is not a hobby to us. It is a viable and healthy long-term component to our overall businesses and in many cases important to our survival.

We continue to urge the stakeholders committee toward a permanent solution. However, in the interim, we urge the Council to set a low 5-trip threshold for unit 2C and a low 5-trip threshold for transferable permits in unit 2C. This will allow Juneau operators to continue our unique but viable position in Alaska's sport halibut fishery. We are also concerned that if there is a high threshold for transferable permits, much of Juneau's historical halibut fishing will be reallocated through attrition to places on the outer coast where there is a different dynamic to the fishery.

We strongly support a fair appeal process to accompany any moratorium and limited entry actions by the Council. A fair appeal is the only way to ensure legitimate, long-term halibut charter operations aren't mistakenly squeezed out of business. It is necessary to include an appeal mechanism in order to balance the process.

In summery, the JCBOA maintains the following points regarding a moratorium on the guided sport halibut fishery:

- We support a moratorium using the control date of December 9, 2005
- We believe the Council already has the data in its possession to enact a fair moratorium.
- We believe the Council should act this year to institute a moratorium.
- We support a 5-trip threshold for a permit.
- We support a 5-trip threshold for transferable permits.
- We believe an appeal process is a necessary part of the moratorium.
- We support an initial allocation that is large enough to sustain the industry at its current level.
- We oppose allocation being delegated to the State of Alaska.
- We support the NPFMC Stakeholder Committee process to work out the details for a permanent solution.
- We support a crossover that would allow charter captains who already own commercial Halibut quota shares to use these shares in guided sport bag limit or sell or lease these shares to other charter operators to use as bag limit.

Sincerely,



Todd Wicks, President  
Juneau Charter Boat Operator's Association

Patt Welsh Pat Welsh  
Sitka AK 99835

Thank you,

*[Handwritten scribbles]*

*[Handwritten signature]*  
1403 Edgcombe Dr.  
Sitka, AK 99835  
AZURE Laduke

Ben Crew  
Sitka AK  
907-738-2722

Dw. McLeod Dustin McLeod  
Julia Gluth  
Julia Gluth  
Sitka, AK  
907-738-1500

*[Handwritten signature]*

Ocean News  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907-738-0660

*[Handwritten signature]* Adam McLeod  
Sitka, AK  
907-738-6993

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Cale Laduke  
Sitka AK, 99835  
907-738-8000

Jeb McLeod  
Sitka AK  
738-0657

*[Handwritten signature]*  
FLORENCE WELSH  
1614 DAVIDOFF  
SITKA, AK. 99835

Rowan K. Chevalier  
947-6369

Coryna Walsh 3/17/07  
Coryna Walsh  
1614 Davidoff St.  
Sitka, AK 99835

Jacki Colbert  
738-5225

Jessie Walsh  
738-1389 Sitka

TYLER EARS  
*[Handwritten signature]*

Jeff Kettl  
3486 APR SITKA, AK

K. Rauer P.O. 824  
P.O. AK 99833

Beck Honey  
P.O. Spum  
SITKA AK

SITKA

Derek Gib  
9/16/85

Peterson, Mr. (9833)  
SITKA, AK 9833

Nick Mashner

236 Lincoln #1  
SITKA, AK 9833

Ryan Jones  
GA, MA

~~9/16/85~~

Tachi Sopow  
I P H C  
CAN ada

See website  
@

Clark Hill  
2809 B HPR  
SITKA AK 99833

Frank Morrison  
5th P.O. 124-511

DASON COCHRAN  
P.O. BOX 6152

SITKA AK 9833  
Mike Goss Ketchikan, AK  
New Bedford, MA

Clark Robinson  
3444 HPR  
SITKA, AK

SITKA, AK

Scott Winn of  
Box 2343  
SITKA AK

WARD ELDRIDGE  
2213 SMC RD.  
SITKA, AK 99833

BEN LAWRIE - SITKA, AK

*[Signature]*  
B. Lawrie  
SITKA, AK  
Galanin

*[Signature]*  
Jared Galanin  
SITKA, AK  
738-1111

Brice Jenkins  
SITKA, AK  
Kale Perkins

*[Signature]* Travis Miller SITKA, AK  
938-8100

*[Signature]* MIKE FORTNER  
HOMER, AK  
(260) 970-8774

*[Signature]* Jake Wise  
HOMER, AK  
907-299-3165



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
 Chair  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
 MAR 20 2007

N.P.F.M.C. March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed,

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,

Andersen Waborn 124  
PO Box 614  
Petersburg AK 99733  
907-772-1169

PO Box 1065  
Homer, AK 99603  
907-235-2835

Peter de Jongh  
P.O. Box 6453  
Sitka AK 99835  
F/V Brauf  
907-2380361

Calvin Robinson  
PO Box 2225  
Sitka AK  
99833  
738-1312

Al B. Joly  
201 Lander Dr  
Sitka, AK 99835  
747-8046

ERIC BRZESE  
PO Box 49  
WASHINGTON VT  
05675

Kevin Githen  
823 Charles St  
Sitka AK 99835  
738 1348

Jamie Grady  
P.O. Box 1454  
Homer, AK 99603  
299-5678

DAUG HATFIELD  
4113 LITTLE ROAD  
BARBER RIDGE ISLA  
WASHINGTON  
98522

DUSTIN HACK  
801 LINCOLN ST.  
SITKA AK 99835

Ryan Shroy  
981 Rosebud St.  
Homer, AK 99603  
299-3406

GREG LAURENT  
Box 1395  
PETERSBURG, AK  
99783  
907-772 3960

BILL HANSEN  
7602 76<sup>th</sup> AVE SW  
LAKESIDE WA.  
98149

TOMMY SHERIDAN  
1308 SHAWMUT LAKE BLVD.  
SITKA, AK 99833  
(907) 747-4710  
tommy\_sheridan@smq.org

Nels Othessitt  
Box 2058  
Petersburg, AK 99733  
907 772 3219

Shiloh Seymour  
Homer AK

Brian T Gannon  
F/V North Bay  
PO Box 1234  
Petersburg AK 99833  
208 597 0809

JASON T. ANDERSON  
Box 99  
SITKA AK 99835  
907-738-0706  
F/V Sea Haven

Boe Oheymiller

F/V ISH

*[Signature]*

Kim Coraht  
303 moller sitka  
738-5466  
Kurt G. Coraht

John Houser  
822-...  
99833

Ruth E. Dearborn  
3414 HPR SITKA  
747-7858

Ruth Dearborn

738-2710  
108 Haven Lane

*[Signature]*  
Theron Parrish

Tensa R. Grutter  
3414 HPR SITKA  
747-7858

Tensa Grutter

J. Louisa T. Louisa  
Sitka AK

*[Signature]*  
TANACH COMATEL  
SID HPR

Shawn Davis  
P.O. Box 1873 Sitka, AK

Nick Neheferoff  
P.O. Box 1331  
Sitka, AK 99835

John H. Melt  
PO Box 1473  
Petersburg, AK  
(907) 772 2988 99833

Bradley U. Pak  
PO Box 6346  
SITKA AK 99835

Bryce Conington  
P.O. Box 1323  
Petersburg, AK  
99833  
(907) 772-3411

Terone A. Campbell  
2002 SMC  
Carl Steven  
Box 805  
Wainwright, AK 99743

Sara & Bright  
P.O. box 2097  
Petersburg, AK  
99833

RUSSELL COCKRUM  
5791 N TONGASS HWY  
KETCHIKAN, AK  
907-255-3419  
ZC

Don Moulton  
2221 Muller #543  
Anchorage AK  
99521

JARED COCKRUM  
4677 N Tongass Hwy  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
ZC

John Hugen  
PO Box 2714  
S. AK

Harold C. Hugen  
148 ...  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
907-255-...

Seth Perry  
PO Box 1693  
PSG, AK  
99833

Levi Eiley

F/v Judith  
2703 Hpr Sitka Alaska  
(907) 738-1458 99835

EVANS SPARKS Jr.

100 Donna Dr.  
Sitka, AK. 99835  
907 966-2239

EVANS SPARKS Jr.

106 Donna dr.  
Sitka Ak. 99835  
907 966-2239  
FD Rip cur 1

*Evans Sparks Jr.*

*Evans W. Sparks Jr.*

Barbara K, Baird  
111 Finn Alley  
Sitka, Alaska

*Barbara K, Baird*

**RECEIVED**

MAR 20 2007

NPFMC

March 18, 2007

Dear NPFMC members,

I would like to speak out in support of the proposed moratorium on halibut charter boats. Using the Dec. 9, 2005 control date, I support the use of the 10-day trip threshold with a secondary 20-day trip threshold for permit transferability. The data for qualification should be based on 2004 and 2005 logbooks.

I feel this is only the first step in establishing a long-term solution to the mess that's been created by delaying action on this issue. I thought a solution, (Charter IFQ), was created for this problem, but it was mishandled and delayed so long that it was thrown out Dec. 2005. Well, now it's 2007 and we are back to square one. It's time to dust off all the data and studies prepared for the proposed charter IFQ system and, using the 2005 moratorium and a fair and reasonable allocation, incorporate all qualifying charters into this system. This could happen quickly and just makes sense.

I would also like to speak out very strongly against ADF&G ever having control over any regulations for our federal halibut fishery. The prospect of ADF&G having any in-season management decision would cripple our industry. I for one do not want our industry to go the way of the Kenai River.

Enough said; it's time for this council to act!

Joe W. Svymbersky  
Owner/Operator of Pacific Sun Charters for 16 years  
PO Box 15322  
Fritz Creek, AK 99603

From: Joe Svymbersky  
PO Box 15322  
Fritz Creek, AK 99603  
Phone number: (907) 235-3465



**Captain Dave Pope**  
 1031 West 71<sup>st</sup> Ave., Anchorage AK 99518  
 Email: [Dave@sharktoothcharters.com](mailto:Dave@sharktoothcharters.com)  
 Web: [Sharktoothcharters.com](http://Sharktoothcharters.com)  
 Phone: 907-351-8853  
 March 20, 2007

RECEIVED  
 MAR 20 2007  
 N.P.F.M.C.

TO: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
 Fax 907 271-2817

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to express our views on the Halibut Charter Issues. I own and Operate Shark Tooth Charters out of Valdez, Alaska. I have been in business since 1982 and have been involved in this process since going into business, and understand the frustration of both the businesses that have been in business for a long time, and those trying to start up now. I support the establishment of a Halibut Charter Moratorium using the existing control date of 9 December 2005, to be established as soon as possible, and also support the following actions.

1. Using a 10 day per year trip for initial qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary 15 day trip for moratorium permit transferability. I also prefer the use of either 2004 or 2005 Log Book data.
2. I want an initial allocation that represents a fair share and is adequate to allow for a permanent solution and allow us to operate our business as we have in the past. For this, fair allocation numbers need to be developed.
3. All data needed to establish a permanent solution is already on hand and no further data collection or studies are required. Continued studies would only cloud the issue.
4. I very strongly oppose any allocation delegation to ADF&G, as in-season management decisions would devastate our business. I have trips booked for August 2007 that were booked in 2006!
5. I want you (the Council) to move as rapidly as possible to finding a permanent solution that will allow us to make our own business choices, not be worrying about when a new change will come down. This process is already 14 years old and it is time to be resolved.
6. I also support establishing a fair appeals process for special situations affecting qualification for the Moratorium, such as long time charter operators with less than 5 day trips per year and non-owner (hired) charter skippers who may wish to enter the fishery on their own.
7. And finally, I support the passage of the State of Alaska Bill HB 186, "Sport Fishing Guide Records" introduced by Rep John Harris on 12 Mar 2007, allowing Logbook data sharing with NPFMC and other Federal Agencies. This data could help facilitate a final resolution to this continuing problem.

Thank you again for allowing me the time to air my views on how my business is to operate in the coming years.

Captain Dave Pope

C-1

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen and Council members,


I am a commercial fisher in southeast Alaska and I'm writing to encourage the council to adopt the moratorium with the December 2005 control data and to impose management measures to keep the Charter Industry within their current GHL for 2008.

Conservation is the responsibility of all user groups. There are hard and fast rules in place to regulate commercial fishers and there need to be effective measures to hold the Charter sector to its current GHL. These measures need to put conservation first, as opposed to creating higher mortality by promoting more catch and release and bycatch, as size requirements for a second fish will do. If the Charter sector really feels that a second fish is imperative to their customers, then the crossover proposal would facilitate access to halibut quota by making it possible for charter fishers to benefit from the current halibut IFQ program.

It is an unconvincing argument from the charter industry that they will suffer devastating financial losses if they are held to their current GHL. I know many commercial fishers who are making their quota mortgage payments on recent years TACs. The 20% reduction in our '07 catch certainly doesn't mean a 20% forgiveness of payment due. The irony is that many of these quota loans are federal loans and it is the federal government who is now penalizing the commercial fleet while at the same time rewarding the charter industry for poor management.

The Council has the opportunity to show that they are truly a world class management body by imposing effective management on the charter industry and thereby sustaining the health of the halibut resource and providing stability for all user groups.

Sincerely,

  
Wendy Alderson  
F/V Katie J  
Sitka, Alaska

C-1

march 17, 2007

Dear Chan Madson,

I handcolled from 1969-1998 and feel the rules and guidelines set in place maintained and preserved the fish population for future generations.

Please consider controls over the Charter Fleet. The Charter fishermen are relatively new on the scene and see fish as dollar signs not as a renewable resource. Many charter folks live in the lower 48 states and lack the sense of history found in commercial fishermen.

Thank you,

Arthur Baird  
111 Finn Alley  
Sitka, AK 99835

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.R.C.





# Deep Creek Charterboat Association

P.O. Box 428--Ninilchik, AK 99639

**President**  
Tim Evers  
967-3631

[tim@deepcreekcharterboat.com](mailto:tim@deepcreekcharterboat.com)

**Vice President**  
Rod Van Sman

[rod@deepcreekcharterboat.com](mailto:rod@deepcreekcharterboat.com)

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Ferry Flore  
Phone 262-7631

[ferry@deepcreekcharterboat.com](mailto:ferry@deepcreekcharterboat.com)

**Member-at-Large**

Mel Erickson  
262-2980

[mel@deepcreekcharterboat.com](mailto:mel@deepcreekcharterboat.com)

**Member-at-Large**

Tom Mahoney  
967-3663

[tom@deepcreekcharterboat.com](mailto:tom@deepcreekcharterboat.com)

20 March 2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Charter Halibut Management  
Fax 1-907-2712817

NPFMC Members,

The Deep Creek Charterboat Association has a membership of 42 halibut charter boat owner/operators who operate off the beaches at Deep Creek and Anchor Point. We take our clients fishing for pacific halibut in Central & Lower Cook Inlet. We recently surveyed our membership in regards to qualifying criteria for a Halibut Charter Moratorium. 78 % of our membership responded to the survey. 30 DCCA members support using a 20 day per year trip threshold for qualification for inclusion in the moratorium & a secondary 20 day per year trip threshold for moratorium permit transferability. 4 DCCA members surveyed support using a 10 day per year trip threshold for qualification for inclusion in the moratorium and a secondary 10 day per year trip threshold for moratorium permit transferability. Our membership supports using the 09 December 2005 control date for establishing a moratorium. This issue has been before the Council for approximately 14 years. A final long term solution to halibut charter GHIL overages is close at hand if you establish a Charter Halibut Moratorium. The long term solution will be resolved once we know how many participants qualify and what their potential harvest capabilities are. This will lead to a permanent solution.

Best of Luck in resolving this matter,

Tim Evers  
President, Deep Creek Charterboat Association

RECEIVED  
MAR 23 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

To: Chair Madsen & Council

3/18/07

From: Matt Marinkovich & four others, undersigned

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007

Re: Halibut

I am writing regarding halibut allocation between charter boats and commercial fishermen. Both of these are viable and important industries to Alaska, and both benefit support industries and end users all over the country.

This is a wonderful thing, but why is one industry expanding at the expense of the other? Why does one exceed its catch limits without penalty while the other receives harsh penalties if they exceed theirs? When is the Council going to put a stop to this? (How about now?)

Please keep the charter industry limited to the 2005 control date for the moratorium. And it sure would be nice if the original GHK was actually recognized and enforced. I also support the crossover proposal for Quota Share Leasing.

I could say much more but I'm trying to keep it short for you all.

Undersigned are the fellows I have fished with for halibut since the time IFQ's were just a notion. We don't mind the charter fleet catching their share. All we ask is their share be clearly defined and they be limited to that defined amount.

Thank you very much for your thoughtful consideration in fair fisheries regulatory management.

Sincerely,

Matthew Marinkovich

252 TreeLine Drive  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

360 3784686

George Gertsen 5127 144<sup>th</sup> St SE, Everett, WA 98209

Ernest A. Ziegler 17712 NE 189<sup>th</sup> St Bush Prairie WA 98606

Reald S. Pedersen 873 Rocky Pt. DR Commo Island WA 98282

Michael Carr PO Box 804 Port Townsend, WA 98368

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and members of Council,

N.P.F.M.C.

As you probably know, hunting and fishing is a way of life for many Alaskans both for practical purposes and as part of a healthy lifestyle. I was born and raised in Sitka, Alaska. I, along with my family, and many of our friends and neighbors, have been involved with sport and subsistence fishing and hunting throughout our lives. Also, my two older brothers and my boyfriend have all worked for many years on commercial fishing boats out of Sitka. We have all enjoyed catching and eating seafood, including halibut.

Over the past five or so years, we have noticed a troubling trend. As the number of charter boats fishing out of Sitka continues to grow, it has become increasingly difficult to catch a halibut without traveling further and further from Sitka Sound. It has been several years since we have been able to catch any halibut at all nearby in Sitka Sound itself, where they used to be plentiful. When we travel to distant locations hoping to catch halibut, we find large numbers of charter boats already fishing. Not only are they occupying the distant halibut holes, many boats appear to leave crab and shrimp pots soaking for the entire summer season in the locations favored by locals along the way.

Along with the obvious shortage of halibut in local waters, there is also a disturbing increase in poor boating etiquette. In their enthusiasm to get out to the "hot spots" early in the morning and then back to the tour ships by mid afternoon, charter boat captains speed too fast and too close past our slower moving vessel inside and just outside of the harbors. This lack of consideration is unnecessary, extremely unpleasant and dangerous.

I am hoping that you will give your full attention and support to the recommendations being sent to you by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. It is time to take action to protect our resources, especially halibut, in such a way that all people involved, including charters, can enjoy a reasonable catch for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Corynna Welsh

*Corynna Welsh* 3/19/07

1614 Davidoff St.  
Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

This letter is in regard to the seemingly endless attempts of the charter fishing fleet to control the local halibut resource in southeast Alaska.

For decades commercial fishers along with subsistence and local sport fishers were able to happily cohabitate the waters of southeast Alaska. With proper and effective resource management this union amongst different groups was possible, without jeopardizing the local halibut resource.

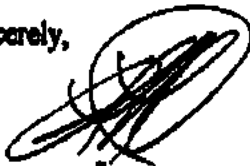
Recently, however, this working system has come under fire. The number of charter fishing vessels in the area (Sitka Sound) has sky-rocketed, and the once abundant halibut have become frighteningly scarce.

As a local subsistence user, my family is dependent on the halibut in the area. Traditional ecological knowledge and not mere numbers indicate that there is a serious problem plaguing the local waters. Evidence of these problems can be found when a local subsistence user can no longer land a halibut in waters that were once plentiful prior the recent charter fishing boom.

It is my fear that without immediate action to control the take of halibut by the charter fleet, the situation will only worsen. As the fish continue to disappear, tradition will be lost. It is my feeling that the economic gain at stake for the predominantly non-local charter fishing fleet is in no way an equitable price to pay for the loss of age-old tradition.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Adam McLeod  
Lifelong Sitka Resident  
323 Peterson Avenue  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

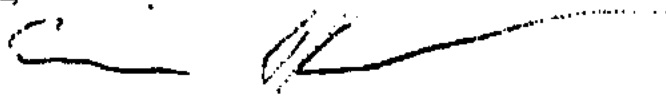
It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,

  
Ernie Carass  
Sitka AK.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 20 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Bill DeLaRosa*

Sitka AK

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 20 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you.

Charles D. Skutka  
Bx 665  
Sitka, AK. 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 20 2007

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,

DAVID SKUTKA  
SITKA, AK PO. BOX 1065



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
 Chair  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 20 2007

March 18, 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,

*Stephanie Madsen*  
 PC/BOA 6251 5/1/07

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
 Chair  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 2 2007 March 18, 2007  
 N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

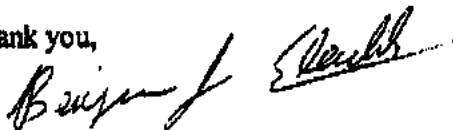
It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,



Benjamin S. Clackik  
 Missoula, MT

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 2 2007  
March 18, 2007  
NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
 Chair  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 18 2007  
 March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

N.P.F.M.C.

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,

*John Borge*

*Kyle vonBose*

Anchorage AK,

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
 Chair  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
 MAR 18 2007  
 NPFMC

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control data and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.


In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

  
 Cari Schunzler  
 PO Box 2182  
 SITKA, AK 99835  
 F/V Cari Ann

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 17, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Indeed, it is a sad day when the charter fisherman, which stands to rip the livelihood away from locals and destroy the stocks, has gained such political possess.

Now our fishermen battle not only seas, high cost of fuel, financial difficulties but carry the torch to protect future harvest!

We are looking to you to make firm and wise decisions.

There are six commercial fishermen in this family.

Thanks for hearing me,

*Barbara K. Baird*

Barbara K. Baird  
111 Finn Alley  
Sitka, AK 99835  
(907) 747-3593

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 17 2007

March 17, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

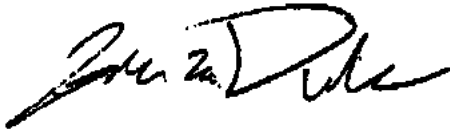
N.P.F.M.C.

I am 19 years old and have fished commercially for four years now.

Family members have large amounts of money, years of hard work and experience in the commercial fishing industry.

Please do what can be done to meet the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline with rules in place to ensure future stocks and control the depletive actions of the charter sector!

I am also a commercial fisherman now working as a deckhand for Dave Owen.



Jake LaDuke  
Sitka, AK

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 19, 2007

Re: Halibut Charter Management

To NPFMC,

MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

It's past time to get a handle on the problem of the Charter fleet exceeding their GHL.

I'm very concerned about their overage pushing the total halibut harvest over biologically sustainable levels. I don't understand the rationale behind dumping IPHC's recommendation of a one-fish bag limit for six weeks of this year's season. Obviously, IPHC was very concerned about the health of the stocks too. It is imperative that the current GHL be maintained and that effective harvest control measures be in place for the 2008 season.

Like most if not all commercial halibut fishermen, I find it totally unacceptable and ridiculous to have charter overages reduce our commercial allocation. I can handle reductions for conservation reasons, but *not* to cover the overages of the charter fleet. The fact that they keep going over their GHL should absolutely not entitle them to more and more halibut. We wouldn't walk down the dock handing charter fishermen hundred dollar bills, but there's really no difference. Clearly, there needs to be separate allocation for the charter and commercial halibut fleets so that charter overages come out of their own allocation for the following year. How they stay within their allocation at that point can be up to them, but the charter fleet already uses daily bag limits and annual limits for king salmon, with acceptable results. Why not do the same for halibut?

I have spoken with several charter friends to sincerely attempt to understand their viewpoint on this problem. They also are concerned about the overage because they too rely on long-term viability of the stocks; they all stated they didn't feel a one-fish bag limit would negatively impact their bookings. They felt a one-fish bag limit was something they could live with; the decline of halibut stocks is not. They were not adverse to trip limits or annual limits, either. They were not thrilled about the so-called 'trophy fish' approach. A moratorium on new entrants to charter fishing is a no-brainer.

It's hard to believe this issue has continued to drag on for over ten years, with the problem continuing to escalate the entire time. Please just get it done. Put in a moratorium and set up separate allocations for charter and commercial fishermen.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this issue.

*Laurie Mastrella*

Laurie Mastrella  
PO Box 8147  
Port Alexander, AK 99836



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

*RECEIVED*  
*MAR 20 2007*  
*M.F.P.C.*

March 20, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I have lived and commercial fished in Alaska for all of my life. I have adapted through many regulation changes in my career and the charter industry is capable of doing the same.

The halibut commission has a long history of protecting the resource and their recommendation should not have been rejected.

The first thing to consider should be the conservation of the stock not the economics of an industry. In the past, conservation has always been put first. In this case it seems to be that economic importance has overridden the conservation of the stock.

Members of both the commercial and sport charter fleet need to be educated to understand the long term effects of over harvesting and localized depletion.

Regulations appropriate for the sport guided fishery need to be developed and implemented as soon as possible for the sake of the halibut stock.

Sincerely,



Duane Torgeson  
F/V Republic  
Sitka, AK

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 17 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

March 17, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I am currently seventeen years old. My Grandpa, Theo, has been a commercial fisherman for over forty years. He raised five kids on his fishing income. Now, my dad Ivan fishes for a living. He began to learn from Grandpa when he was thirteen years old.

Please vote to keep my families investments protected. Commercial fishing has always been our way of living.

Thank you,

*Tehsa Grutter*

Tehsa Grutter  
3414 Halibut Point Rd.  
Sitka, AK 99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 20 2007 March 20, 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

To: whom it may concern  
From: Fabian Grutter  
RE: the issue of Halibut Charter Management of Area 2C and the fleet exceeding the  
GHL.

The charter fleet needs to be enforced. When they exceed their catch limit the fishery needs to be closed or reduced. They need a management that is separate and that goes accordingly to the amount of fish in the ocean. The commercial longline fleet is adjusted every year according to how many fish are available.

The law of one halibut bag limit for the charter industry would have been a great start but it was not accepted by the US government. The fact that charter people could only keep one halibut per day would not stop people from coming to Alaska to charter fish, but as this law was not passed it will be taken off the commercial fleet's catch. Since this was not accepted and was a good start to the solution. There needs to be a moratorium combined with fish catch enforcement and fishery closure when exceeding the GHL.

With the GHL for the charter industry being exceeded for three years I can only hope it is not too late for adjustments. It is going to be slow. The halibut stocks may take a long time to recover if ever.

Fabian Grutter  
F/V Sunbeam  
Sitka, Alaska

Summary of who I am:

I grew up in Sitka Alaska, longlining and trolling as a deckhand on my dad's boat. I am 32 years old, purchased IFQ halibut in 1996. I fished out of an open skiff for halibut for 8 years. Catching around 10,000 pounds of halibut a year is a great feat for a very small boat. Since then I have upgraded to a 34 foot gill-netter, started longlining for blackcod and gillnetting. The purchase of halibut quota has been good to me but has been reduced just about every year since I purchased it. To me, it like the charter industry is replacing the commercial fleet. This has to be stopped. There has to be an intermediate. Everybody has to stay within there share.

Fabian Grutter  
*Fabian Grutter*



20 March 2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 Charter Halibut Management  
 Fax: 1-907-271-2817

RECEIVED  
 MAR 2 2007  
 N.P.F.M.C.

NPFMC Members,

My wife and I own Fishward Bound Adventures, the Deep Creek Sport Shop and Big Valley Lodge & Cabin rentals in Ninilchik, Alaska. We have been in the halibut charter business for 17 years. I personally have been involved in the NPFMC process to manage our industry for 14 years. A long term solution to the halibut charter GHL overages is most desirable and long overdo. Unfortunately, we recognize that some may not be able to participate in this industry as we have too many participants and not enough fish with-in the established halibut charter GHL. Many believe that the establishment of a Halibut Charter Moratorium does nothing to resolve the problem, but that it is a starting point to a bigger-better plan. The effectiveness of a moratorium depends on the total number of participants who would qualify. I support using the most restrictive measures for initial qualification. Once the fleet is capped and their potential harvest capabilities within the GHL are reality we can move closer to a final long term solution. I ask for your support for the following actions:

1. Establish a Halibut Charter Moratorium
2. Use the existing control date of 09 December 2005
3. Use 20 day per year trip threshold for qualification for inclusion in the moratorium
4. Use 20 day per year trip threshold for moratorium permit transferability
5. Use of 2004 or 2005 log book data is preferred.

A solution to the GHL overages by the halibut charter fleet has been a long public process with no resolve. Establishing a halibut charter moratorium is the right step in the right direction to bringing closure. To be effective we must choose the most restrictive qualifying criteria we have before us so that those that qualify will have a fair share that is adequate enough to allow for a permanent solution.

Thank you,

*Tim Evers*  
 Tim Evers

REC  
MAR 20 2007  
NPFMC

Re: Agenda Item C1  
Chair: Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> St. Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chair Madsen and members of the council.

March 20, 2007

I am a third generation Southeast Alaska fisherman. Halibut have played and continue to play an important part in the culture of my life as well as in my livelihood. I feel very strongly that the base of this culture is being eroded by the unhindered and relentless expansion of the charter industry.

The charter fleet and the clients they serve must be limited on their catch to protect the resource as well as other user groups and the limits to the charter sector must be strictly enforced. The overuse of any group must not be tolerated. Unfortunately this has been the case, repeatedly with the charter industry. Unfortunately they have not been held accountable for their over use and have not been penalized within their sector. Instead the commercial sector has been forced to suffer and sacrifice in place of the charter fleet when it has been the charter fleet that has over-fished beyond their GHL. The reduction of one user groups GHL in response to a different group over-fishing their GHL is an unacceptable, unjust and unfounded method of controlling the over-fishing of the charter industry. The charter fleet must be held accountable for their own greedy misuse of the resource. The commercial fleet has taken reductions and other sacrifices in stride with the understanding that if the resource is not protected it will be consumed until it is no longer commercially viable. The charter fleet on the other hand is by and large a consuming void that is willing to over harvest until there is nothing left. Please put a stop to this, when they go over their GHL they must be held accountable for their own actions. Please initiate a moratorium based on the December 2005 control date, or an earlier date, that will restrict the charter sector and implement the appropriate rules to enforce the guidelines that the council sets for each group. Protect the groups from the other groups. Each group needs to be held accountable for its own catch. If there is a reduction it should first be made to the group that over fished in the first place. Unrestrained reallocation of the commercial quota to the sport fishing sector is absolutely unacceptable and obscene.

Poor management has persisted in allowing the charter industry to abuse the resource. The council must take a stand to conserve halibut as a species and protect the culture of coastal Alaska. Applying a hard allocation based on a previously set GHL to the charter fleet along with enforceable regulations would bring accountability to the charter industry. A responsible user group respects the need for accountability, sustainability, and conservation of the halibut resource. The charter fleet repeatedly shows its irresponsibility by over harvesting and it is now time for the council to take action.

Make the charter industry responsible for its own future; give them hard limits and clear consequences.

Controls to reign in the blatant abuses of the charter user group must be accepted and implemented beginning in the 2008 season or sooner. I am not in favor of the crossover proposal because it would be too easy for the commercial quota to wind up in the charter sector in a permanent way. The commercial sector must remain independent from the sport/charter sector.

Please uphold the NPFMC's reputation in leading sustainable fisheries management by establishing a functional charter moratorium, enforceable harvest control measures, and stop reallocating harvests from the commercial GHL to the sport/charter GHL.

Evening Star H. Grutter  
P/V Sunbeam  
105 Toivo Circle  
Sitka AK 99815



Petersburg Charter Boat Association  
P.O. Box 1507  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833

March 19, 2007  
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

MAR 19 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Ref: Recommendations on Charter Halibut Moratorium

Council Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Petersburg Charter Boat Association. Our association (PCBA) currently has 16 business members representing 20 active vessels. PCBA was formed in 1991. Our membership is made up of day charters, lodge operators and over-night multiple day vessels. PCBA's recommendations on the Charter Halibut Moratorium Alternatives and Issues are as follows;

We support the Council's preliminary preferred alternative (Alt 2) to implement a moratorium on entry into the charter halibut fisheries in Areas 2C and 3A using a control date of Dec. 9, 2005 and agree with the Council's preliminary preferred position on Issues 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9 and 11.

On Issue 7; Area 2C. "WE DO NOT SUPPORT THE ENDORSEMENT FOR MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CLIENTS ON BOARD". Any client endorsements should only limit the number of clients on board that can fish for halibut on a given trip and should not limit the total number of non-fishing clients on board the vessel.(USCG limits the number of persons/clients allowed on board).

PREFERRED SUGGESTED LANGUAGE, ISSUE 7. Permit Endorsement for Number of Clients engaged in Halibut Fishing on Board  
Area 2C: Highest number on any trip in 2004 or 2005

If it is the Council's intent to limit the number of clients on board, if any portion of the clients are engaged in halibut fishing, we recommend;  
Area 2C: minimum endorsement of 6, maximum endorsement of 12

On Issue 10; we support a minimum qualifying requirement of 10 trips, all permits transferable

On Issue 12; we support the most restrictive measures on issuance of CQE permits

*Stan Malcom*

Stan Malcom  
President

MAR 2 2007

March 20, 2007

To Whom This Concerns:

Closing the book I can imagine it is no easier on the other side of the fence of this issue, but allow me your consideration.

I came up with this idea of guiding after eight years in the drywall business, so I did my homework and listened to my dad's friend, Bill Peterson, and flew to Alaska for a fishing trip, came home and worked as hard as I could to save money and get my captain's license, which in it's own way has changed my life. I got approved for a \$100,000 loan to come to Alaska and follow my dream which got cut short.

My motor in my boat blew up right before the start of the season which threw me into a tailspin. Allen Marine in Sitka would not replace my motor - rather rebuild it - costing month's of time. Eventually I took it to Rocky's Marine in Petersburg and it was replaced. The whole season was lost. I had been licensed in the summer of 2005. Just got robbed of participating. So frustrated I took an even bigger loan and a \$40,000 trade loss on my boat and purchased a \$200,000 Custom 6-Pack boat called "A Cold Water", which I brought to Sitka and had a flawless season of 90 days, *in 2006*.

Me and my family have invested so much money and time into this venture, it is mind boggling. I am writing this in my newly purchased home in Sitka. Please understand my need for exceptions.

Growing up I had a friend, Gavin Loth. His dad was Jeff Loth. He was the neatest guy. He took me and my friends to ski resorts, snowmobiling, fishing, camping - you name it. He was the kind of guy who walked in a room and lit it up. Everyone loved him. He owned three cedar mills, named Loth Lumber. As we got older spotted owls became a big problem. My friend, Gavin, and his family lost everything. Even their house. that was nothing compared to what blow came next. My buddy and I had to go find Jeff, his dad, when we saw the .44 missing from the gun case and the shells on the coffee table. He is gone now. Please remember this story as you tighten the reins on people with the courage to drop everything and follow their dreams.

Sincerely,

Torin Dugger

Sitka, Alaska

Phone: 907-738-3262

# F/V Kruzof

JIM & RHONDA HUBBARD

P. O. Box 3302 • Seward, Alaska 99664  
Phone: (907) 224-7342 • Fax: (907) 224-5572

MAP 2007  
N.D.F.M.C.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 20, 2001

Dear Chair Madsen and members of the Council,

RE: Charter Halibut Management Agenda item C-1

I would appreciate your acknowledgement of the following comments I have in support of reaching a conclusion on the Charter Halibut Management Issues. After 13 years of analysis, past rulings from this council, and failed support by NOAA fisheries in Washington D.C. It is time to send a strong message to the public that Alaska is ready to put final resolve to this issue in the Harvest areas of 3A and 2C.

### Moratorium Action:

It is important that Council be prepared to do final action on this issue. The players in the Charter Halibut Fishery need to be defined before a long term management solution can be worked through. In determining the entry floor, I encourage a higher trip limit with a lower number of permits held per business, e.g. 10 trip minimum with a low use cap of permits per business.

Additionally, due to the proven turnover in this industry and to weed out those of ill intent, I suggest no transferability within the determined moratorium numbers for the first 3-5 years. Then if they do not operate during that non transferability period they lose their qualification. Irrespective of details of Moratorium action, its most imperative to hold to the December 05' control date and a fast tracked implementation date.

### 2C and 3A Management Measures Coupled w/Crossover Proposal:

Until a long term solution is determined on this issue, it is inevitable that the Guideline Harvest Level will continue to be exceeded over the next several years. Therefore management measures need to be submitted for final analysis and action as soon as possible. While several options are before you, the IPHC determined the intermittent 1 fish bag limit would be most effective in reducing overages. While Charter operators protested this option, it is feasible for them, through the proposed and submitted Crossover Proposal, to maintain the 2 fish bag limit for those who want it.

I encourage council to implement this proposal with expediency as it will provide relief to the Charter industry to cope with the management measures when their demand desires. The Crossover Proposal would be quick to implement, allows natural market forces of supply and demand to dictate the allocation of Halibut from one sector to the other, provides a method of



monitoring and enforcing harvest and doesn't create unnecessary market distortions like the alternative Rasmussen plan. The Crossover Proposal could be considered an interim solution until the long term solution is determined.

Given a 12-18 month time frame it takes from council action to implementation, considerations need to be given to the threat of harvest exceeding the CEY in future years if management measures are not put in place now. Area 3A and especially 2C is at a crisis level not only in threat to their CEY, but also in the uncompensated take by the Charter sector from the Commercial longline sector.

If we continue operating the way we have, the State of Alaska, North Council and NOAA Fisheries appears to function as poor stewards of the halibut resource, as well as creating added stress in our small communities and its citizens. It is impossible for the Guided Sport and Commercial sectors to co-exist in a healthy and peaceful manner in their communities if allocation and conservation management measures are not settled once and for all.

#### **Halibut Allocations:**

While the Moratorium action defines the players a hard allocation for the Halibut Charter fleet defines the numbers and pounds. By knowing the number of Charter Operators and their respective client seats coupled with a hard allocation, management measures are easier to dictate and control.


I advocate for a hard allocation in the form of a percentage that floats with abundance in the respective areas of 2C and 3A that are associated with the GHL's as published in 2000. At that time they were given 25% for additional growth. The Charter fleet has since met and exceeded that growth in the past seven years. Its past time that North Council and NOAA Fisheries quit allowing for these allocation battles to continue.

If there is a question of fairness in percentage allocation and representation of the public in this matter, be reminded that millions of consumers are relying on our sector to harvest and deliver halibut to them in restaurants and stores. Meanwhile some Charter operators have admitted that they should not be given any more allocation than they can reasonably catch or that would result in local area depletion. The established GHL is fair and equitable for both sectors and should be adhered to.

#### **Enforcement/Accountability Measures Needed:**

My last request that also leans on the question of fairness, is the great need for enforcement and accountability on the Charter Fleet. The commercial sector has a serious problem with adhering to strict reporting and management rules while the Charter Sector often operates unhindered by enforcement and real time reporting requirements. Tightening this up would help both managers and the fleet with possible in season management measures

Thank you again for your time and efforts in resolving this issue.

  
Rhonda A. Hubbard

Winter  
12101 Hillside Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99516  
(907) 345-0762



Summer  
P.O. Box 1402  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
Marine Ph. Blue J - WZJ4913  
Dockage: Slip 33 Crescent Hbr.

DEAR SIR,  
I HAVE CHARTERED IN SE ALASKA FOR 30  
YEARS. I HAVE SLOWED DOWN THE LAST  
FEW YEARS BUT I CAN NOT AFFORD TO LOSE  
THE FISHERMEN I STILL TAKE. MY LOG BOOKS  
SHOW MY ACTIVITY OVER THE YEARS AND I DON'T  
HAVE TOO MANY YEARS LEFT. I WOULD APPRECIATE  
YOUR CONSIDERATION FOR A HALIBUT PERMIT  
ALL OF MY CHARTER ACTIVITY HAS BEEN IN SE AK.

Sincerely William W Peterson

3/20/07

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.C.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

R

MAR 2 2007

NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the **crossover proposal**.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

KINITE RESOURCE

Name/Date  
Vessel name  
Address

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the **crossover proposal**.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Name/Date  
Vessel name  
Address

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 4 2007

NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHIL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHIL. The current GHIL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHIL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHIL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHIL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



ERNIE MATTSON

#10 Seward

SILKA

108 Seward way

Ms Stephanie Madsen,

Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 0306  
Anchorage, Ak 99501

REC-11

MAR 2 2007

Dear Chair Madsen,

N.P.F.M.C.

I am a southeast Alaska longliner who is extremely concerned about our natural resource due to overfishing from the charter fleet.

After seeing the increased charters which is up to over six hundred boats, I like many are concerned and confused as to why the council has not implemented restrictions upon a fleet which has overfished Sitka's surrounding waters.

This resource which we all rely on is being jeopardized for the profit of a few med-market charters many of which don't even reside in Alaska.

Many commercial fishermen are justifiably angry. 32% of quota in 2c has been bought by crewmembers, etc, who have

invested years of income to purchase it is a long an expensive process with habitat quota going for \$20 a pound. Over 80% of quota holders own less than 10,000 lbs. We are fishermen who have risked our lives and financial security to buy into an industry we love. Having 20% taken from us devastates our income.

I am a woman who loves fishing and respects the management of this finite resource. Please adopt the moratorium before our resource is no longer sustainable.

We cannot let this raping of our surrounding waters go on any longer. The charter fleet has been given more than enough room to grow, (20% over their original GHL) With an overage of 47%, I urge you to take restrictive actions together with a monitoring system so this loss will not continue. Charter fishermen too, must be held accountable before it is too late.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Aurora  
AURORA

Pederson  
PEDERSON

F/V dixie II

1709 H.P.R. #3 Sitka, Ak.

Ms. STEPHANIE MADSEN

CHAIR

NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

605 WEST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET SUITE 306

ANCHORAGE, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 2 2001

N.P.F.M.C.

DEAR CHAIR MADSEN,

I HAVE BEEN A LONGTUNER FOR OVER A DECADE  
I HAVE INVESTED MUCH TIME AND MONEY INTO  
MAKING A LIVING, ONLY TO HAVE MORE AND  
MORE OF IT TAKEN AWAY. IT IS EXTREMELY  
DISCOURAGING FOR A YOUNG MAN, ESPECIALLY WHEN  
I AM SOON TO BE MARRIED, WITH DREAMS OF  
A FAMILY FOLLOWING.

I HAVE WATCHED THE CHARTER FLEET EXPAND  
EXPONENTIALLY IN THE LAST DECADE RESTRICTIONS  
ARE NEEDED. THE CHARTER FLEET MUST HAVE  
SEPERATE ACCOUNTABILITY. THEIR NUMBERS CLIMBED  
TO OVER SIX HUNDRED BOATS LAST YEAR  
AND THAT IS TAKING A DEVASTATING TOLL  
ON THE NATURAL RESOURCE.

OUR HABITAT IS OUR FUTURE, WE MUST DO  
ALL WE CAN TO MAINTAIN IT, AND SO MUST  
THE CHARTERS. THEY SHOULDN'T BE ALLOWED MORE



WHEN ALL THEY'VE DONE IS TAKE. MEASURES  
MUST BE MADE TO BALANCE OUT THEIR OVER-  
FISHING WITHOUT PENALIZING COMMERCIAL LONGLINERS.  
THEIR INSATIABLE APPETITE FOR MONEY MUST  
BE MET WITH RESTRICTIONS.

I URGE YOU TO IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE HARVEST  
CONTROL MEASURES; DEVISING A MECHANISM  
SUCH AS THE CROSSOVER PROPOSAL FOR LIMITED  
COMPENSATED REALLOCATION. A MARKET-BASED  
SYSTEM IS WAY OVER DUE. A HARD ALLOCATION  
IS NEEDED TO ENSURE SUSTAINABILITY OF  
A RESOURCE WE ALL RELY ON.

HARVEST IS FOR EVERYONE TO SHARE. WE  
CANNOT LET ONE FISHERY DESTROY A  
RESOURCE WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO ALL  
OF US.

SINCERELY WITH THANKS,

~~Kelsey Skordahl~~

KELSEY SKORDAHL F/V DIXIE II  
.1709 H.P.K. #3  
SITKA, AK  
99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 9 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHJ coverage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHJ. The current GHJ allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHJ because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHJ. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHJ, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

N. Ralph On Thrie  
380 Kaagwaan Street  
Sitka, Alaska  
99835

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 4 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Kasper Harvey - Kelly Marie  
White Bird, Idaho

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

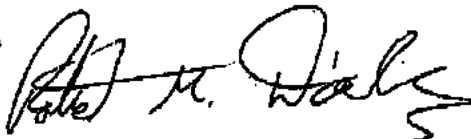
In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

  
Robert M. Dailey  
Wrangell, AK

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.


The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,   
David Whitmer  
ogden, Utah

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.


In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

  
Samuel J. Belfiore  
Portland, Oregon

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

DAVID M. CLARK  
Sacramento, CA 96150



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 2 2007

NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

*Travis Stark*  
TRAVIS STARK  
KODIAK, AK



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

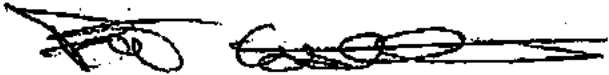
In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



PATRICK Costello  
KODIAK AK

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
805 West 4th Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 5 2007  
NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

My name is Jason Andersen. I'm 23 and also a third generation fisherman. I have been blessed to be raised on the ocean and have great appreciation and respect for it. I urge you and the rest of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to take immediate action to control the charter industry, or at least the charter halibut fishery for now. It saddens me to see where we are as of now with the United States halibut crisis. I stress the words United States. How can the charter industry which is less than one percent of the United States population be given so much more halibut quota than ninety nine percent of the US population? Halibut belongs to everyone in the US. How will John Doe in Nebraska get his halibut from the store if quota keeps getting taken from the commercial fishermen who are supplying people just like him all over the nation? Not everyone can afford to come to Alaska for a week of charter fishing so they can fill their freezers with fish. It is our duty to feed our families as much as it is for us to feed this nation. How will a young man who is investing 18-25 dollars per pound for commercial IFQ's ever get ahead in life if he keeps getting his quota cut because of a special interest group which has political power and lots of money. These halibut belong to everyone. Let us find a solution so we can all continue to survive. Commercial fishermen and Halibut.

In order to manage the GHL the Council must take immediate action so the harvest control is in effect by the 2008 season. The measures taken should be included with the crossover proposal. There is a real problem and it needs to be fixed. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is looked highly upon when it comes to fisheries management. Please don't let past, present, and future commercial fishermen down. I beg of you to come up with a well managed plan asap.

I and many others thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jason Andersen 3/16/07

F/V Sea Haven  
P.O. Box 99  
Sitka AK, 99835  
(907)738-0706

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007

Mathew Kopec  
PO Box 2693  
Soldotna, AK 99669  
(907) 440-9510

NPFMC

March 20, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Mathew Kopec and for the past ten years I have owned a successful sport-fishing operation, Whittier Marine Charters, in Prince William Sound. I am writing to urge you to fully support the establishment of a Halibut Charter Moratorium (*with a control date of December 2005*).

Furthermore, I would encourage you to:

- ◆ Consider updating the allocation so that the existing fleet can maintain historic bag limits and season length.
- ◆ Work to stop any state control measures that would allow for in-season closures.
- ◆ Support the use of a 5 day trip threshold (*or 0, 10, 15, 20*) for qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary 20 day trip threshold for moratorium permit transferability.

Finally, I urge you to come to this resolution as quickly as possible. NPFMC already has all the data they need to establish a permanent solution and do not need to keep going forward for more data collection and studies.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mathew Kopec

**Mr. & Mrs. William M. Bisbee**

P.O. Box 404

South Bend, WA 98586

Ph: (360) 875-5672

Fax (360) 942-2157

March 21, 2007

Stephanic Madsen  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup>, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007

Reference: Agenda Item C-3 (Trawl LLP Recency)

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Ms. Madsen:

My name is Wig Bisbee and I own the trawl CV LLP license #2449. The license is a fully transferable non-AFA license that has sub-area endorsements for the AI, BS, CGOA and WGOA. I purchased the LLP at fair market value and did not receive it as an initial issuance. I purchased the license when I purchased the F/V Orion, which is the vessel that originally gave rise to the LLP. I have always intended to get the F/V Orion fixed up and back on the fishing grounds, we have started working on the vessel, but have not determined a completion date to return to its historic fisheries due to so many interruptions. The LLP license will be removed if the Council takes action on the trawl recency LLP amendment package.

I would prefer to keep my license then lose it, but if the Council treats all other license holders the same, then I can accept that I will lose my license. However, it is my understanding that the amendment package would also add additional non-AFA LLP licenses in the AI area. The problem statement suggests that there are not enough non-AFA licenses to encourage economic development in the community of Adak. So my question to you is why are you taking my license away which I purchased and then giving new licenses to others? To treat everyone equitably it would seem more appropriate to exempt non-AFA licenses from a landing requirement in the Aleutian Islands so that I can keep my LLP and use it in the Aleutian Islands sub-area. If the Council believes more licenses are needed then they can also add more licenses for the Aleutian Islands for those that would qualify.

Thank you for your help on this issue.

Sincerely,

*Wig Bisbee*  
William M. "Wig" Bisbee

**SITKA'S SECRETS**

www.sitkasecret.com • Info@sitkasecret.com

March 21, 2007

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 306  
Anchorage AK 99501-2252

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Council Members,

I am writing in reference to the charter halibut issue to be taken up by the Council, next week. My husband and I started our charter business, in Sitka, in 1986. We have participated in the Council process since 1993, and our feelings have not changed.

For the record, we were told by the Council in 1993, that bad data was better than no data, upon which to base Council decisions. Over a decade has passed, and we are still looking for credible economic and catch data for our industry. We feel the Council must address this deficiency while a moratorium is in place. We prefer there be a sunset clause to a moratorium, to enable us to later re-examine, if a problem really exists.

We have always felt the charter industry program should not be under the Halibut Act. However, while we wait for legal clarification of "fair and equitable" clauses in federal statues, we are willing to continue participating in the Council's process.

We are in basic agreement with the Council's Stakeholder Committee recommendations. We are definitely against the Crossover Plan. We are undecided on State versus Federal management. When we examine the interests represented by the Council and Alaska Board of Fisheries members, charter representation is sorely missing.

If you review history and scrutinize accurate data, you will find that contrary to AK Longline Fishermen's Association's myth, there never was an "exploding charter fleet". Furthermore, it's a travesty to cap the public's access to their resource, when the trawl bycatch is double the poundage brought in by the charter fleet in Alaska.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Beverly P Minn

## Sitka Charter Boat Operators Association

PO Box 2422 Sitka Alaska 99835

March 21, 2007

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 306  
Anchorage AK 99501-2252  
Fax 907-271-2817

*Received*  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Council Members,

The Sitka Charter Boat Operators Association (SCBOA), representing 60 members, wishes to thank the Council for its time spent working with the guided sport industry. We understand the Council is managing us under the Halibut Act, but we believe the existing guided sport management measures are superceded and in conflict with the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation Act.

Pending determination of the requirement for a fishery management plan, we offer our comments on the Charter Halibut Moratorium, Halibut Allocation, and the Initial Review of Guideline Harvest Level Measures.

SCBOA is in general agreement with the Council's Stakeholder Committee recommendations.

- ◆ We agree with December 9, 2005, as the control date for a moratorium.
- ◆ We agree with a minimum of 20 trips per year for transferability.
- ◆ We agree with a 5 trip minimum as a qualification requirement.
- ◆ We agree with their second choice of a 10 trip minimum for qualifying and transferability.
- ◆ We agree with 5 permits per business under Issue 11 Use Cap.

For Issue 7, SCBOA feels there is negligible latent capacity in Area 2C, because of our existing 6-line limit regulation. Therefore, in fairness, we feel existing operators should be allowed to utilize the capacity of their vessels and we are for a minimum permit endorsement of 6 clients, in Area 2C.

For Issue 12, if the Council goes forward in developing a Community Quota Entity (CQE) provision, we prefer the lowest cap of permits per eligible community and the trip must originate and/or terminate in the CQE community. Furthermore, because this provision will result in more opportunities for guided sport harvests, the GHL will need to be increased to accommodate this action.

SCBOA has reviewed several ideas regarding the allocation of halibut. We believe the Rasmussen Plan holds the most promise. We are in agreement, once more, with the Stakeholder Committee, in being against the Crossover Plan.

**SCBOA abstains from endorsing either State or Federal management, until further information is presented.**

**And finally, in reference to the Council's Initial Review of GHL Measures, SCBOA chooses not to select from unreasonable options. Operating with time and area closures, or a daily bag limit under two halibut will significantly reduce revenues and cause disruption to our industry. We need management to maintain an uninterrupted access and ample opportunity to this public resource for all sport anglers.**

**While the moratorium is in place, we strongly urge the Council to collect and examine good economic and catch data specific to the recreational sector. It is unacceptable to use flawed data as a foundation for your decisions affecting our industry's future.**

**Please give our comments careful consideration and thank you very much for your time.**

**Sincerely,**



**Theresa Weiser  
President, SCBOA**

**North Pacific Fishery Management Council**  
605 W 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252  
Fax: (907) 271-2817

RECEIVED  
MAR 1 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Council members,

Ultimately you will be deciding who will have access to the Halibut fishery, you are not putting a limit on Charters, but a limit on the sports fishermen's right to access the resource.

The sport fishery maximizes the value of halibut to Alaskans, and especially the coastal communities whose livelihoods depend on it. We as sports fishermen only want our 2 fish limit for the season, the rest can go to commercial fishermen, the second most valuable use of the resource.

The Moratorium:

As a charter operator I am against the moratorium because there is no biological reason for a moratorium, only the commercial operators desire to protect its own pocketbook at the cost of sports fishermen's access.

Any moratorium forced on the sports sector needs to be temporary until the long term solution is in place (3 years maximum), it should use the control date, include all operators in on that date and not cripple access to the resource, especially not on holiday weekends when demand is highest, remove boats by setting a minimum trip limit and you will immediately restrict the public's access to the fishery when it is needed most.

Sport fish discard mortality:

Using old long line data to somehow determine sports fishing mortality is not acceptable to the sports fishing public. This is like comparing apples to oranges and there is no comparison between winching a fish up that has been on the hook for hours or days to one that has been caught on rod and reel and released immediately. A new study must be made to determine sports caught Halibut mortality in Alaskan waters and also should compare mortality using circle hooks to straight hooks.

Initial review of analysis of GHL measures:

I am not in favor of the No skipper/crew fish, but instead an annual bag limit of 10 fish. Wasting fuel to return from port to the same spot where you were just at and get your Skipper/crew fish is ridiculous, and goes along with the following:

One trip per day!



Page 2

As for Slot limits:

Any scheme that forces sports fishermen to keep one size and not another invites illegal switching of fish from one person to another person, and without any oversight by law enforcement it will be rampant, just like boat limits are now.

Stakeholder Committee Report:

As a sports fisherman and charter operator I am opposed to any gifting of the public's resource to anyone! No IFQ's or anyway of gifting the resource to a select few!

Any attempt to create sports fishing IFQ's will start a world wide effort to create new IFQ's areas coastwide by commercial fishing interests and will be adamantly opposed by sports fishing groups nation wide. This will be a waste of the council's time and how many proposals does the council want to put in front of the Secretary of commerce that he likely will not sign?

This one of many letters from sports fishermen and said it best:

"I personally do not appreciate Alaska charter halibut interests negotiating away my access to a common property resource, absent a clear biological reason for doing so. In my view, we're dealing with fishery terrorists - supported by NOAA and the IPHC. From the very beginning they have stated, pick the least onerous regulation or we'll pick one for you."

And that my friends on the council is where we are at.

Sincerely,

Frank Casey

Alaska Wildrose Charters  
PO Box 343  
Clam Gulch, AK.99568  
907-252-4525

Member:  
Alaska Charterboat Assn.  
National Assn. of Charterboat Operators

Ms. Stephanie Madsen Chair

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

605 West 4th Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 23 2007

MADSEN

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries

management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



March 20, 2007  
F/V Golden Chalice

PO Box 1729  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

MAR-19-2007 11:09A FROM:

REG  
ID: 12062609111

P.1

MAR 9 2007

N.P.S. 33

Halibut Coalition  
P.O. Box 22073  
Juneau, AK. 99802-2073

As a former Alaska resident for 24 years and a commercial fisherman for 30 years, I am deeply concerned about the direction the charter fleet has taken. Particularly in Southeast Alaska.

In 1976 when I started fishing commercially, the number of charter operators could be counted on two hands. A good many of these were week-long charters geared mainly for sight-seeing and for people to enjoy the Alaskan experience. From the early 70's to the present time the Alaskan commercial fishermen along with the State of Alaska, the Federal Government, the International Pacific Halibut Commission, and various other fisheries boards and commissions have been extremely successful in paving the road down the conservation highway of fisheries management of all species. Together we have done a remarkable job of this difficult and complex task. Through the limited entry program, size restrictions, area restrictions, quotas, and the newly enacted IFQ system, we have been successful in our endeavors.

During this same time period, as fishermen of all gear groups have generously sacrificed a good deal of their financial well being in the name of conservation, and in the hopes of reaping a return down the road, the charter fleet has been left unchecked.

There are now over 300 charter operators out of Sitka alone. They have absolutely no size limit on halibut, of which each client is allowed two per day. There is nowhere near enough creole counters to accurately record the carnage that is being dealt to the fisheries resources. And who knows what is taking place in some of the many outlying lodges. This, simply put, is a commercial business and should be regulated as such. It has gotten out of hand and it is long past time to enact some stringent controls.

We can start by putting a minimum size limit of 32 inches, as it is for commercial fishermen. And consider a maximum length as well, to ensure the survival of the larger females. Each client should also only be allowed one halibut of legal size per year with the option of buying an additional tag from the State for a \$100 fee. If a charter operator wants to retain more halibut, they should have to buy their own IFQ shares obtainable on the free

open Market. The Guideline Harvest Level, and a system of harvest reduction should be enacted immediately, to bring some sense of sanity and conservation to this vastly out of control, greedy, over capitalized and wasteful charter business in Alaskan waters. In closing, I would like to point out that since I started fishing some 26 years ago, along with many other up and coming baby-boomers, that we all worked our tails off to get where we are today. Many of us have invested in the IFQ program and have encouraged our kids to do the same. Most of us believed that the IFQ program would give us some sense of security, but with the growing numbers of charter operators with their sights set on gobbling up an ever increasing amount of a set quota to satisfy their insatiable appetite, we are left with a feeling of apprehension. When the IFQ program was enacted many of us breathed a sigh of relief. Finally, we thought, the seas of change would be never more, and that for once all our sacrifices have finally paid off. That the future held the promise of calm seas and smooth sailing, and some stability to our economic well being. But now once again our horizons are billowing with the darkening clouds of controversy and political turmoil, ensuring more rough waters ahead. But we fishermen, as we have done in the past and will continue to do, will ride out the storm, hopefully we'll still have some kind of a future looming on tomorrows horizons. It is important for the people of today to remember that it was yesterdays commercial fishermen that provided the economic stimulus for accrued growth throughout Alaskas communities. And that same entity will be looked upon to continue to do so in the future. I believe that commercial fishermen of all gear groups have done a darn good job of conserving the resource and have sacrificed a great deal to ensure sustainable economic growth. And that is not what is demonstrated by the actions of the charter fleet. It is a get it while you can attitude, with little or none respect for the resource, and if left unchecked it will be the thorn in the side of Alaskas image. And it won't take long. Hopefully the politicians of Alaska will not bite the hand that has fed this State for so long. And remember, it was the turtle that won the race. Step by methodical step, the commercial fishing industry in Alaska has shown respect to the bounty of its waters.

*Dennis Beam*  
35628 Whitnash Ln.  
Richland, OR 97870

MAR-16-07 04:27 PM JOE SHORT

907 772 4599

P. 01

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

3/16/07  
MAR 5 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL coverage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely, Paul Rostad

3-16-07

Name/Date  
Vessel name  
Address

FV JAWWA LEE

Box 183 Kake AK 99830

3/15/2007

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

*Handwritten:* RECEIVED  
MAR 2007  
NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely, *Matthew Short*

Name/Date: Matthew Short 3/18/07  
Vessel name: KAYLEIGH ANN  
Address: Box 1224 Petersburg AK 99833

3/15/2007

March 18, 2007

Harry C. Sinz  
Fishermen's Wild Alaskan Seafood, Inc.  
Dbas/ Wild Alaskan Seafood  
P.O. Box 110985  
Anchorage, AK 99511  
90522-5314  
907-522-5319 (fax)  
[hsinz@ak.net](mailto:hsinz@ak.net)

RECEIVED  
MAR 20 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

**VIA FACSIMILE**

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chairperson  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite #306  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-271-2817 (fax)

Chairperson Madsen:

Once again, I am writing to urge the North Pacific Fishery Management Council ("Council") to decisively and promptly deal with the growing halibut charter fishery issue. Neighbors have been pitted against each other, and media rhetoric has risen to the level of vilifying commercial fishers. It has gone way past the time to deal with this contentious issue, and the Council's leadership is needed now more than ever. Please consider the following:

1. ***GHL Management harvest control measures ("short-term solution")*** – the Council needs to take action at once to insert meaningful harvest control measures, and manage the charter sector to the existing GHL. You have identified your "suite" of proposals at your disposal to do so, and irregardless of what measure(s) you select...something needs to be done now to arrest the excess harvest by the charter sector while you once again seek a long-term solution.
2. ***Moratorium Implementation ("mid-term solution")*** – please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date. This issue reminds one of our nations illegal immigration problem... while most were talking about dealing with the "growing" problem of illegal immigrants in our country, little attention was being paid to a continuing tide of new ones crossing our borders. Simply put, it's time you draw a line and stop the open access to the charter sector.



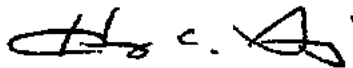
3. *Charter Industry Management Program with Crossover Proposal Inclusion ("long-term" solution)* – with effective harvest controls and a moratorium in place, the Council can substantially reduce pressure on themselves, and the public in general as you immediately embark on focused efforts for a longer-term solution. You have several options to again consider in this discussion, and I trust you will do so in a fair and reasoned manner. Inclusion of some form of the "crossover proposal" (allowing a limited leasing of commercial IFQ by the charter sector), is something that I strongly urge you to do. This represents a reasonable solution to the long term growth needs expressed by the charter sector, while at the same time protecting the resource and substantial investment of the commercial sector.

The recent entrance of the IPHC to this fray exhibits how serious this issue is, not just from an allocation perspective, but from a baseline biological one. Since the previous Council's passage of the now defunct Charter IFQ Program, an open-access environment has ensued, and these "new arrivals" are the ones screaming the loudest today. They expect to just buy a license; get a boat; book some clients; do some trips, and; to be "fully vested" in the fishery. You do not get a degree by simply showing up at a university, you must earn it. I've earned every single pound of commercial IFQ I own, and will continue to for years to come as I service my debt(s). I can assure you I won't sit back and watch some form of a "take" ensue.

You are the Council that tossed aside your predecessor's hard work when you voted down the previously passed IFQ Charter Program, now it's up to you to show the leadership we expect and solve this mess we all find ourselves in.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Harry C. Sinz

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chairman  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 5 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen and Council members,

I am writing you today to express not only my deep concern but also my disgust at the evolution of the halibut fishery over the last 10 years. The implementation of IFQ's was supposed to effectively manage the fishery in Alaska and has worked well for the longline fishery, however charter IFQ's were politically derailed and the charter industry is being grossly mismanaged. It's upsetting to me that while my fellow deck hands and I are investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in a federal management program the Council has been willfully reallocating halibut to the charter industry. I don't understand how up and coming deck hands can buy IFQ's (fishing rights) just to have them taken away due to reallocation.

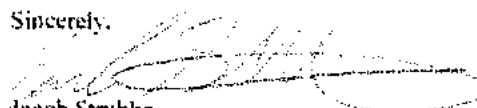
It outrages me to see the quota reallocated to a user group that has historically destroyed it's own fishery in California, Oregon, and Washington at the expense of commercial fishermen who have not only invested 90 years but also millions of dollars. So far the Alaska charter industry has been unwilling to take on any conservation responsibility or management measures and instead keeps asking for more and more of the resource having already taken 47% over their allocation. These overages also affect locals who can no longer count on catching a fish in Sitka Sound for their dinner. This means that locals have to go further in their skiffs increasing costs and risks just to provide for their family.

Please support separable accountability with a percent that moves down when abundance moves down based on the current GHL. Also please adopt management measures for 2008 that hold the charter fleet to their current GHL. This does not mean just reducing their catch, it means reducing it to the GHL. The commercial fishery would like to be able to expand as well. I am young and have worked hard on the ocean for many years - why should the charter industry be given special opportunities to grow when this resource is already fully utilized, and if they are, why aren't commercial deckhands given similar opportunity?

NPPMC and NMFS should have equal responsibility to the commercial fishery - right now it seems that you have gone to great lengths to minimize impacts to the charter industry while clearly hurting the commercial fishery and now the resource. Please get back on track and hold the charter industry to their allocation, and require enforcement and accountability as you do for longliners.

I urge you not to be swayed by the political pressure, inside deals, and corruption that we deal with on a daily basis, but rather, do the right thing.

Sincerely,

  
Jacob Strubbe  
Sitka, Alaska

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
 Chair  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chair Madsen,

One part of the commercial fishing industry should not grow at the expense of the other when rational measures can be taken to assure equity and fairness. As the demand for charter fish grows, simply allow charter operators to buy or lease quota shares from the commercial fisherman. Charter fisherman will thus buy out the investment of market fisherman and the fight will be over. Conservation limits will apply rationally to the entire biomass and the allocation fights will not be necessary. Therefore, I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHLL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

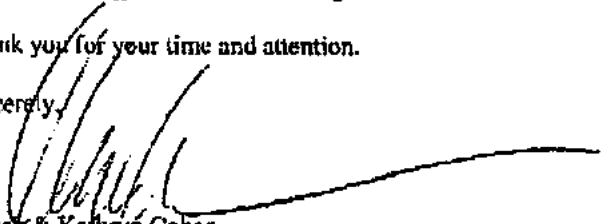
The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHLL. The current GHLL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHLL, because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHLL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHLL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is unfair and wrong.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

  
 Chuck & Kathryn Cohen  
 F/V LADY BARBARA  
 P. O. Box 020670  
 Juneau, Alaska 99802

RECEIVED  
MAR 2007

To The NPFMC,

Council members, I seek your help in support of maintaining the GHL for the commercial charter operators established in 2000. This GHL at that time provided 125% of their harvest at the time. In 1996 I testified at the Anchorage council meeting that we needed to adopt accountability and control of the potential explosion in the commercial charter fleet at that time. To be at the junction we are today is irresponsible especially in light of the fact, that as early as 1995 we knew that all the halibut quota was being harvested at this time.

I have harvested halibut since 1975 as a crew member and have harvested as a boat owner since 1980. Since 1975 I have abided by the quota established by the IPHC. In 1995 I invested in IFQ and as of today have spent over seven figures in the acquisition of IFQ. My investment along with my crew, the community I live in, and support all need to be credited with a stake in a GHL that is abided by the commercial charter industry. The commercial charter industry can, as all other business individuals, invest in their business by buying IFQ if they need more fish for their clients. To continue to reward the commercial charter industry overages without consequence sets a poor precedence.

My crew, my family, my community, the business that I support, and myself need your support NOW in maintaining the GHL established in 2000, the implementation of an effective harvest control measure for 2008, along with a mechanism for limited compensation reallocation that allows limited leasing of commercial quota to the commercial charter industry. The moratorium control date should stand as of 2005.

Thank you for your time  
Bill Connor  
Box 1124  
Petersburg, AK.

*Bill Connor*  
3-15-07

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 13 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am an Alaska resident and commercial fisherman. I own Halibut IFQ in 3A and 2C. I have been buying small chunks of IFQ since the inception of the program and have built my business with halibut as a major investment.

I was not issued any original pounds at the inception of the IFQ program and I don't hold it against those who were there and took the risk; and put in the time and investment.

I have invested in the program fully understanding the risk of natural stock fluctuations and coinciding management actions. That it would be properly and fairly managed through good science and common sense; but not that another user group could exploit the resource to the point of harming my business and the resource.

I have worked within the system in order to participate in the commercial halibut fishery. The reallocation of halibut resource from the longline sector to the charter sector needs to stop. This is both an issue of fairness as well as an issue of responsible resource management.

Please take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery. Adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date. In my point of view this is very generous.

This issue must be dealt with immediately and I'm counting on you to deal with it fairly, keeping in mind as you do that there are many people in my position.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Alec Pfundt \March 14, 2007  
F/V Haley Marie  
PO Box 1342, 205 Galveston St.  
Petersburg AK 99833

Don Seesz, Captain  
F/V LISA MAE  
114 Harbor Mountain Road  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907-747-5996

MAR 15 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Date: March 15, 2007  
To: Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
From: Don Seesz, Captain, F/V Lisa Mae  
RE: GHIL

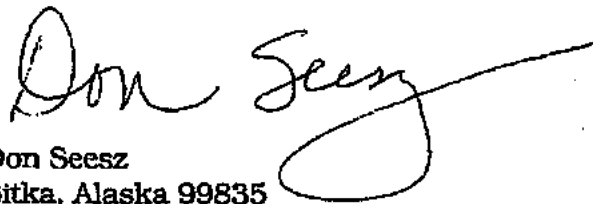
Dear Chair Madsen:

The charter industry needs accountability. The present GHIL should not be increased. Limits must be adhered to as part of responsible resource management.

Please adopt the moratorium using the 2005 December control date. I urge you to initiate analyses of the crossover proposal.

We must have a responsible management plan for the charter industry.

Sincerely, a 38 year Alaskan troll fisherman with concerns!



Don Seesz  
Sitka, Alaska 99835

Ms. Stephannie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 2007  
4:25 PM

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL coverage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Name/Date Kayleigh Short 3/19/07  
Vessel name Kayleigh Ann  
Address Box 1234  
PETRSBURG, AK 99553

3/15/2007

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 20 2007  
NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen

In writing to you, the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL coverage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds the GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overestimated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

*Gwynne Short*

Name/Date Gwynne Short 3/19/07  
Vessel name Kayleigh Ann  
Address  
Box 1224  
PETROSKUKA, AK 99833



**Spirit Charters**POB 2397, Homer, AK 99603 ~ 907-235-1826 ~ 299-1462 ~ [captmike@alaska.net](mailto:captmike@alaska.net)**F/V BeauSoleil**

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 2007

Dear Council Members:

I am an owner and operator of a small charter business and have been for the last eighteen years. The previous 10 years I operated a 6-passenger charterboat for an another company. In total I have been actively chartering for 28 years out of Homer, Alaska.

I strongly support immediate implementation of a Halibut Charter Moratorium with a control date of 9 Dec 2005. I see a need for a trip threshold of less than 20 for qualifying and inclusion in this Moratorium. Under that number of trips would be considered a hobbyist. The potential growth of the hobbyist once again threatens the GHL. Use of 2004 and/or 2005 ADFG logbook data is preferred. I feel that ADFG given any management /allocation decision making will only cause further turmoil in what has become and remains a very confused management hodgepodge.

I would like to see the North Council move as rapidly as possible to arrive at a permanent solution giving individual businesses a choice in their future. I only hope that you can come to a conclusion carefully, justly and swiftly using the 14 years of data that has already been collected. With the halibut resource in mind I wish to go on record in favor of an IFQ program for the Charter fleet putting both charter businesses and commercial businesses that utilize the same resource in the same management program.

I much prefer managing my own business through buying quota as needed for expansion or contraction based on the business climate. That way I can control my business and not be at the mercy of some reactionary bureaucracy that harms my business by slow or fast movement on important issues as we saw this past January. As the halibut resource cycles up and down I can adjust my shares as needed.

Sincerely:

Captain Michael Swan

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 23 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing this letter out of growing concern about the charter halibut take in Alaska. I am 24 years old and have been fishing since I can remember. My Grandpa and Dad have been fishing out of Sitka, AK all there life. I made the business venture into halibut IFQ at the age of 16 and again at 20. When I see my quota being reallocated to a historically newer fishery I cant help but feel frustrated. Many of these charter guys are not even Alaska residents or are six month one day residents.

It seems pretty obvious that for far too long the charter industry in Alaska needs to take up some responsibility on sustain ability. A moratorium is a great place to start. Another problem is the lack of consequence for there actions. When I over harvest my set quota it costs me but when charter operators go over THEIR GH it's at my expense. That doesn't seem very fair to me. The crossover proposal could be the answer to our management problem that is growing worse.

I realize that halibut is a public resource but if immediate action is not taken, I fear my investment and family lively hood will disappear forever. The last frontier will follow the world trend of **mismanagement** and eventually total depletion.

Thank you for your time

Jeff Blankenship  
Owner/Operator F/V Quicksilver



**JASON L. MILLER**

PO Box 1473  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
Phone: (907) 772-2988  
Fax: (907) 772-2989  
Email: [jmiller1@gei.net](mailto:jmiller1@gei.net)

March 21, 2007

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 W 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252  
Fax: (907) 271-2817

Dear Ms. Madsen,

As an Alaskan fourth generation commercial halibut fisher who has invested heavily in 2C Halibut IFQ'S and longlines Halibut and Blackcod in areas 2C, 3A, and SE, I offer my comments on NPFMC agenda items for your upcoming meeting:

C-1 (a) NMFS REPORT ON IPHC ACTION: I support NMFS implementing the 2007 charter season management restrictions recommended by IPHC to reduce halibut charter catch, but rejected by the US Secretaries of State and Commerce.

C-1 (c) FINAL ACTION ON THE MORATORIUM: I support the moratorium proposed in Calc LaDuke's letter, a Sitka, AK resident and commercial Halibut fisher.

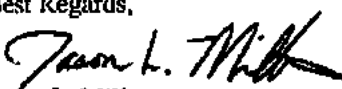
C-1 (g) DISCUSSION PAPER ON HALIBUT ALLOCATION/ W ACTION AS NECESSARY:

1. I believe the GHF needs to become a hard allocation listed as a percentage of the combined charter and commercial fishery CEY. The GHF allocation was fair when implemented and left room for growth. The further growth in the charter fleet beyond the GHF was intended as a compensated reallocation through the purchase of commercial shares into a charter IFQ program. I should not be penalized economically because the charter fleet has ignored and surpassed their GHF due to the absence of limitations on growth and entry and the failure to implement a long-term plan.

2. I purchased Halibut IFQ's in 2C after the 2001 halibut charter IFQ program was adopted believing that this was a stable fishery with the allocation issues taken care of. To implement a moratorium and then provide for growth is contradictory and unfair. By reducing the commercial allocation to provide for growth in the charter industry at the same time you are implementing a moratorium you are hurting me, a young commercial fisher, the most. Further reductions in the commercial allocation will threaten the economic viability of my family's commercial fishing business. Losing more quota on the commercial side and allowing another industry to have future growth at my own personal expense should not happen, period.

Please take my comments into consideration when you make your decisions.

Best Regards,

  
Jason L. Miller



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

211 Fourth Street, Suite 110  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1172  
(907) 586-2820  
(907) 463-2545 Fax  
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org  
www.ufa-fish.org

March 21, 2007

Mr. Chris Oliver  
Executive Director  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

RE: C-1 Halibut Charter Issue

Dear Mr. Oliver,

United Fishermen of Alaska represents 36 commercial fishing organizations whose members participate in fisheries throughout the state and its offshore waters. We offer the following comments on NPFMC agenda items for your upcoming meeting:

**C-1 (a) NMFS Report on IPHC action:** UFA supports the NMFS implementing by the start of the 2007 charter season management restrictions equivalent to those recommended by IPHC but rejected by the Secretaries of State and Commerce.

**C-1 (b) Stakeholder Committee Report:** UFA supports the stakeholder process but would point out that the makeup of the committee is not balanced when addressing allocation issues between the charter and commercial sectors. The vote taken at the stakeholder committee regarding allocation policy should be considered in the light of unequal representation on the committee.

**C-1 (c) Final Action on the Moratorium:** UFA supports the moratorium as an interim step towards a long term solution but it is not sufficient to address all the issues by itself. Nor does it provide for the long term stability between and within the various halibut sectors. UFA supports the stakeholder recommendations on the moratorium.

**C-1 (d) State/Federal Management:** UFA appreciates the State developing the discussion paper on State delegation and the State's representatives discussing this issue at our UFA Board of Directors meeting in January. While we recognize that state authority may be a necessary piece of one or more of the long term solutions, we don't believe congressional changes to the Halibut Act should be pursued unless the Council selects an alternative that requires it.

**C-1 (e) Sport Fish Mortality:** UFA recognizes the importance of this issue and would request that all agencies research the issue as well as review and research the current mortality rate assigned to the commercial setline sector.

**C-1 (f) Initial Review of analysis of Area 2C GHL Measures:**

1. UFA encourages the Council to start an analysis of management measures for 3A for the 2008/2009 season.

2. We would also suggest that the Council consider as part of the GHL analysis for area 2C the likelihood that the charter GHL step-down provisions will be triggered in 2008. On page 7 of the analysis, table 12 shows CEY projections for 2008-2012 for Area 2C. The 2008 projected CEY is 7.3 Mlbs which would correlate to a charter GHL of 1.074 Mlbs. That is a reduction of 0.356 Mlbs from the current GHL; in other words, if the GHL step down is triggered in 2008, the management measures will need to reduce the charter harvest by 1.026 Mlbs from the estimated 2006 harvest. Clearly, if the step-down provision is triggered, different management measures will be necessary to achieve the GHL.

3. The Council should consider handling this with a recommendation that the proposed rule include two sets of management measures; the first set designed to control charter harvest to the current GHL, the second set targeting the stepped down GHL in case declining total CEY triggers the GHL step down. Once the 2008 total CEY is established by the IPHC, the appropriate set of management measures could be published in the final rule.

4. We respectfully request the Council to consider including as part of the 2C GHL management measures for 2008 the transferability of commercial IFQ's by sale or lease into the charter sector as an interim measure. Providing this transferability would allow the charter industry a way to meet their client expectations in the 2008 season and beyond despite a declining biomass and the necessary harvest control measures to prevent GHL and CEY overages.

**C-1 (g) Discussion paper on halibut allocation/ w action as necessary:**

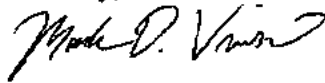
1. UFA believes that the GHL needs to become a hard allocation listed as a percentage of the combined charter and commercial fishery CEY along with Alaska Charter Association's true accountability proposal. The GHL allocation was fair when implemented and awarded the charter fishery more than their historical harvest to provide for growth. Further growth in the charter fleet beyond the GHL was intended as a compensated reallocation through the purchase of commercial quota share into a charter IFQ program. The commercial fleet should not be penalized economically because the charter fleet has surpassed the growth envisioned due to the absence of limitations on entry and effort and the failure to implement a long term plan.

2. Many commercial fishermen entered the commercial halibut fishery after the 2001 halibut charter IFQ program was adopted believing that this was a stable fishery with the allocation issues taken care of. To implement a moratorium and then provide for additional growth appears to be contradictory and unjust. Reducing the commercial allocation to provide for growth in the charter sector at the same time you are

implementing a moratorium hurts the young entry-level commercial fishermen the most. Many young fishermen that recently entered the fishery are fishing for their payments and expenses only. Further reductions in the commercial allocation would threaten the economic viability of many smaller commercial fishing operations. To lose more quota to allow another industry to have future growth is unacceptable.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Mark Vinsel  
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Alaska Crab Coalition • Alaska Druggers Association • Alaska Independent Tendermen's Association • Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association
- Alaska Shellfish Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Armstrong Keta • At-sea Processors Association • Bristol Bay Reserve
- Concerned Area "M" Fishermen • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Cordova District Fishermen United • Crab Group of Independent Harvesters
- Douglas Island Pink and Chum • Fishing Vessel Owners Association • Groundfish Forum • Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association
- Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
- Old Harbor Fishermen's Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation
- Purse Seine Vessel Owner Association • Seafood Producers Cooperative • Sitka Herring Association • Southeast Alaska Fisherman's Alliance
- Southeast Alaska Regional Dive Fisheries Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association
- United Catcher Boats • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters
- Valdez Fisheries Development Association • Western Gulf of Alaska Fishermen

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2007  
MAY 2007

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

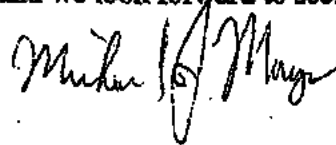
It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,



MICHAEL J. MAYO  
2808 SAWMILL CREEK RD  
SITKA AK 99835  
907-738-1698  
907-747-8844  
MICHAELJMAYO@HOTMAIL.COM

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RE

MAR 2007

MAR 2007

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

*Janet Gilbert* 3-20-07

907-539-5905



NEIL & JOANN HUFF  
102 Krestof Drive, Sitka, Alaska 99835  
(907) 747-5175 Fax (907) 747-5988

March 20, 2007

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Magement Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chair Madsen:

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful.

As you are aware, the charter boat fleet has had overages of over 42 percent in area 2C and 8 percent in area 3A in the past year. Although many attempts have been made to control the growth of the charter fleet over the last seven years, none of them has been implemented. Their strong lobbying force has allowed them to operate without controls. The commercial fleet is now being affected to the tune of \$3,000,000 in lost annual revenues and over \$15,000,000 in permit values.

As you also know, the halibut commercial fleet is well managed through IPHC and must buy quota (if not original issue) and incur debt for that quota. Those who have purchased quota are going to have a difficult time fulfilling their debt obligations. Also, this difference in treatment of the commercial fleet versus the charter fleet is causing the coastal communities to destabilize and pit neighbor against neighbor.

We respectfully request your support of implementation of effective harvest control measures for 2008 to maintain resource health and achieve domestic targets. Allowing the reallocating of quota from well-managed commercial IFQ fishery to the highly volatile charter fisher is untenable. The resource is limited; every fleet must live within sector allocations.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in the sustainable fisheries management. Please take this task as seriously as you have in the past with the difficult decisions regarding conservation and allocation of limited resources.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

*JoAnn & Neil Huff*  
Rocky B Partnership  
JoAnn & Neil Huff

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2007  
SLP/...

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL, overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

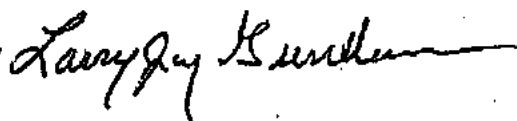
The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely, 

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAY 2007  
NPFMC

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

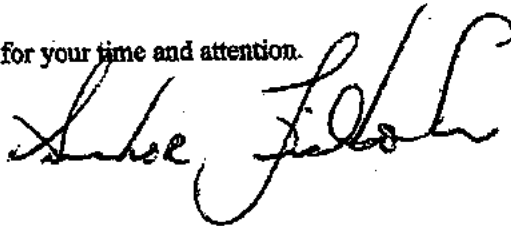
In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAR 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

MAC 1001  
N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL coverage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHIL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHIL. The current GHIL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHIL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHIL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

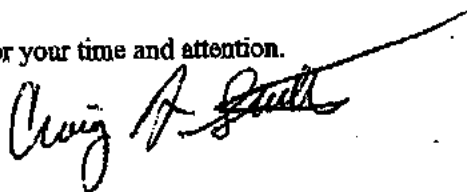
In order to manage to the GHIL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL coverage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

*Erin O'Kelley Stoney*  
20-03-07



March 21, 2007

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 306  
Anchorage AK 99501-2252

Dear Council Members,

I want to thank the Council for the opportunity to comment on the charter halibut issue to be taken up by the Council, next week. I have been a resident of Sitka for 22 years. My ex-partner and I started our lodge operation, in Sitka, in 1990. My husband and I have two children and are owners of Wild Strawberry Lodge employing 28 employees seasonally. Like many lodge owners, we have a lot financially invested in our business and are very concerned about the future of our financial stability.

We support the moratorium, and we are in general agreement with the Council's Stakeholder Committee recommendations, and definitely against the Crossover Plan. The Rasmussen Plan has some promise but would need a lot of work. The moratorium will allow opportunity to correct the deficiency of credible economic and catch data for our industry. We prefer there be a sunset clause to moratorium, to enable us to later re-examine, if a problem really exists.

While the moratorium is in place, we strongly urge the Council to collect and examine good economic and catch data specific to the recreational sector. It is unacceptable to use flawed data as a foundation for your decisions affecting our industry's future.

For Issue 12, if the Council goes forward in developing a Community Quota Entity (CQE) provision, we prefer the lowest cap of permits per eligible community and the trip must originate and terminate in the CQE community. Increasing number of permits for development to entity that has not carried clients before bothers us with regards to Issue 7. (See next paragraph) Furthermore, because this provision will result in more opportunities for guided sport harvests, the GHL will need to be increased to accommodate this action.

This brings us to Issue 7: We believe there is negligible latent capacity in Area 2C, because of our existing 6-line limit regulation. Therefore, in fairness, we feel existing operators should be allowed to utilize the capacity of their vessels and we are for a minimum permit endorsement of 6 clients, in Area 2C. We understand that a vessel carrying two or three persons will automatically be upgraded and qualify for a four person permit. We have two vessels that carried six persons a few times in 2004 or 2005. No problem. However, we have three other vessels that carried only five



persons in 2004 and 2005. They did not carry six persons. **If you are going to give CQE to persons who have never carried a client, then we think it is only reasonable that a business having been in operation for 17 years should be able to have a permit for six persons if they had five persons on board during 2004 and 2005. We feel this is a fair amendment to Issue 7.**

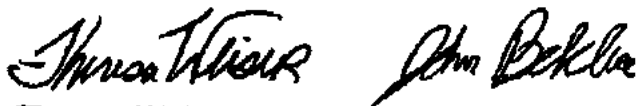
Regarding the Council's Initial Review of GHL Measures, we do not want to "pick our poison" from unreasonable options. Operating with time and area closures, or a daily bag limit of less than two halibut will significantly reduce revenues and cause significant disruption to our industry. When we previously experienced in-season disruption of king salmon management, it took a few years to re-cooperate and get back on our feet financially for many of us.

We believe it is disastrous to cap the public's access to their resource, when the trawl bycatch is double the poundage brought in by the charter fleet in Alaska. We would like to see the Council to implement more regulatory measures to reduce trawl bycatch.

We have been sorely dismayed by the increasing restrictions imposed on access to this public resource. We urge management to maintain an uninterrupted access and ample opportunity to this public resource for all sport anglers.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Theresa Weiser and Juan Belcher  
ALASKA PREMIER CHARTERS, INC. / Wild Strawberry Lodge

# Cordova District Fishermen United

Celebrating 70 Years of Service to Commercial Fishermen in Cordova, Alaska  
P.O. Box 939 Cordova, Alaska 99574 Telephone 907.424.3447 Fax 907.424.3430

March 21, 2007

Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
th Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306

Sent by facsimile to 271-2817

## Agenda item C-1 Charter Halibut Management

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 2007  
M.P.F.A.C.

Dear Madame Chair and members of the Council,

On behalf of the CDFU Groundfish Division I am submitting these comments on the charter halibut management agenda items.

### (a) NMFS report on IPHC action.

We are aware that NMFS is developing different harvest controls for 2C for 2007 that are comparable to those approved by the IPHC, and that NMFS rejected those for 3A. We are concerned that the public is still misinformed about the estimates of the extent to which the GHL was exceeded in 3A in 2006. This has aggravated the conflict between the two sectors over IPHC, State of Alaska and Council actions in 3A communities, particularly Homer. The estimates based on the linear projection of SWHS data show the charter harvest over by 8% to 9%, while the logbook data indicates that the charter sector is over by about 20%. However, because there is uncertainty about the extent to which skipper and crew fish are included in the SWHS figures, the accuracy of the estimate and the effectiveness of regulations prohibiting retention by skipper and crew remain unknown and questionable. We strongly urge the Council and ADF&G to clarify how these estimates are derived so that the public is fully informed about them, and aware of the potential effects of the State of Alaska's management actions for 2007.

### (b) Stakeholder Committee report

The Committee has provided helpful and constructive guidance to the Council on the development of the moratorium and the permanent solution in general, and we concur with the Committee's oft stated desire to move forward with a permanent solution that is comprehensive.

However, we do not believe it is appropriate for the Council to task the Committee with the responsibility of developing options for an initial allocation in the permanent solution, given the composition of the Committee. Of the twelve Committee members, only two of us represent the commercial sector, while there are seven representatives of the charter sector. This not only skews Committee discussions and actions about initial allocations in favor of

the charter sector, but it also tends to poison the constructive working relationships that have made development of the moratorium and permanent solution alternatives possible.

Therefore we ask that should the Council seek recommendations from the two sectors on initial allocations, this charge be given to a body that has equal representation from both sectors. Otherwise the Committee will lose all credibility with the commercial sector and the purpose of my serving on the Committee will be called into question.

(c) Final action on moratorium analysis.

As we have stated in previous testimony, we support establishing a moratorium on entry into the charter sector as the first step towards a permanent solution to management of the charter halibut sector. By establishing a limited number of participants, and giving them a stake in the future of the fishery, the moratorium will help to reduce the 'free rider' problems associated with an open access fishery that have in part confounded progress on this issue for the last decade or so.

There are four overarching goals in the development of the moratorium which we believe are consistent with the Council's intent, the Stakeholder Committee's recommendations, and the majority of public comment on this issue:

- 1) to maintain the control date of Dec. 9, 2005;
- 2) to hold charter effort to 2005 levels, representative of the charter sector profile at that time;
- 3) to take into consideration those communities with underdeveloped charter industries; and
- 4) to streamline the process in order to implement the moratorium by 2009.

**We support the Council's preferred alternative on the moratorium, with the following exceptions and clarifications:**

**Issue 5. Transfers.**

We support transfers of permits up to the use caps, and believe that all permits issued should be transferable.

**Issue 7. Permit endorsement for number of clients on board.**

We remain concerned about the large number of permits that could be issued in 3A with endorsements for over 10 clients. This could create significant effort in the near term that these businesses may not be capitalizing on currently. However, in the interest of minimizing challenges to the moratorium we accept the Stakeholder Committee's recommendation to issue permits with an endorsement equal to the highest number of clients on board, rather than cap the maximum endorsements allowed.

**Issue 10. Qualification Period.**

We support the preferred option identified by the Council to set the minimum trip level at 10 trips, under Option 10.1.

**Issue 11. Use caps.**

We support setting the use caps at 2 permits. Table 14 in the analysis shows that the average number of permits held by businesses in 2C and 3A is less than 2. In 2C, 381 businesses would receive 654 permits, and in 3A 450 businesses would receive 567 permits,

based on total participation in 2005. Regardless of which minimum trip limit the Council sets for qualification, the average number of permits issued per business is still estimated to be less than 2 permits.

Given the high turnover rate in the charter fishery, and the need to minimize consolidation, we strongly urge the Council to consider a use cap of 2 permits. This will maintain a higher number of permits in circulation, at a lower price, particularly for those communities where the charter industry is still underdeveloped. We are concerned that a higher use cap, along with provisions that allow stacking permits up to the use cap, will increase consolidation and the price for charter permits. Additionally, we believe this will change the current characteristics of the charter fishery, since potential recipients of these limited entry permits will likely exhibit the same profit-maximizing behavior seen in the development of other limited entry systems, by buying permits up to the use cap. Difficulties with enforcing prohibitions against leasing may provide some incentive for this behavior.

Until a permanent solution is developed, we think it is prudent for the Council to craft a limited entry program that maintains the current business characteristics of the fishery, and keeps opportunity open. We also note that if non-transferable provisions are approved along with higher use caps, then not only will there be greater consolidation, but the supply of remaining transferable permits will be lower, and the price for those permits will likely be higher.

#### **Issue 12. Community provisions.**

We support the Stakeholder Committee's recommendations for eligibility that requested permits be issued to CQEs in communities with 5 or fewer active businesses, and that the use cap be set at 4 requested permits per community.

With a lower use cap of 2 set for individual business under Issue 11, there will be more permits available at lower cost to the CQEs, reducing the need for requested permits. We think this combination of provisions will address the concerns of both the communities and the active businesses currently operating in the charter sector.

#### **(d) State/Federal management.**

At this time, we do not have a position in support of or opposition to delegation of management authority to the State of Alaska. However, it is becoming apparent that delegation of this authority will take more time and be more complex than originally portrayed, and thus is not an action that can or should be taken separately from the permanent solution alternatives.

#### **(f) 2C GHM management measures.**

We support the Halibut Coalition recommendations that the Council incorporate two additions into the EA/RIR on this issue, then prioritize analytical time to ensure appropriate measures are in place prior to the start of the 2008 charter season. The two additions to the analysis are: 1) the crossover proposal; and 2) a suite of management measures tailored to constrain charter harvest to the reduced GHM of 1.1 million pounds.

Additionally, we recommend that the Council initiate analysis of GHM management measures for 3A similar to those in 2C. The charter harvest in 3A will continue to grow and exceed the

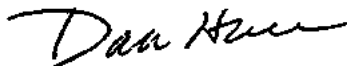
GHL, in spite of the prohibition placed on the retention of halibut by skipper and crew. In fact, ADF&G staff have acknowledged that the effect of non-retention by skipper and crew may be negligible. Our preference is to move this forward for implementation in 2008 using the previous Council analysis as a starting point, recognizing that constraints on staff time and priorities may preclude implementation until 2009.

(g) Discussion paper on halibut allocations.

We agree with the Stakeholder Committee's recommendations that allocation and management measure decisions must be linked together to avoid the problems identified in the discussion paper. We do not believe that there are any "shortcuts" available to the Council to resolve the charter halibut management conflict, by separating one component from the complete package of provisions in a permanent solution. Allocation is but one of those components.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Dan Hull, Chairman  
CDFU Groundfish Division

## Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association

P.O. Box 90, Ester, Alaska 99725  
907-479-5562

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

March 20, 2007

RECEIVED  
MAR 20 2007

RE: Agenda C-1 Halibut Moratorium

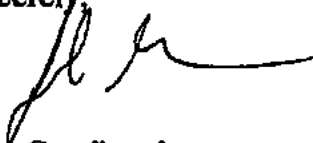
N.P.F.M.C.

The Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association represents charter businesses with as little as 3 to as much as 26 years in halibut chartering business. The PWSCBA fully supports the proposed moratorium using a control date of December 9, 2005 and more importantly the qualifying criteria set forward by the Stakeholders Committee. The moratorium is the first step towards a long-term solution but is not a complete or permanent solution for the charter industry. Our priorities are:

- Establishment of a Halibut Charter Moratorium, with a 9 Dec 05 Control Date, ASAP!
- The PWSCBA supports using a 5 day trip threshold for qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary 20 day trip threshold for a transferable moratorium permit. Use of 2004 or 2005 Logbook data is preferred.
- PWSCBA wants an initial allocation that represents a fair share and is adequate enough to allow for a future permanent solution.
- PWSCBA feels that the NPFMC already has all the data they need to establish a Permanent Solution and doesn't need to keep going forward for more data collection and studies.
- PWSCBA strongly opposes any delegation of authority to ADF&G because their potential in-season management decisions could devastate our business.
- PWSCBA wants the NPFMC to move as rapidly as possible to a **Halibut Charter Permanent Solution that allows for individual business choices**. It's already been 14 years in the process and we want it resolved!
- Move forward with analysis for the permanent solution at the June meeting. We have all the catch history data needed to proceed with a permanent solution, the mechanism for implementation is all that is needed. This permanent solution should be on the fast track.

Speed is necessary here or this issue will fail again and put further hardship on charters and all other user groups.

Sincerely,



John Goodhand  
President, Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

March 20, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

I moved to Sitka, Alaska in 1995 and have been commercial fishing for 17 years. Becoming a full time resident of Alaska was my way of contributing to the impact I was making to the resources that I was extracting and could contribute back to the communities I was affecting. I now realize that it is more important than ever to be informed and participate in a fair management system for all user groups.

Consistent management is the key to a healthy resource and the fabric of our community is being torn apart by an escalating issue that has been stalled for way too long. This issue is the growth of the guided sport harvest sector and Sitka is the first of many communities to experience this division.

The IPHC has a long history, more than 80 years of working to conserve the halibut resource. Their recommendation for the one fish a day bag limit should not have been ignored and rejected by the US Secretary of Commerce and Secretary of State.

I can not express the importance of how necessary immediate action is for the implementation of the 2005 control date for the moratorium of the guided sport sector. These control measures are suggested:

- (1) Separate Accountability
- (2) Crossover lease plan
- (3) A moratorium plan that is fair not to just the charter sector but to the subsistence, independent sport fishers and commercial alike.

Careful consideration of these control measures need to be taken into consideration to ensure that the affected communities have input not just from the commercial and charter fleet, but all user groups and affected citizens.

Why should I continue to invest my time and money into a system that will continue to degrade my investment through a non compensated reallocation method?

Thank you for your careful consideration of these matters.  
Sincerely,



Jeffery Farvour  
439 Verstovia Ave  
Sitka, AK 99835

## Goodhand Charters of Valdez

P.O. Box 90, Ester, Alaska 99725  
907-479-5562

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

March 20, 2007

MAR 20 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

RE: Agenda C-1 Halibut Moratorium

My family charter business started in 1989 chartering for halibut in the waters of Prince William Sound. I fully support the proposed moratorium using a control date of December 9, 2005 and more importantly the qualifying criteria set forward by the Stakeholders Committee. The moratorium is the first step towards a long-term solution but is not a complete or permanent solution for the charter industry.

The priorities are:

- 1) Establishment of a Halibut Charter Moratorium, with a 9 Dec 05 Control Date, ASAP!
- 2) A 5 day trip threshold for qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary 20 day trip threshold for a transferable moratorium permit. Use of 2004 or 2005 Logbook data is preferred. If the two tiered threshold is not chosen, then I support an entry threshold as high as possible, preferably 20 trip days for entry. We have a latent capacity problem that needs to be addressed.
- 3) I strongly oppose any delegation of authority to ADF&G because their potential in-season management decisions through "Emergency Order" could devastate our business.
- 4) Move as rapidly as possible to a Halibut Charter Permanent Solution that allows for individual business choices. It's already been 14 years in the process and it needs to be resolved! We have all the catch history data needed to proceed with a permanent solution, the mechanism for implementation is all that is needed. This permanent solution should be on the fast track.

Speed is necessary here or this issue will fail again and put further hardship on charters and all other user groups.

Sincerely,

  
John Goodhand  
Goodhand Charters



Pacific management

March 19, 2007

To: The Northwest Fishery Council

Re: Oversight and management of groundfish take in the charter boat fishery

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Council:

I am writing this letter in support of increasing management and oversight of the charter fishery in Southeast Alaska. I am basing my support on personal and scientific reasons.

I have been a resident of Southeast Alaska since 1992, and have lived in Sitka from 1992-1993 and continuously since 2002. I am a graduate of Sheldon Jackson College and am currently undertaking my MSc research.

Since returning to Sitka in 2002, I have owned, operated, and lived on my own marine vessels; for that reason I spend much of my time in Sitka's harbors. I would like to relate to you an experience that I had during the spring and summer of 2004. Early in the year I had been assigned a stall in (then) Old Thompson Harbor. For most of March and April the harbor had been quiet and clean. About the end of April/beginning of May I noticed that the charter boats were returning to the harbor. I also noticed an increasing amount of floating trash and a terrible smell of decay. Upon closer inspection, I found a number of halibut and yelloweye rockfish that appeared to have been stuffed between the water lines and the bottom of the dock in the vicinity of the floats where most of the charter boats were moored. It appeared to me that someone was discarding and hiding the fish that they had caught but didn't want. A fellow liveaboard in the harbor mentioned that this had been a yearly occurrence for some time, and always during the charter boat season. When I complained to the local Fish and Game office, and relayed my suspicions, I was told that their officers had no way to monitor the charter fishermen, and that I should videotape the next occurrence that I saw (I have recently purchased an underwater video camera and I plan on using it).

There are at least 300 charter-fishing boats in Sitka alone. It is extremely important that this fishery be closely monitored for their allocations, especially if fish are being wasted and discarded in the manner that I have just described. Groundfish such as rockfish and halibut are slow growing and late maturing, and can take decades to reach reproductive maturity. As I am sure you are already aware, abundance estimates of mature rockfish and halibut are made based on commercial catch per unit effort (CPU); these are the broodstock fish. If this fishery is allowed to catch beyond their allocation because they are not managed well, then southeast Alaska's groundfishery is likely to decline into collapse such as the case of California's groundfishery. It is the responsibility of you the Council, as well as the charter fishermen, to ensure that Alaska's groundfish do not decline to numbers so low they cannot recover because this fishery lacked adequate oversight and management.

Sincerely,

Lynn Wilbur  
617 Katlian St.

Sitka AK 99835

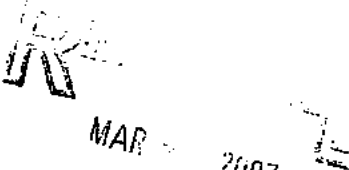
Kalei\_lw@yahoo.com

# Petersburg Vessel Owners Association

P.O. Box 232  
Petersburg, Alaska 99833  
Phone (907) 772-9323 Voice and Fax

March 20, 2007

Ms Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Ave, Ste 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Fax: (907) 271-2817

  
MAR 20 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

## RE: AGENDA ITEM C-1 CHARTER HALIBUT MANAGEMENT

Dear Chair Madsen and members of the Council,

Petersburg Vessel Owners Association is a diverse group of commercial fishermen based in Alaska. We participate in a variety of fisheries statewide with our foremost interest being the commercial longline fisheries managed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. PVOA offers the following comments on the Charter Halibut Management agenda item C-1:

### C-1 (a) NMFS REPORT ON IPHC ACTION

PVOA supports implementing management measures for the 2007 charter halibut season that are as effective or more effective as those recommended by IPHC.

### C-1 (b) STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE REPORT

PVOA respects the time and effort of the charter halibut stakeholder committee. However, PVOA fully recognizes that the stakeholder committee does not represent an equal cross-sector of both the charter and commercial industries. We urge the Council to consider the unequal representation on the committee when reviewing any allocation issues.

### C-1 (c) FINAL ACTION ON THE MORATORIUM

As the Council is aware, the moratorium is one essential step in creating stability within the charter sector. PVOA urges the Council to take final action on the moratorium at the March meeting and maintain the control date of December 2005. Although the moratorium is an imperative first step, PVOA recognizes that the moratorium is not a stand-alone solution to the charter halibut issue.

### C-1 (d) STATE/FEDERAL MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION PAPER

PVOA recognizes the work of the State of Alaska in analyzing delegation of authority to manage the charter halibut fleet. PVOA feels action to initiate

congressional changes to the Halibut Act should be put on hold unless such changes are required by the Council in a selected alternative.

**C-1 (e) SPORT FISH MORTALITY**

PVOA fully supports any and all research and review into the discard mortality rates of both the charter halibut and commercial longline sectors.

**C-1 (f) INITIAL REVIEW OF ANALYSIS OF AREA 2C GHM MEASURES**

PVOA urges the Council to consider allowing the transfer of commercial IFQs, either by sale or lease, to the charter sector in 2C as an interim measure. By granting access to commercial IFQs the charter fleet would still be able to accommodate client expectations regardless of GHM harvest control measures and the 2C biomass decline.

PVOA further recommends, as suggested at the February Council meeting, that the Council initiate analysis of 3A management measures for the charter halibut fleet for the 2008 season. The Council should act as swiftly as possible to curtail charter harvest in 3A given uncertainty about continued charter growth and given the length of time required between the implementation of management measures and analysis of management measures.

**C-1 (g) DISCUSSION PAPER ON HALIBUT ALLOCATION WITH ACTION AS NECESSARY**

The GHM implemented by the Council and approved by NMFS in 2000, is an equitable allocation. In addition to awarding the charter fleet their historical harvest, they were given an additional 25% to provide room for growth. PVOA feels that the GHM remains a reasonable number and the commercial fleet should not be penalized in the form of reduced quotas for the unconstrained growth of the charter sector. PVOA urges the Council to convert the GHM from a guideline to a hard allocation in the form of a fixed percentage.

PVOA would like to thank the Council for their continued attention to this issue. If you have any questions or comments regarding the charter halibut matter, please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

  
Julianne J. Curry  
Director

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
805 West 4th Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007

Dear Council,

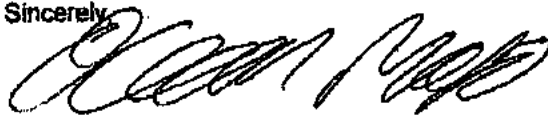
In regards to the charter fisheries exceeding its GHL and proposed solutions N.P.F.M.C.

I am a commercial halibut longliner who was born and raised in southeast Alaska. I am a second generation fisherman. Having many close friends and family that also make their sole income on commercial caught halibut. Having bought into the halibut fishery. I think it is imperative to adopt certain measures to sustain the lively hood of many, who have already paid substancial amounts to fish commercail halibut.

The unregulated growth of the charter industry has led to the GHL being exceeded for too many years. The backlash of which is felt by the commercial longline fleet. The unrestricted charter fishing access is depleting a fish stock that is shared by and stringently regulated on the commercial side. I ask that you please adopt the moratorium of the December 2005 control date. in congruence with a set allocation for the charter fleet, with seperate accountability, based on the GHL. These measures must also carry enough weight of penalty to assure that they are abided by. The current regulations do nothing to keep the charter fleet from exceeding its GHL, which should not be a reason to raise the GHL each year.

For the resource to be managed properly we cannot have an open access, unrestrictcd, unregulated halibut fishery. Therefore i support the moratorfum, effective harvest control measures and limited compensation reallocation, like the crossover program. We all need to be accountable for the resource to insure that future generations can carry on commercial fishing life styles.

Sincerely,



Ocean Mayo  
FV Coral Lee  
1710 Halibut Point rd  
Sitka, Ak 99835

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 16, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

The sport fishing industry should market an experience other than bringing meat home. The majorities of clients are returning and have expectations to bring home boxes of fish. I go to Hawaii and I can't even bring a pineapple home, but I still go there. Nobody subsidizes my vacation, wherever I go.

The sport fish industry is not adjusting to the changes that are happening in their industry. It is lazy to state that your business would suffer from a logical one fish per day limit, like the IPHC suggested. They could adjust their marketing and can still catch fish. The commercial industry has had to adjust over time to remain successful and the sport fishery should do the same.

For example, the loggers got displaced because they could not participate in another business with their equipment, such as chainsaws. The sport fishermen have an amazing resource here in Southeast Alaska. They could bring clients fly fishing, hiking, whale watching, to explore mines etc. There is plenty to do that does not threaten the health of the halibut stock. If they exceed their limits, they should be properly penalized in the following year's quota - not the commercial side.

Thank you for your consideration,



Ernie Eggleston  
F/V Alitak  
PO Box 752  
Pelican, AK 99832

RECEIVED

March 21, 2007

MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.A.C.

Dear Members of the council,

My name is Kendall Folkert. I have lived in Sitka since 1991, and have been a full time commercial fisherman from the very day that I arrived in Alaska. I was one of the younger generation of fisherman who started their career at what could easily be seen as exactly the wrong moment. The year that I started was the very last year to qualify for allocated IFQs, and after five years of deckhanding, when I was ready to start running my own boat, the IFQ program began, and a very large financial opportunity was seemingly closed. I constantly heard how hard it was going to be for new guys to make it with the loss of the longline opportunities.

As much as it hurt, we all were able to recognize that a management strategy had to be adopted, and we would have to adapt. A large number of us have, and those that constantly told me how hard it would be were right. And when I say that it takes blood, sweat, and tears; I say that without any of those words being even the slightest bit exaggerated.

Now I feel like I've sort of made it. I have a 58 foot boat, and am finally able to earn enough up and above the massive debt load that any new guy in the commercial fishing business will incur to try and start a family and try to begin a somewhat more normal life. I have spent the last 10 years getting here. For the last ten years I have been working on the ocean nearly year round, and working in conditions that only those who have been forced to fish as hard as they can could possibly understand.

I cannot tell you how hard it is to understand, accept, or swallow what is threatening a huge percentage of the business that I have so nearly killed myself to establish. What is so impossible to swallow is that a giant percentage of my years of work is not being lost to collapsing fisheries, or environmental changes, or a severe economic depression. It is being lost to another group of commercial fisherman (and we do need to start calling them that, because that is exactly what they are). This is a group that for whatever reason is being allowed to grow unchecked when groundfish are concerned. Maybe they are constrained by the TAC in the gulf. (I think that fair is fair, and I should be allowed to go 40% over my IFQs this year without any consequences at all.)

I understand that it is the goal of anyone in any business to grow as much as they can. Anyone in the food fishing industry would love to be able to own more boats and catch more fish year after year. But in time that will become statistically impossible. My point is that the commercial fleet reached that point about 15 or twenty years ago, and it was dealt with by force of law. An awful lot of people were very unhappy about it. And an awful lot of people said that it would have all sorts of horrible impacts on the industry. An awful lot of people said that newcomers would never make it into the fishing industry. But here we are. The management had to change, and the affected fishermen had to adapt, and the industry as a whole seems to be better for it.

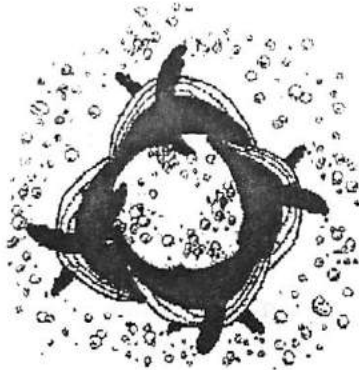
I understand that newcomers to the sportfish industry don't want to see changes that make it a little harder to break in, and the oldtimers and big lodge owners would

love to just keep getting bigger. But it has reached the point where it is no longer a statistical possibility, at least not without committing what can only be called an atrocious injustice to those of us who have been a part of an industry that has grown to its bursting point, and gone through the hard work of adaptation. It seems like a sin against men to allow one group to do whatever they like at the exclusive cost of another group who have already been forced to make massive changes and sacrifices to preserve what they have worked so hard for.

I'm sure you have read letter after letter groaning under the burden of statistics, so I won't add another on to that pile. I just want you to know that there are a lot of young guys in the same boat as I am. We are not talking about losing the money we were planning on putting into our vacation homes, we're talking about being able to spend time with our kids. Allowing the charter fleet to grow at the exclusive cost of the commercial fishermen can only be called an atrocious injustice. Please correct this, if only for the sake of my unborn daughter.

Sincerely,

Kendall W. Folkert  
Owner/skipper F/V Cobra  
Sitka Alaska



NPFMC  
605 W. 4<sup>th</sup>. Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99591

## The Whale's Eye Lodge

PO Box 210166  
Auke Bay, Alaska  
99821  
(907) 723-2920  
E-mail [whaleseye@starband.net](mailto:whaleseye@starband.net)  
[www.JuneauAlaskaFishing.com](http://www.JuneauAlaskaFishing.com)

RECEIVED  
MAR 2 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

3/21/2007

Dear Council Members,

My family and I operate a small fishing lodge on a remote island near Juneau. We started building our lodge in 1986 and opened for business in 1993. Our Lodge caters to from 2 to 6 clients at a time and operates June through August. My wife and I, and my son and his family derive all of our income from our small lodge operation. From the time we began operation our clients have harvested approximately 150 to 200 halibut per year. We have not increased our catch or our capacity nor do we intend to. Our guests like the relaxed atmosphere of a small operation and though we are not getting rich we can live comfortably on our income.

All of our guests visit to take advantage of the area's beauty and to catch a few fish. We do not encourage a poundage based clientele. However, all of our guests want to take home some salmon and some halibut. There is something about sharing the harvest around the table back home that makes their trip worth the time and expense. Without this component I don't believe people would pay top dollar to come to Alaska and fish.

My business operates around this quid pro quo agreement. I provide an experience my clients can enjoy while they visit and relive with every bite of fresh seafood they take home and they provide me with an income. In order for me to continue I need stability in my halibut harvest level. I need those 150 to 200 halibut a year. I fish at least two days for salmon to every day of halibut, but without the halibut my clients will go elsewhere. The elimination or reduction of their halibut harvest below a marketable client expectation does not just put me out of business for halibut it puts me out of business entirely.



Where fishing is a way of life



Over the years I have watched new operators open up shop with no knowledge or consideration of other resource users. With a fully utilized resource their fish must come from an existing user's fish box. Up till now it has been the commercial fishing industry that has ponied up the fish. Year after year, time after time, our industry has tried to follow the lead of commercial operators by encouraging a moratorium and eventual limited entry/quota share program. Year after year, time after time, the NPFMC has failed to enact a moratorium. The GHL was never intended to stand alone. It was intended to be part of a moratorium. Now I stand on the brink of being pushed out of business primarily due to the North Council's reluctance to act.

As things stand today, whatever moratorium options are implemented will be detrimental to most long time operators in my area. Chances are I won't get the 150 to 200 fish I need to operate. However, another failure to act is the worst case scenario. Only after a moratorium is in place can we begin to rebuild our businesses. Only when we know where we stand can we know where we need to go. It is the duty of the NPFMC to provide a stable environment for us to plan our businesses in. To this point the NPFMC has failed in this duty. The current "GHL turned hard cap" with no limit to entry is programmed disaster for our industry. The longer the delay the more harm done.

For myself, for my fellow guided sport fishing businesses and for my neighbors in the commercial long line industry I urge this Council to enact a moratorium at this meeting—even if it is a lousy regulation it is better than no regulation. I am disgusted beyond the point of presenting you with a wish list. I hold no expectation for ideal law. Just stop entry using the control date of Dec. 9, 2005 and let us pick up the pieces.

Sincerely,

Rick, Karen and Jesse Bierman

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 8 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

March 21, 2007

**RE: AGENDA ITEM C-1 CHARTER HALIBUT MANAGEMENT**

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

This agenda item is particularly sensitive for the public sector, which encompasses the user group to be managed. It is important for the public to come and catch a halibut with the aid of a professional guide service, which the charter operators provide.

I fear that most public comments will either side with the commercial industry or the commercial charter industry. We need comments on behalf of the fish, which the IPHC provided through their bag limit recommendation. I trust that NOAA will follow through with the rule-making process to help charter fishers avoid exceeding the GHL.

Statewide versus Sitka, this issue differs dramatically. Most sport fishers who come to Sitka are not Alaskan residents. Localized depletion has triggered multifaceted responses from Sitka. This depletion which leads to less fish would and is impacting many industries. Furthermore, the livelihood of those who subsist off of the halibut would be adversely impacted in a major way from continued localized depletion.

Although regulations can be challenging to implement because there will always be groups or individuals who profit from and suffer from unexpected gains and losses, these regulations stabilize industries. The halibut extraction from Sitka needs stability. The moratorium is a good first step that will not control catch levels, but joined with a long term solutions that effectively regulates catch should stabilize halibut stocks and fishing effort to these stocks.

Sport fish mortality data is needed and research projects should be initiated to accommodate this need. Stakeholder recommendations are valuable, but the stakeholder group needs further diversification.

I have recently been helping ALFA with their projects in Sitka. The halibut charter management issue has gotten more *young* fishermen involved than ever before. Please do not overlook the impact that your decision making might have on their abilities to feasibly continue building upon their investments and continue commercial fishing.

Sincerely,

Anne Williams



March 21, 2007

Name Charles Collins

Occupation Owner/operator Tall Tales Charters

Business location Homer, Alaska

Home address Anchor Point, Alaska (full time)

Items of comments I'm only making comments for the Homer area as I don't know about the other areas.

### **#1. Moratorium**

I reluctantly support a moratorium as a stop gap to end the in-rush of new entries every time the NPFMC starts talking about a moratorium or implementing an IFQ. Every time a moratorium or IFQ has been discussed we get a rush of new charters; some of these are just people that want to get into the charter business others are commercial fishermen or speculators thinking this may be worth something.

This should not be a final act to stop all new entries for ever as there needs to be a way for new business to start up; other wise the charters will end up like the commercial fishery with a large percentage being owned by outside big business.

### **#2. GHF**

The sport fishery (guided and unguided) needs a fair allocation of the resource not some numbers pulled form the sky. As of now, no provable data is available. By first hand knowledge, because of high price of fuel, the 2006 season was off from previous years. With fewer trips and fewer clients (also fewer fishing licenses and derby tickets were sold) how did we catch 9% more fish than in 2005?

### **#3. Military Boats**

In no way do I want to keep our armed forces personnel that are defending us, or their families, from having access to fishing. Their boats should not be part of a moratorium and taking their harvests from the GHF is petty at best, but if it is too much for the commercial fishery we can take that hit for those that do so much for all of us.

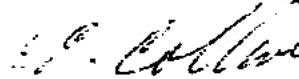
### **#4. ADF&G Management**

ADF&G collected logbook data from 1998-2001 but stopped because of discrepancies between the logbooks and the statewide harvest survey estimates. Why is ADF&G relying on information provided on mail-in surveys from people who are guessing when they went fishing, how many they caught of which specie, and how many they released instead of state required information from state licensed charter boat operators who record the information daily? We know these are guesses because some of our clients have called asking us for the information as they are unable to remember, we provide the information to them from our "unreliable" logbooks. Until ADF&G can provide data which is both provable and accurate, instead of estimates, I do not feel they should take on the management of this very important fishery.

**#5. Sport Fish Mortality**

To compare the mortality rate of released charter caught halibut to that of released commercial caught halibut is like comparing apples to oranges. Charter caught halibut are caught on a single line with a circle hook and are quickly brought to the surface and, if they are going to be released, are never touched by human hands; if the fish is injured, no matter the size, it becomes part of that person's limit. We do not throw back fish that are going to die; this is how it is done on my boat and the boats of all those I fish with. The commercial caught halibut may dangle on the bottom where it is exposed to sand fleas and other predators for hours, then winched to the surface by hydraulic gear, where it then goes through a bait-stripper (crucifier) where a portion of its jaw will be destroyed, if it is undersized it is then thrown back into the ocean; how many of these actually survive?

Respectfully Submitted,



Charles Collins  
PO Box 341  
Anchor Point, AK 99556

Steve Fish  
P.O. Box 6448 Sitka, Alaska 99835  
907-747-6042 fax 747-1046

March 21, 2007

MAR 2 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Anchorage, AK

Dear Ms. Madsen and Council Members,

I am writing to urge the council to take action at this upcoming meeting to control the halibut charter industry.

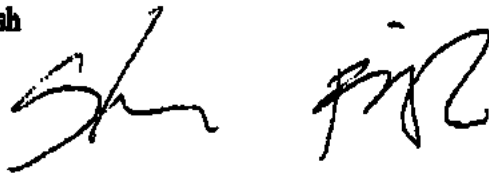
Since the beginning of IFQ's, my wife and I have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars, most of that borrowed from banks, to purchase mostly 2C halibut quota. We have taken the financial risk, and our family has done without other things we could have done with the money.. We have always supported the conservation measures taken by the IPHC which have often resulted in reductions of our quota share, including this year when we saw a drop of 20%. In return, we have had a well-managed and sustainable fishery. So how can people say it is fair to take from us and reallocate that halibut to another commercial user group which in large part refuses conservation measures and even simple accountability for fish caught, and not only cannot keep within an allocation, but refuses to do so and clamors for more. I know that it is getting embarrassing for some charter operators.

Please adopt a moratorium with the December 2005 control date to save having to start all over again. Make the moratorium restrictive enough to be meaningful, and know that a moratorium alone will not reduce or even control harvest. The State of Alaska salmon limited entry program should be evidence enough of this.

The charter industry needs their own hard allocation which moves with abundance, and they need the will and the real control measures to stay within that allocation like any other responsible user of public resources. The GHF was set to allow for growth, and the fact that they have been allowed to continue growing unchecked does not entitle them to a larger allocation. One of the crossover proposals should help make a limited additional amount of halibut available to the charter fleet.

There are localized depletion, sustainability and other problems which the longline and charter fleets need to tackle together for the good of us all. We need change to bring stability, and it needs to come from you. The IPHC took another important step, now please take the next one.

Sincerely, Steve Fish



## Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance

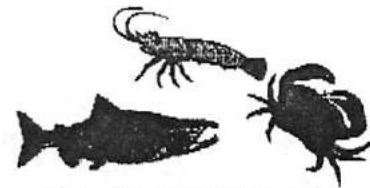
9369 North Douglas Highway

Juneau, AK 99801

Phone 907-586-6652

Fax 907-523-1168

Website: <http://www.seafa.org>



E-mail: [seafa@gci.net](mailto:seafa@gci.net)

March 21, 2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Stephanie Madsen, Chair

605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306

Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Fax 907-271-2817

RE: Agenda C-1 Halibut

Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFA) is a multi-gear, multi-species non-profit membership based organization. We represent our 175 members involved in the salmon, crab, shrimp and longline fisheries of Southeast Alaska.

### **C-1 (a) NMFS Report on IPHC action**

SEAFA supports NMFS implementing before the 2007 season harvest restrictions that will reduce the charter harvest to more than the equivalent management restrictions recommended by the IPHC and rejected by the Secretaries of State and Commerce. We believe that the IPHC acted in a responsible manner for sustainable management of the resource by recommending charter harvest restrictions and that these recommendations were within the allocations made by the NPFMC as published in the federal register.

### **C-1 (b) Receive Stakeholder Committee Report and action as necessary**

As a stakeholder on the committee and the only commercial representative that was able to be at the last meeting I will make my comments as verbal testimony as appropriate. The Stakeholders work on the long term solution is not yet done but we hope to have it finished for presentation at the June council meeting.

### **C-1 (c) Final action on Moratorium analysis.**

SEAFA fully supports final action being taken on the moratorium at this meeting using the December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 control date. We believe that the implementation of a moratorium is an important first step towards the long term solution. SEAFA supports the majority of the stakeholders recommendations on the moratorium.

SEAFa understands that there is a balancing act in picking the options for the moratorium between allowing participants into the moratorium and the amount of latent capacity that exists if all operators are included. The stakeholder committee tried to find a balance for these two issues while the long term solution is being developed.

There are four major recommendations the stakeholders made that differed from the preferred alternatives the council chose that we will discuss in the order they appear in the moratorium.

1. **Issue 1 - Military Boats.** The stakeholder committee recommended that the charter harvest from the military boats not count towards the GHL or if the harvest was going to count towards the GHL then the military boats need to be captured within the moratorium. SEAFa believes that the military boats should be included in the moratorium and their harvest should count towards the GHL. While we fully support the US troops we believe since they are paying to take the charter they should count as a charter. The businesses operating the vessels for the military are required to have the State Business license and logbooks. The military clients pay to take these charters and therefore should be considered under the charter GHL, if the military did not provide the vessels as a subsidized rate it is likely that many of these individuals would still pay to take a charter. We also believe that as long as the SWHS is being used to determine the charter harvest it would be difficult to determine the amount of harvest to attribute to the military boats that would not count towards the GHL.
2. **Issue 2 -** The stakeholder committee recommends that the business that is issued two permits for the same vessel because he qualified in both area 2C & 3A will have to choose which permit is non-transferable and which permit would be transferable. The Council stated in the moratorium that only one permit could be fished in any one day which takes care of most of the enforcement issues. This compromise allows the business owner the opportunity to continue with his traditional business plan while not allowing him to receive the windfall of owning and being able to sell two permits that were earned off of one vessel.
3. **Issue 5 & Issue 10.1 - Transfer of permits and Permit Qualifications.** The combination of these two issues is where the balance between including individuals into the moratorium and the amount of latent capacity that you build into the program are most impacted. The stakeholder committee tied these two issues together in our recommendation. The stakeholders after discussion recommended qualification to be a minimum of 5 bottomfish trips but that Issue 5 sup-option 1 be chosen to prohibit transfers of permits by businesses that have less than 20 bottomfish trips. This provides a balance.

and depending upon the long term solution chosen by the Council might allow these operators at lower levels to continue to operate at that level. If the Council doesn't accept this recommendation then SEAFA would request that they look at a minimum qualification level of 10 bottomfish trips in 2C and 15 bottomfish trips in 3A.

4. **Issue 12 - Community Provisions.** The Stakeholders committee recommended 5 or fewer active charter businesses to be eligible for communities. SEAFA believes that 10 charter businesses are too high of a threshold for the community provisions. The number of businesses does not reflect the number of vessels that are actually operating out of the community. We also believe that allowing communities free permits when private individuals have worked hard to develop a market within the community puts the private individual business at a disadvantage.

An issue that we supported at the stakeholder committee but on reflection would suggest differently is Issue 11 use caps. The council preferred alternative was a use cap of five that the stakeholder committee agreed with. Upon reflection a use cap of 3 or 4 might be more appropriate. This will help prevent consolidation between now and the implementation of a long-term solution and leave more permits available for sale at lower costs. This will provide more entry level opportunities while the long term issue is resolved and the fate of the non-transferable permits is determined.

#### **C-1 (d) - State/Federal Management**

SEAFA understands that at some point state delegation may be a necessary component of a long term solution but we believe that it would be best to wait until a preferred alternative is chosen by the Council that is enhanced by State Delegation to pursue changes to the Halibut act.

#### **C-1 (e) - Sport Fish Mortality**

SEAFA agrees that sport fish mortality issues need to be addressed and also suggest that the mortality rate assigned to the setline fishery be reviewed.

#### **C-1 (f) - Initial Review of analysis of Area 2C GHL measures**

SEAFA hopes that the Council moves forward with this initial review with final action being scheduled for June with another analysis started for 3A at this meeting for management measures to be implemented sometime in 2008.

The analysis for Area 2C GHL measures provides the information but does not fully address the real possibility that the charter industry GHL step down provision will be triggered. On page 7 of the analysis total CEY is projected for area 2C for 2007-2012. If these projections hold through the yearly survey assessments and



remodeling the charter industry will have triggered the step-down provisions for 2008, 2009 and 2010. Considering that it is very possible that the step down provisions will be triggered in 2008 we respectfully request that you chose a set of management measures appropriate for Area 2C for the GHL, and another more restrictive set of management measures for the step down GHL through the proposed rule comment period and pick the alternative that matches IPHC catch limits.

**C-1 (g) - Discussion paper on halibut allocations**

As the only commercial representative at the stakeholder committee meeting I strongly objected to the Council policy recommendation that the committee passed 8 to 1 on this topic. I know of many commercial fishermen that want the same quota as they had last year. It's a good statement but it is not good stewardship of the resource. To provide the charter industry with what they requested with the latent capacity built into the moratorium (used stakeholder recommendations) at an average of 4 clients for a 75 day season would take over 15 MLbs for 2C and 3A combined. (2C - 8.268Mlbs) If you use a 100 day season and 6 clients per vessel you are over 31Mlbs.

If the council was to consider giving the charter allocation this type of guarantee, it would destroy many commercial operators in particular the young entry level participant who scrapped everything they had to purchase quota share. At a recent meeting talking about the federal IFQ loan program, they explained that if a individual defaulted on their loan, they would re-possess the quota shares and sell them on the open market for what they could get and if that was not enough they would take the additional collateral that was put up for sale and if that was not enough to pay off the loan the individual would still be responsible for paying the debt that remained. Less halibut on the market does not necessarily mean that you will get a higher price that compensates for it.

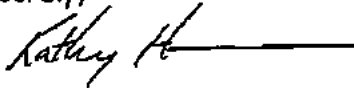
Market prices will hit a point where there is resistance to paying the price and can actually lose major market price. Dana Besecker, one of the largest halibut brokers in Seattle, was quoted in the Anchorage Daily News on March 10, 2007 in the article Hooks out for halibut and a high retail price as saying "halibut fishermen shouldn't count on prices staying high forever. Chefs are learning that prawns, scallops, swordfish or mahi mahi are viable substitutions for halibut and can make them more money on each plate they sell. We're perilously close to pricing ourselves out of the game."

The real issue to this agenda item is, should the allocation be separated from the long term solution? This question was not answered by the stakeholder committee.

The Council needs to ask a couple of questions to determine this. The discussion paper does not provide a timeline difference between pursuing a long term solution or moving forward with an allocation decision followed up by the other aspects of a long term program. If doing the allocation separately slows down a final packaged solution significantly then SEAFA would like to keep the actions linked for simultaneous implementation. If you are only a few months apart by doing the allocation separately then they should remain together but if the allocation could be decided and in place several years before the long term solution is implemented then the council should consider the possibility of taking separate actions. If an allocation is to be considered separately, the charter allocation must become a hard allocation with accountability in the sense that any overage of a sector's allocation is subtracted from that sector the following year and the allocation should be set as a percentage that floats in conjunction of a combined fishery CEY (Fishery CEY would equal the commercial and charter combined allocations).

Thank you for considering SEAFA comments on the halibut charter issues. We will be at the Council meeting and available to discuss any of the issue with you.

Sincerely,



Kathy Hansen  
Executive Director

Steve Fish  
P.O. Box 6448 Sitka, Alaska 99835  
907-747-6042 fax 747-1046

March 21, 2007

MAR 21 2007  
ALP.F33.G

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Anchorage, AK

Dear Ms. Madsen and Council Members,

I am writing to urge the council to take action at this upcoming meeting to control the halibut charter industry.

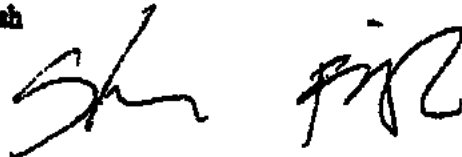
Since the beginning of IFQ's, my wife and I have invested hundreds of thousands of dollars, most of that borrowed from banks, to purchase mostly 2C halibut quota. We have taken the financial risk, and our family has done without other things we could have done with the money.. We have always supported the conservation measures taken by the IPHC which have often resulted in reductions of our quota share, including this year when we saw a drop of 20%. In return, we have had a well-managed and sustainable fishery. So how can people say it is fair to take from us and reallocate that halibut to another commercial user group which in large part refuses conservation measures and even simple accountability for fish caught, and not only cannot keep within an allocation, but refuses to do so and clamors for more. I know that it is getting embarrassing for some charter operators.

Please adopt a moratorium with the December 2005 control date to save having to start all over again. Make the moratorium restrictive enough to be meaningful, and know that a moratorium alone will not reduce or even control harvest. The State of Alaska salmon limited entry program should be evidence enough of this.

The charter industry needs their own hard allocation which moves with abundance, and they need the will and the real control measures to stay within that allocation like any other responsible user of public resources. The GHL was set to allow for growth, and the fact that they have been allowed to continue growing unchecked does not entitle them to a larger allocation. One of the crossover proposals should help make a limited additional amount of halibut available to the charter fleet.

There are localized depletion, sustainability and other problems which the longline and charter fleets need to tackle together for the good of us all. We need change to bring stability, and it needs to come from you. The IPHC took another important step, now please take the next one.

Sincerely, Steve Fish



Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED  
MAR 3 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

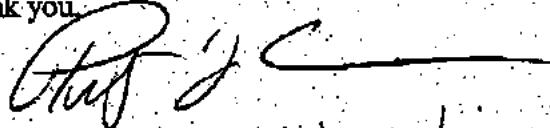
It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to **rule out the use of J hooks** and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you

  
Robert L. Chevalier  
P.O. Box 2893  
Sitka AK 99835

Untitled

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
 Chair  
 NPFMC  
 605 West 4th Street, Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK. 99501

RECEIVED  
 MAR 20 2007  
 MAF 100

Dear Chair Madsen,

I'm writing in regards to the Halibut allocation issues. My background in this fishery, is lifelong. My parents came to S.E. Alaska during the early part of WW2, to begin fishing careers. They trolled & longlined halibut from the early 1940's thru most of the 1970's. I too, have, & am pursuing fishing as a career. I would like to offer some comments on the issues at hand.

Subsistence, longlining, & sport angling have been the traditional user groups of impact. Relatively recently a charter/lodge industry has burgeoned from insignificance to a major impact player, with the ability (if left unrestrained) to even outstrip the longline fishery in some areas.

I believe the charter boats & lodges (that rent boats, but don't guide) must be regulated together; otherwise all these issues will resurface again, with another shark bite aimed at the T.A.C.

To keep the generational fishery (longling) stable, I would advocate their % of the Quota be hardened, NO reallocation, & no compensating the other INDUSTRY'S overdrafts!

In the area I live, Point Baker, (in the island chain of southeastern Alaska) most of the charter/lodge industry is non-resident, as is their clientele. This is a negative impact on local subsistence, & the seasonal fishing economy, in an area that does not need such impacts.

I would be in favor of the state of Alaska getting management of the sport halibut fishery; as it would be able to integrate it a whole of sport fishing regulation. Also it should have faster reaction times to developing problems. Regulation of, & ENFORCEMENT are going to be real bearcats, it will be better to have one entity doing it.

In conclusion, while there are many souls claiming "stakeholder status" we should be wary, after all pirates were once stakeholders in trans-oceanic shipping!

Sincerely,

Charles Zieske



CHARLES H. ZIESKE  
 P.O. BOX 50  
 Pt. Baker, AK.  
 99927

Halibut Coalition  
 PO Box 22073  
 Juneau, AK 99802-2073  
 (425) 949-1810 msg (206) 260-9111efax  
halibutcoalition@gci.net  
 March 21, 2007

RECEIVED  
 MAR 21 2007  
 N.P.F.M.C.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Members of the Halibut Coalition would like to submit the following comments on Agenda item C-1 halibut charter management.

**C-1(a) IPHC action:** The Halibut Coalition maintains that the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) acted appropriately to address the risk to halibut management goals associated with rapid growth in the charter vessel halibut harvest by establishing reduced halibut charter bag limits. The Coalition appreciates NMFS' new commitment to crafting timely harvest control measures for 2007 in Area 2C. However, Coalition members are concerned both that the management objectives under consideration will not constrain charter harvest to the established GHs and that the alternative management measures may compromise resource health by allowing CEY overages and increased mortality of bycatch species (e.g., rockfish and ling cod).

By disapproving the IPHC's bag limit recommendations, the Coalition maintains that NMFS has assumed full responsibility to act in a manner consistent with the GHs published in the Federal Register and to manage stocks to remain below area CEYs. NMFS has no basis for setting management standards that are inconsistent with the established GH, can be predicted to result in CEY overages, and have not undergone rigorous technical analysis or informed public review.

The forthcoming proposed rule must include the one fish bag limit as recommended by the IPHC such that the effectiveness and enforceability of alternative harvest controls may be measured against this standard. If alternative management measures are determined to be largely ineffective, too expensive to enforce, or otherwise judged to compromise resource health, at minimum NMFS must be able to implement the conservation recommendations of the IPHC. NMFS cannot lawfully promulgate conservation regulations which "come close" to what the IPHC has established as necessary; rather, NMFS' regulations must achieve at least equivalent harvest controls and should achieve area GHs. **In short, NMFS is under a statutory mandate to**

*Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association ♦ Cordova District Fishermen ♦ Deep Sea Fishermen's Association ♦ United Fishing Vessel Owners Association ♦ Halibut Association of North America ♦ North Pacific Fisheries Association ♦ Petersburg Vessel Owners Association ♦ United Cook Inlet Driftnetters Association ♦ United Fishermen's Marketing Association ♦ United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association*

**promulgate regulations which permit the achievement of the Halibut Convention's purposes and adhere to the Magnuson-Stevens Act objectives.** For NMFS to do otherwise would appear to Coalition members to be arbitrary, capricious, and not in accordance with the law.

The Coalition is concerned that effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are not in place to minimize the potential negative consequences of the alternative charter harvest measures currently under consideration by NMFS. Without question, NMFS must require that charter caught halibut be landed whole, or, if filleted at sea, that the carcass be retained for measurement at the dock. Additionally, NMFS should require that monitoring and enforcement personnel be granted access to private property where charter halibut are landed—i.e., lodges. Such access currently can be denied by lodge or property owners.

Finally, Coalition members are concerned by the new numbers for 2006 3A charter harvest that are included in the recently published final rule (Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan). More specifically, charter harvest numbers provided by ADFG to the public at the IPHC meeting in January revealed that charter halibut harvest exceeded the 3A GHL by more than 20% if skipper and crew retained halibut are included as charter harvest (charter harvest in 3A equaled 4.430 million pounds, .789 million pounds (21.6%) over the GHL of 3.65 million pounds). The final rule indicates 3A charter harvest is now estimated to be only 8-9% over the GHL. Coalition members request that the Council require ADFG clarify these numbers in writing and standardize their accounting. The discrepancy between these two estimates has created significant conflict between charter operators and longliners in Homer and other communities in 3A; the public will be better served by a written clarification.

In sum, the Halibut Coalition requests the Council to recommend to NMFS that the 2007 management measures for Area 2C:

1. Be sufficiently restrictive to ensure that the GHL and total CEY for Area 2C are not exceeded;
2. Account for the additional halibut mortality that will result from increased discards;
3. Minimize the bycatch of rockfish, and ling cod, and other species;
4. Contain sufficient provisions for enforcement, such as requirements to bring the whole fish or carcass to land for measurement and to allow creel samplers access to private docks;
5. Explain how the Area 3A overage was estimated and where the 400,000 lbs of skipper and crew fish are accounted for in the 3A estimate.

**C-1 (b) Stakeholder process:** The halibut charter "stakeholder" committee has allowed the charter industry to become more fully informed on management decisions before the Council that affect their industry. It has provided some helpful comments and insights to the Council. However, the committee is primarily a halibut charter committee, and does not include balanced representation from other halibut sectors. The Council needs to be

aware of these limitations when evaluating "stakeholder" committee recommendations. If the Council desires stakeholder advice on allocation issues, the Coalition respectfully requests that this task be delegated to a group with equal representation from all halibut sectors.

**C-1 (c) Moratorium:** The Halibut Coalition urges the Council to adopt an effective moratorium at this meeting, holding firmly to the December 2005 control date and the 2009 implementation date. Although the moratorium will not address allocation issues, it provides an important interim step toward resolving halibut management issues. The high turn-over rate in the charter industry in addition to the steady expansion of the fleet has a de-stabilizing effect on all sectors and has confounded efforts to resolve existing resource conflicts. The Coalition urges the State to move quickly on a moratorium for all saltwater guides in order to avoid unwanted impacts from the halibut moratorium on other guiding businesses.

**C-1(d) Federal/State management:** The Halibut Coalition recommends against Halibut Act amendments to delegate sport halibut management to the State at this time. We are reluctant to open the Halibut Act to amendments. The Coalition believes effective and timely management of the sport halibut fishery can be accomplished through the combination of Council, IPHC and NMFS authority, provided NMFS commits adequate time, resources and leadership to the issue. Coalition members further believe that the 18 months of staff time necessary to develop the regulatory amendment that would provide the State with authority could be better spent on the myriad other actions needed to resolve the halibut management issue. If the Council identifies a long-term management strategy that either depends on or would be enhanced by State authority, the issue of State management could be revisited.

**C-1(e) Halibut mortality estimates:** The Halibut Coalition believes review of released (discard) mortality estimates in the charter and longline fisheries is overdue. The Coalition urges the Council to review existing information on released mortality of halibut in both sectors, and to direct staff to analyze mortality estimates for recreational fisheries in other areas. Comparisons of discard mortalities resulting from use of "J" and circle hooks and from various hook sizes are essential components of this analysis. Efforts should be initiated to assess the adequacy of existing ADFG assumptions relative to mortality of discarded halibut in the Alaska charter fishery. These efforts must involve direct empirical work on mortality rates as well as documentation of discard rates and of the condition of released halibut. These considerations are particularly important if a "trophy" fish provision is instituted with its attendant increased culling of hooked halibut.

**C-1(f) GHL management measures for 2C:** The Halibut Coalition recommends that the Council incorporate two additions into the EA/RIR: 1) alternative management measures that will effectively constrain charter harvest to a reduced GHL of 1.2 million pounds; and, 2) the "crossover" proposal. These are addressed in more detail below.

**Reduced GHL:** The Halibut Coalition recommends that the Council develop two distinct harvest management packages for the charter halibut fishery in 2008. One set of control



measures should be constructed to constrain charter harvest to the current Area 2C GHL of 1.4 million pounds. The other should be designed to constrain the 2008 charter harvest to a reduced GHL of 1.2 million pounds.

The existing GHL rule specifies when reductions in charter GHL are mandated in response to reduced abundance of the halibut stock. For Area 2C a reduction of 15% (to 1.2 million pounds) will occur when the annual 2C CEY declines below 9.027 million pounds. Preliminary estimates by IPHC staff project the 2008 CEY for Area 2C to be only very slightly above that trigger point (9.129 million pounds). It is very possible that revisions of this projection or poor 2C stock survey results could reduce the CEY below the GHL reduction threshold by 2008. The IPHC also is considering a reduction in the exploitation rate to a uniform 20% across areas. If this model is adopted for 2008, the Area 2C CEY certainly will be reduced below the GHL trigger. Thus, a GHL value of 1.2 million pounds for 2008 is a very real possibility. The Coalition therefore suggests that the Council include harvest measures for both GHL values in its recommendations for 2008 that are referred for public comment. Following the IPHC January 2008 CEY and quota setting process, NMFS can proceed with the appropriate final rule.

If the 1.2 million pound GHL is triggered but has not been properly developed and noticed in advance, harvest control measures identified by the Council will not adequately constrain charter harvest. Such a situation would lead to another round of *ad hoc* suggestions and politically charged maneuvers. The Coalition requests that the Council prevent this scenario by identifying two harvest control packages, one defined by the 1.4 million pound GHL and one by the 1.2 million pound GHL, to be included in the proposed rule.

Crossover proposal: The Crossover Proposal has evolved through discussions between charter and longline fishermen. Both groups recognize the opportunity to benefit from a system that would allow charter operators to buy or lease limited amounts of commercial quota, termed crossover shares, which could then be used in the charter fishery. Crossover shares would allow charter operators to provide clients the opportunity to catch and retain a second halibut during times of reduced or modified bag limits. By allowing charter operators to lease a limited number of shares (estimated to lease for approximately \$2-2.50 /pound), charter clients and operators could match expectations to halibut harvest on an individual basis and do so in a system that would hold total halibut removals within established limits. For example: charter operators who emphasize the fishing experience (wildlife viewing) while providing clients with a modest amount of fish to take home, may need few or no crossover shares. Those charter operators who cater to clients focused on filling bag limits and freezers will have the opportunity to purchase/lease crossover shares sufficient to meet their clients' interests—or encourage clients to be satisfied with less.

By limiting the amount of quota that can be leased as crossover shares to 10% of an individual commercial fisherman's holdings, the Halibut Coalition believes the crossover proposal will allow a limited, compensated reallocation without destabilizing the commercial quota share program or compromising entry level opportunities.

Implementation of the crossover proposal will also develop capacity in monitoring and enforcement of a limited market-based mechanism that will serve to moderate allocation tensions. The crossover proposal will encourage resource conservation by requiring those charter operators who have a greater impact on the halibut resource (i.e., harvest more halibut) to make investments comparable to their impact, paying more than charter operators whose businesses rely more on the experience and less on extraction, and encouraging charter clients to retain only what they will consume. By attaching costs to increased charter halibut harvest, the crossover will lend some controls to growth, reducing impacts to subsistence and sport fishermen associated with localized depletion. Finally, the regulatory changes needed to implement the crossover proposal were largely identified and drafted when the Council adopted the charter IFQ program in 2001. Attached please find a copy of the crossover proposal as provided to the stakeholder committee earlier this month and later revised through discussions with charter operators.

In sum, the crossover proposal creates a win:win arrangement for the charter and commercial sectors by allowing a limited and ongoing compensated reallocation between sectors responsive to the individual interests of charter operators and clients. The necessity of implementing harvest control measures in the charter fishery for 2007 and 2008, and the very real possibility of triggering a 2C GHLL reduction by 2008, make the crossover proposal an essential pressure relief valve for an explosive situation.

The halibut management situation in 2C has reached a crisis level due to NMFS' repeated policy reversals and management failures; it is incumbent on NMFS to provide the necessary staff and resources to analyze and implement the crossover proposal in time for the 2008 season in 2C and no later than the 2009 season in 3A.

Initiate analysis of management measures for 3A: At the Council's Portland meeting, Council member Gerry Merrigan noticed the public that he would likely move to initiate analysis of 3A charter harvest control measures at the Council's March meeting. The Coalition would like to remind the Council that the 3A CEY was exceeded in 2006, the overage again driven by charter harvest in excess of the area GHLL. The Halibut Coalition recommends that the Council initiate analysis of GHLL management measures for Area 3A to follow those in Area 2C, with implementation scheduled no later than 2009. The charter harvest in Area 3A will continue to grow and will exceed the GHLL according to ADFG's own estimates, despite prohibition of skipper and crew retention of halibut and under any of the data scenarios generated by the Department.

**C-1(g) Halibut Allocations:** The Halibut Coalition agrees that the GHLL must be changed from a guideline to a hard allocation expressed as a fixed percentage that fluctuates with abundance. All sectors need to participate in conserving the resource, accepting harvest reductions when the biomass declines. Holding the charter sector fixed floor, as recommended by some charter organizations, will only exacerbate localized depletion problems during times of declining biomass. Finally, the hard allocation should be the percentages associated with the GHLLs as published in 2000. The 2000 GHLLs adopted by the Council included 25% for additional growth. The Council has gone on record several times since rescinding the IFQ plan that they did not intend to allow a reallocation to

occur. By way of reminder: in April 2006, the Council by unanimous vote established that:

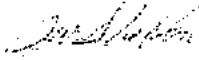
***"...In the meantime, the Council commits [to] using a combination of Federal and State authority to manage each sector, charter and commercial, to the allocations established by the GHL published in the Federal Register until superseded by the Council's long-term guided sport halibut sector plan."***

Commercial fishermen have made investments and mortgaged their homes based on the Council record. To reverse course now and re-allocate a higher percentage to the charter sector will only serve to erode the creditability of the Council process. The Coalition supports Council action that addresses this issue in a manner consistent with the Council record and previous Council commitments.

In closing: on behalf of the Halibut Coalition's 13 member groups and over 400 individual members, we respectfully submit these comments for your consideration. Thank you for your time and attention.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Jev Shelton  
Halibut Coalition

Copy: Senator Ted Stevens  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Congressman Don Young  
Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, Department of Commerce  
NMFS Alaska Region  
RADM Gene Brooks, USCG, Commander (d), Seventeenth Coast Guard District  
Dr Bruce Leaman, Executive Director, International Pacific Halibut Commission

MAILED  
MAR 17 2007  
ALASKA

Zach LaPerriere  
2212 Sawmill Creek Road  
Sitka, AK 99835  
907 747-5063  
zachiaperriere@gmail.com

March 17, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Council Members,

I feel compelled to share with you a Southeast Alaskan's perspectives on halibut allocation. Please allow me to give a little background on myself and my positions.

First, I have lived in Sitka for seven years, and before that remotely in Southeast, Juneau, and in Ketchikan, where I grew up. I am a 34 year old general contractor and build custom homes, additions, decks, and the like. I chose to return to Southeast Alaska after completing my university education because I love this area and its people. For the record, I have no interests in commercial or <sup>charter</sup> ~~sport~~ fishing. <sub>ZL</sub>

I have friends on both sides of the allocation fence: longline skippers and crew as well as charter captains and crew. I believe both can exist sustainably forever, with the correct management.

I'll try to be brief. First, I don't like watching commercial longline fisherman have their quotas reduced because the charter industry has no regulation. Together with salmon fisherman, longliners are the solid backbone of this region's economy, and have been from the beginning of European settlement here. In pure economic terms, commercial fisherman contribute more to our economy. They own homes, they operate sustainable businesses, and the majority live here year round.

I support returning the charter fleet to an allocation of some historical catch before things got crazy around here. To me that means pre-2000. Less is more, I believe, and with the future of ecotourism, less consumptive experiences are the future of tourism here. People come here to sport fish, but the experience should be more important than taking home several 50 pound boxes of fish.

Another management tool I believe is critical is to end catch and release charter fishing. Letting the 40 pound halibut go to try for the 400 pounder is foolish. Do we manage the charter fleet for this quasi-bycatch?

And furthermore, I "sport" fish to feed my family, but in reality I am putting food on the table. That's subsistence. It's time to manage with three allocations: commercial longliners, commercial charter sport fisherman, and local subsistence fisherman. In the ten years I have been "sport" fishing in the greater Sitka area, it has become much more difficult to find a halibut close to town.

Returning to economics, from my perspective the charter fleet may make more money per pound of fish directly, but I would argue less money stays here. They don't pay fish taxes, they don't pay sales tax here past the first \$1,000 dollars of a charter, and ultimately they have driven the cost of housing here through the roof by buying up homes, industrial, and commercial property for lodging. My waterfront property has quadrupled in assessed value in ten years. Every Sitkan pays the unseen cost of real estate markup: from their property taxes, to when teachers and hospital professionals won't move to Sitka because housing is unaffordable, to the lack of manufacturing because our industrial land has been bought up for charter lodges.

In closing, I am not opposed to charter fishing. But its unchecked growth has left a sour taste in the mouth of this Alaskan. To make a parallel with the timber industry, industrial logging is over after just 50 years. It went too far. It wiped out too much. Small scale value-added logging is sustainable forever. We can export whole logs or guitars, but not both. The same is true with the charter fishing industry. It is in desperate need of management before it collapses under its own weight. Please manage the industry with an eye for keeping control and economic contributions local. The charter lobby has an incredible amount of money, and I encourage you to listen to the hardworking commercial fisherman who are asking for their livelihoods to be protected.

If you would like to talk about the issue further, I encourage you to contact me. Thanks for your time and dedication to management.

Best regards,



Zach LaPerriere

P.O. Box 735  
Whittier, Alaska 99693

March 21, 2007

Dear NPFMC members,

I'd like to take this opportunity to pass on some thoughts and concerns regarding ongoing charter halibut issues. Thank you, in advance, for taking time to review this. I know you will see many other pieces of correspondence regarding ongoing issues related to the charter halibut industry. Your decisions not only impact halibut charter operators, but a multitude of supporting businesses and recreational fishers who rely on charters to meet their halibut fishing needs.

My name is David Goldstein. I own and operate PWS Eco-Charters based in Whittier, Alaska. Halibut fishing is a mainstay of my business. I started my business in 2000 on a part time basis while working for the National Weather Service (NWS). In 2003, I retired from the NWS after a great 37 year career, and turned my business full time.

Presently, I live in Whittier year 'round, am a Whittier City Councilor, a member of the Whittier Chamber of Commerce, a board member of the Alaska Charter Association, a member of the Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association, a member of AWRTA and the AMCC. I was a founding member of the Whittier Museum Association, am on the OSPR committee of the PWS RCAC and, until recently, was a member of the Whittier Flotilla of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. I have been working on a new boat for slightly more than 5 years and am now building it. I plan on having it ready, as a sub-chapter "T" boat, for charters this May.

I support the implementation of the proposed Halibut Charter Moratorium (on a temporary basis) until a permanent solution is found. I believe that it is critical to implement this moratorium as soon as possible. To delay implementation, I think, would exponentially increase the likelihood that yet another opportunity to resolve ongoing charter halibut issues will fall by the wayside. Delays will only allow opposition to grow, and then we will be right back to where we were from 2001 to 2005. Personally, I'd like to see the proposed moratorium implemented in 2007 or, at the very latest, 2008!

I believe the proposed moratorium should be as inclusive as possible. As I understand it, present threshold is at least 5 trips for inclusion? Although 5 trips is probably a realistic number, it will cause in excess of 300 businesses to cease fishing halibut. I can live with this, knowing that the moratorium is temporary and that these businesses will be "inconvenienced" for only a few years, at most.

As far as transferability, please make this as simple as possible. I'd suggest allowing everyone who qualifies for the moratorium the right to transfer their permit, **but only for the amount they qualified for to get into the moratorium**. To pick an arbitrary number, like 20, to separate transferability from non-transferability will establish two

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 2007  
NPFMC

classes of moratorium qualifiers. To what purpose? This just gives more to argue about. Finally, using data from 2004 and 2005 logbooks seems reasonable.

Following closely behind the proposed moratorium is the desperate need to review the charter halibut allocation. The present GHL that was developed in the late 1990s is now out-of-date and flawed. Charter operators need a GHL that more adequately addresses the increase in tourism to Alaska and the increasing State population. Obviously, the numbers over the GHL in both 3A and 2C show that the assumptions made in the late 1990s were vastly different than the realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This needs to be corrected with an updated GHL that reflects current needs. Whether the new GHL is a "floating" one, or "fixed" one, should really be decided after an economic review of these options is conducted. Ultimately, the charter halibut GHL needs to be fair and equitable and allow reasonable growth for the industry.

In reviewing whether the State of Alaska or the federal government should manage the halibut fishery, my thinking is that it should be with the federal government. State control may result in mid-season management decisions that would adversely impact the halibut charter industry.

Finally, I sincerely hope that a permanent solution will be found to resolve ongoing issues between the recreation (which charters are a part of) and commercial sectors of the halibut industry. At this time, I don't think an IFQ program is a viable solution, as it goes against the concept that halibut are a public resource. An IFQ program essentially "privatizes" a part of the resource. In fact, I truly believe that the time is ripe to develop a plan to address all sectors of the halibut fishery, including subsistence. From my observations, the Rasmussen Plan goes a long way to addressing ongoing problems the charter halibut industry faces.

Intense competition for halibut resource in local areas has resulted in locally depleted stocks. There is increased friction between sectors for access to halibut. Allocation issues in the fishery are ongoing. I believe that a comprehensive plan should not only address current problems within the halibut fishery, but future issues that may develop due to cyclical decreases in numbers of halibut. I urge the Council to ultimately move toward a management plan for halibut that will work for all.

Respectfully,

David Goldstein  
PWS Eco-Charters  
[www.pwseco.com](http://www.pwseco.com)

Ms Stephanie Madson, Chair.  
NPFMC  
605 W. 4th St., Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
PZAR Chairman Madson  
Linetuqs:

REC-100-09/21/07  
MAR 2 2007  
DIPLOMA

In regard to current discussion of quota shares and allocations between commercial long-line fishermen and charter boats and lodge owners with individually fished skiff fleets, I would like to express a few observations from my small fishing village perspective.

I am 63 years old, and a life-long Alaskan. My history in commercial long-lining halibut began at 6 years old, while long-lining halibut, out of an open skiff, with my dad. As the years have passed, I don't remember one, without halibut fishing commercially, as an adjunct to commercial salmon fishing. I fished with my dad, my family, my husband, my brother, assorted deck-hands and so on. The early years were pulling halibut skates by hand out of a variety of small open boats. So, the point being, I am not alone, a great percentage of commercial long-liners come from a long and valid tradition. It was earned on many levels, not only purchased or allotted, when the IFQ program emerged.

I feel the IFQ Program was a good step, and appreciation must go to the IPHC for their management efforts. It's possible to remember the past when halibut became quite scarce.



there is no doubt, in my opinion, the resource needs very careful management.

It seems critical to support and respect a sustainable commercial long line fleet, who have paid their dues literally and figuratively. They have done the work, suffered the weather changing conditions and invested in a traditional future.

The recent event of vast impact, from largely outsider (out of state) influences, fishing on stocks, which have been protected from the wild card of exploitation, is one not easily seen or planned on. The charter/boat USZ is growing rapidly and must in all fairness and respect, be accountable, as we all are in this resource USZ.

In managing this resource (i.e. halibut) for now and the future we must maintain and support the commercial long line fleet already in place. Their IFQ share should be sacrosanct and unchanged - held on a steady course. The charter/boat industry needs to be recognized in and controlled. The commercial long line allocation or percentage of quota should be locked in and out of discussion for change from any direction. How else can an IFQ holder plan and depend on a future you have invested in. The new USZ groups who come along must not be allowed to unplug on established pacts. Thank you for your time.

Best for Halibut  
and the future,

Darlene Larson

Bx 70

Pom. Baker, AK

99725

Untitled

MAR 7 2007  
M.D.F.I.C.

Ms Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
NPFMC  
605 west 4th street, suite 306  
Anchorage, AK. 99501

Dear Chair Madsen,

I'm writing in regards to the Halibut allocation issues. My background in this fishery, is lifelong. My parents came to S.E. Alaska during the early part of WW2, to begin fishing careers. They trolled & longlined halibut from the early 1940's thru most of the 1970's. I too, have, & am pursuing fishing as a career. I would like to offer some comments on the issues at hand.

Subsistence, longlining, & sport angling have been the traditional user groups of impact. Relatively recently a charter/lodge industry has burgeoned from insignificance to a major impact player, with the ability (if left unrestrained) to even outstrip the longline fishery in some areas.

I believe the charter boats & lodges (that rent boats, but don't guide) must be regulated together; otherwise all these issues will resurface again, with another shark bite aimed at the T.A.C.

To keep the generational fishery (longling) stable, I would advocate their % of the quota be hardened, NO reallocation, & no compensating the other INDUSTRY'S overdrafts!

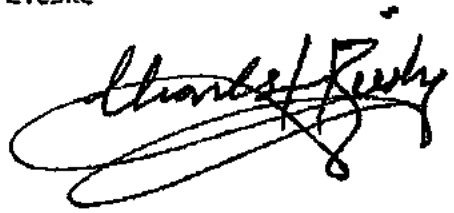
In the area I live, Point Baker, (in the island chain of Southeastern Alaska) most of the charter/lodge industry is non-resident, as is their clientele. This is an negative impact on local subsistence, & the seasonal fishing economy, in an area that does not need such impacts.

I would be in favor of the state of Alaska getting management of the sport halibut fishery; as it would be able to integrate it a whole of sport fishing regulation. Also it should have faster reaction times to devaloping problems. Regulation of, & ENFORCEMENT are going to be real bearcats, it will be better to have one entity doing it.

in conclusion, while there are many souls claiming "stakeholder status" we should be wary, after all pirates were once stakeholders in trans-oceanic shipping!

Sincerely,

Charles zieske



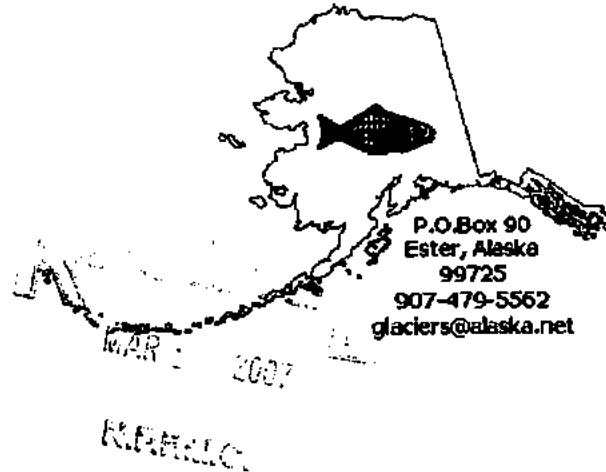
## Halibut Charter Coalition of Alaska

March 21, 2007

Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

By Fax: 907-271-2817

RE: Charter Halibut Moratorium



Madame Chair and Council members:

The Halibut Charter Coalition of Alaska (HCCA) represents established halibut Charter operators throughout South Central and Southeast Alaska in nine ports and operating areas including Homer, Deep Creek/Niniichik, Seward, Prince William Sound, Juneau, Petersburg, Prince of Wales Island and Ketchikan. Currently three of our members serve on the Charter Halibut Stakeholders Committee. Many of our members have been involved in the Charter Halibut issue at the North Council since the very beginning in the early 1990s.

The HCCA supports the following principles concerning the proposed Charter Halibut Moratorium:

- Maintain the Control Date of December 9, 2005
- Establish an adequate initial allocation that is representative of the charter industry harvest during the Moratorium qualification period of 2004/2005
- Consider the Stakeholders recommendation for a two-tiered entry level threshold of five (5) trips per year during the qualifying years of 2004 or 2005 with a secondary threshold of twenty (20) trips before a moratorium permit can be transferred.
- If the two-tiered threshold cannot be considered then the threshold should be set as high as possible in order to deal with the inherent latent capacity that exists within the charter fleet.

Further, the HCCA would like to express its concern over any attempts to delegate management of halibut to the State of Alaska at this time. In spite of the length of years it has taken to deal with the charter halibut issue, HCCA members have a comfort level with the current deliberative process at the NPFMC and do not want to introduce another layer of bureaucracy and management into the process. And, regarding the NPFMC process, the HCCA urges the Council to proceed as rapidly as possible toward a permanent solution to the charter halibut issue which has destabilized both the commercial and the charter halibut industries. Our preferred solution remains an orderly and compensated allocation shift that will merge with the commercial IFQ system and allow the use of commercial halibut quota to relieve the pressure on both sectors.

Respectfully,

Larry "Mac" McQuarrie  
Region 2C Vice-President

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Chair Madsen,

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. The current GHL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



ROGER J. HENDERSON  
2809 D HPR  
SITKA AK 99835

# AUKE BAY SPORTFISHING & SIGHTSEEING

9111 Miner Ct. Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 789-2562  
E-Mail: [alaska@aukebay.com](mailto:alaska@aukebay.com)  
Web: [www.aukebay.com](http://www.aukebay.com)



March 21, 2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252

MAR 21 2007  
ANCHORAGE

Dear Council Members,

I support a permanent solution to the guided sport halibut issues and would like to see the solution implemented ASAP!

I support a trip threshold of 20 trips in either 2004 or 2005 as a means of determining qualification for a permanent guided sport halibut license. A trip threshold of 5 should be used to determine a non-transferable permit. The permanent and non-transferable license should be available by 2007 in order to keep further halibut restrictions by NMFS and IPHC in check.

Sincerely,

Captain Todd Wicks, President  
H & H Auke Bay Sportfishing and Sightseeing, LLC

## Homer Charter Association

P. O. Box 148 Homer, Alaska. 99603 (907) 235-2282 phone/fax.

March 21, 2007

Stephanie Madsen, Chairperson  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK. 99501-2252

Madam Chair,

The Homer Charter Association is a trade association of 32 paid members providing halibut fishing charter services from the port of Homer. Our membership consists of 27 six passenger vessels and 14 inspected vessels ranging from twelve to thirty four passengers. Some of our members make two trips a day but most only make a single trip per day.

Our season runs from early April when halibut fishing is done while outfitting for black bear hunts through the peak of the tourism season on into September. Most members report making in excess of 90 trips per season with some reporting as many as 130 trips annually. The overall carriage of the members of the HCA is in excess of 46,700 guided halibut recreational anglers in any given year.

Our membership was here in 1993, they were here in 1997 when the GHL was voted on and approved, they were here in 2001 when the inclusion into the commercial IFQ plan was voted on and approved, and they are still here today. We are the traditional and historical major service providers in Homer. Your actions will impact our association members more than any other single port.

We unanimously support the implementation of the moratorium to entry into the charter industry while the long term solution is developed. We support tight moratorium qualifying criteria to address the latent capacity that may be activated while the management plan is developed causing a repeat of the 2005 National Marine Fisheries Service fiasco. Those members totally dependant on the rational management of our industry are pleading with you to consider the past 14 years enduring the irrational economic environment they have had and encourage you to create a plan that is cost efficient, fair to all halibut users, causes equal management requirements within the charter industry and puts the future business decisions into our hands just as the commercial halibut fleet enjoys.

We support using the December 09, 2005 date and a minimum trip threshold of 10 trips per season for qualifying. The usage threshold for transferability should be 20 trips and above, for anyone to claim they are dependant on the halibut charter business with less than 20 trips a season is not factual. To consider a moratorium permit that had less than 20 trips be transferable but held to 20 trips or less would create an entry level moratorium permit that would be affordable and

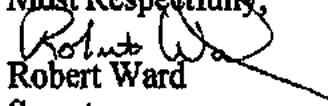
These small volume operators are not a problem and they should not be eliminated due to your mismanagement and the crisis situation you have put us in. They could continue to operate as they do and yet they could transfer their permit to another keeping their business plan in tact for a prospective buyer or an entry level person not yet operating enough to justify a fully qualified permit.

You have studied the halibut charter industry for 14 years now, creating a logbook that is now about as credible and verifiable as it can be so you should have some idea of what this industry is and what it needs for viability into the future.

We do not want a one size fits all management plan for the long term solution, we all have different business models and that is what has kept the competition between charter companies what it is. We want a future that provides each business the opportunity to model it's service to their chosen market and know year by year what product they will be offering, or the means to modify their resource access to meet that market.

Please keep in mind who the Homer Charter Association provides services to and allow us to continue providing the services to the public segment that prefers to catch their own halibut for their consumption while respecting the segment that prefers to purchase their halibut through commerce.

Most Respectfully,

  
Robert Ward  
Secretary



Stephanie Madsen, Chairperson  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK. 99501-2252

MAR 20 2007  
MEMO  
March 12, 2007

Dear Madam Chair,

My name is Robert Ward, I have owned and operated A-WARD CHARTERS, a highly successful halibut ONLY fishing charter service for the past 21 years. My home is located in Anchor Point, but I operate from the Homer Boat Harbor. I have participated in the halibut charter service in every capacity from boatwasher and baitboy to my current prestigious position of owner/captain, which still includes boatwasher and baitboy. I started in 1987 with a 6 passenger boat and I still have my single 6 passenger boat. My history is typical, time and performance has grown my business through client satisfaction, with good returning customer numbers and now I consider my business to be at capacity even though there are still annual and seasonal variables that influence my final results.

I request you follow the desires of the majority of the current operating fleet and impose a moratorium on new entry into the halibut charter industry in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A immediately, using the December 09, 2005 date. I support the strongest minimum qualifying number of bottomfish trips to prevent the latent capacity to be utilized especially if we will be facing a license limitation plan as a long term solution. If a person is making fewer than 20 bottom fish trips in a season he should be retracted to that number to prevent increases in the latent capacity but included in the moratorium. These limited moratorium permits will create entry level opportunities for those considering a charter business.

I support the most recent years for qualifying and maintaining their operation into the year prior to implementation. The data available today is more than sufficient to make this decision with sound basis. The current logbook data has provided the council with more than enough harvest and vessel level customer carriage information to write many management plans, please use it.

I still support a long term plan that will allow each operator to increase his business volume independently and will face resource increases and reductions in an equal manner with all others business resource users, and a plan that will provide me the opportunity to grow my business volume beyond the current constraints of the GHM through compensated allocation shifts from the commercial sector to my business.

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council is the body responsible for halibut allocation decisions and with a rational management plan the industry will not need any added government burocreacy layers nor should we

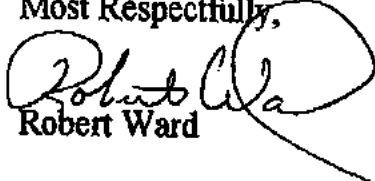


be burdened with those extra costs. The most efficient and effective use of our limited resources and that of the consumers that utilize our services is a direct market based allocation plan.

This has been a wonderful 14 year experience but I think we have all had enough of each other and the halibut charter management issue and we should all get on to other more pressing issues like just fishing for a living, or just living a regular life not in a hotel.

Thank you for considering my request.

Most Respectfully,

  
Robert Ward

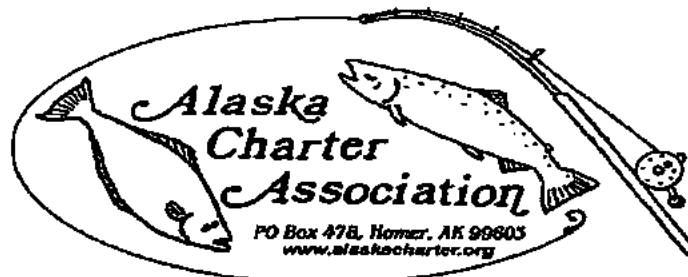
**Comments on Halibut Charter Moratorium**

Council Members,

I do not agree with a moratorium on sport fishing. This is a public resource and charter boats are merely transportation, not commercial fisherman. I feel the council must adhere to both the Magnuson Stevens act as well as the Halibut act of 1982 in their decisions. This must remain an open resource and you should not take it upon yourselves to privatize a public resource. In the event a moratorium does get enacted I will donate to the legal fund to fight this battle. Thank you for your time and efforts.

Melvin Roe  
10739 Chiniak Dr  
Kodiak, Alaska  
99615  
907-487-2707

*Handwritten:* [unclear]  
MAR 21 2007  
R.F.F.I.C.



*"To Preserve and Protect the Rights and Resources of Alaska's Sport Fishermen"*

March 21, 2007

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
 Anchorage, Ak. 99501-2252

Re: NPFMC March 28-April 3, 2007 Meeting,  
 Charter Halibut Management Agenda Items

Dear Madame Chair,

As the ACA has stated before, it is imperative that a comprehensive socio-economic study be conducted. This study must encompass a parallel review of both the commercial and charter/sport fishing sectors' contributions to the economic well being of coastal communities as well as the state of Alaska. The sooner this study is conducted, the better. Its findings can be applied to the wide range of measures this council is facing on charter issues, and it is necessary to incorporate its findings for well-founded decisions. Before any restrictive measures are placed on any group, the public and decision makers should have the best and most recent data available to them. This study would provide extremely important information that is critical to well-informed decisions. We strongly urge this council to order this study through NMFS immediately.

As found in our previous testimony, the Alaska Charter Association does support a moratorium on the halibut charter fleet that will sunset in three years or until a permanent solution is adopted. We strongly feel that for the moratorium's timely enacted and success, it must be as inclusive as possible and be consistently applied for all qualifying entrants. There have been a number of proposals put forward to this council that would prevent a high number of charter operators from qualifying and/or being able to transfer their permits if they do qualify. We feel that if the moratorium's qualifying criteria is too restrictive and not equally applied among recipients, it will prevent or hamper the moratorium's passage.

The ACA does support the Stakeholders Committee recommendations concerning military vessels. If those vessels' catches are included in the GHL, then their vessels should be included in the moratorium. If the military vessels are excluded from the moratorium, then their catches should not be included in the GHL but included in the non-guided sectors catch. In regards to CQEs, the recommended minimum qualifying vessel figures should be adopted with adjustments to the GHL to allow for their growth.

Although the ACA is supportive of having reciprocal agreements between the State and Federal governments to exchange information, fishery data and enforcement capabilities, the ACA is hesitant to provide support for delegation of authority to the state of Alaska. We feel that it is necessary to

meet all APA, NEPA and other requirements as outlined in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. From a practical standpoint, there should not be a duplication of effort between the two levels of governments. But if all of the federal decision making requirements cannot be met by the State, the authority should remain within the federal domain.

To accurately assess sport fish discard mortality, the NPFMC should contract with the IPHC to conduct a study using traditional sport fishing gear with a variety of hook types. Data used on this topic was borrowed from a study using set gear over 40 years ago, and the results were extrapolated and applied to sports gear. In order for the mortality factor to be correct, a new study should be employed using only rods and reels and a variety of hook types.

In area 2C, GHL measures are being proposed that will effectively reduce halibut charter harvest amounts. Prior to implementation of any restrictive measure and absent of a biological concern, the ACA believes it is imperative that a comprehensive socio-economic study be conducted. If actions are taken that are too restrictive, the negative economic consequences to communities can outweigh any perceived gains in reducing charter harvests. This council should know what those costs to communities are prior to taking action. Recommended measures by the ACA that do require more thorough analysis are as follows:

- No skipper/crew fish (can be addressed with an annual bag limit)
- Annual bag limit
- One trip within a 24-hour period
- Slot limits

1) One fish any size, one under 32"

2) Two fish less than 40", or one fish over 50"

Two new plans were submitted to the Stakeholders Committee during their last meeting: the IFQ Crossover Plan and the Rasmuson Plan. The ACA opposes the IFQ Crossover Plan. We do support the Rasmuson Plan and will be working to further refine this plan. We urge this council to encourage the Stakeholders Committee to assist in enhancing the plan, too.

On the allocation issue, the ACA strongly supports the Stakeholders Committee's motion: "to maintain the traditional (2-fish) bag limit, preserve historical length of the charter season, and as much as possible, prevent any in-season management measures." All of the components within this motion are vital to the charter industry. The allocation needs to be sufficient enough to meet these requirements and allow for growth. As mentioned previously, the ACA strongly believes that a comprehensive socio-economic study needs to be complete as soon as possible. The information from the study needs to be incorporated in the allocation decision. Please draft and approve a motion to conduct this study.

Sincerely yours,

  
Greg Sutter  
President

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
 Chair  
 North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
 605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
 Anchorage, AK 99501

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to rule out the use of J hooks and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you.

*Gary Egerton* GARY EGERTON

709 H.P.R. # 3  
SITKA, AK. 99835

Kelsey Skovholt

JAY Skovholt  
48174 Westgate Rd.  
Nestor, OR. 97492

Jay Skovholt

DAVID M. CLARK  
159 GREENWOOD AVE. SOUTH LAKE TAHOE  
CALIF

DAVID

Mack Stevens  
P.O. Box 1977  
Wrangell AK 99929

m.c. [signature]

Walter C Postwood  
BOX 830  
SITKA AK  
99835

907-747-5943

Calvin Lindvall  
1804 Pacific Dr  
Delta, BC

[signature]

DAWN STEVENS  
BOX 805  
WRANGELL, AK

[signature]

Gilbert Knutson  
231 KATHIAN ST # B-12  
SITKA AK 99835

907-747-4517

[signature]

Don Stevin  
P.O. Box 1572  
Wrangell  
907-874-3942

John R. Swanson  
FN Logan T.  
PO Box 1514  
Petersburg, Alaska  
99833

Samuel Belfiori  
1605 N.E. Highland St.  
Portland, OR 97211  
206 251-1283

[signature]

Nick Eide  
Petersburg, AK

Anthony C. Sine  
[signature]  
Box # 6921 Sitka AK  
Zip # 99835  
Phone  
1-907-738-0936

FL Nordic Son

ROBERT DAILEY  
P.O. Box 1555  
WARD CREE, AK  
99928

DARRELL POWERS  
BOX 618  
WRANGELL AK  
99929

YOUNES KOCORIN  
BOX 6394  
SITKA AK 99835  
907-738-0594  
[signature]

Tim Closek  
Lots 5, Block 2  
Second Street  
Barren of Warm Springs, AK  
nty A Un 401-31-2358  
707-747-2797

Nathaniel Lara  
PO Box 6013  
Sitka AK  
*[Signature]*

Warren J. Hall  
P.O. Box 9249  
Ketchikan, AK 99901  
*[Signature]*

MIKE MEYER  
P.O. Box 7  
GUSTAVUS AK  
99826  
*[Signature]*

Paul Rieux  
3878 Halibut Point Rd  
Sitka AK 99835  
F/V Cobra  
*[Signature]*

Leslie Eames  
P.O. Box 984  
Warm Springs, OR.  
97761

Jon Dean  
*[Signature]*  
F/V Legacy

Kendall Folkert  
Kendall Folkert  
Box 6497  
Sitka AK 99835

Patrick Crenna  
Patrick Crenna  
5456 APR  
Sitka, AK

LEE KRAUSE  
*[Signature]*  
F/V Legacy

Douglas Dabrowski  
1311 SMC #13  
Sitka, AK 99835  
F/V COBRA  
Dm Demi

James J. Mill  
JAMEL MILL  
BOX 1184  
PETERSBURG  
-99833-

DAVID R. LYONS  
David R. Lyons  
F/V KRAKEN

KARL JORDAN  
*[Signature]*  
F/V SASSY

*[Signature]*  
Jim Turcott  
BX 1653  
HOMER, AK.  
F/V Constance

Nels K Otness  
FV  
Aleutian Spirit  
Commander - FV

TINA KRAUSE  
Tina Krause  
FV Legacy

TO: THE EDITOR

RECEIVED  
FEB 14 2007

2-14-07

NPFMC

**RE: THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME (ADF&G) REPORTED FIGURES SHOULD BE AUDITED FOR ACCURACY**

According to the data thru the year 2006, reported and published by ADF&G, there were twenty-seven-thousand, eight-hundred-ninety-eight (27,898) FEWER Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses purchased statewide in 2006 than in 2005 ( 526,349 - 498,451 = 27,898 DECREASE in licenses purchased in 2006). This I believe to be factual.

Keeping this figure in mind, the ADF&G then reports and publishes suspect-figures showing an INCREASE of 4,755 Charter Boat Clients harvesting 13,094 MORE Halibut from Charter Boats in the year 2006 over 2005 statewide when combining Area 3-A and Area 2-C. HOW CAN THIS BE FACTUAL?

**ACCORDING TO ADF&G REPORTED AND PUBLISHED SUSPECT-FIGURES:**

2005: clients on charter boats: area 3-A/133,773 + area 2-C/77,610 = 211,383 combined total

2006: clients on charter boats: area 3-A/128,438 + area 2-C/87,700 = 216,138 combined total

These suspect-figures report an INCREASE of 4,755 Charter Boat Clients in 2006 over 2005 when in fact there was a DECREASE of 27,898 sport fishing licenses purchased!

2005: halibut harvested on charter boats: area 3-A/206,902 + area 2-C/102,206 = 309,108 combined total

2006: halibut harvested on charter boats: area 3-A/216,551 + area 2-C/105,651 = 322,202 combined total

These suspect-figures report an INCREASE of 13,094 halibut harvested on Charter Boats in 2006 over 2005 when in fact there was a DECREASE of 27,898 sport fishing licenses purchased!

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) uses these estimated suspect-figures "produced" without audit by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) as "precise data" to "manage" the Halibut Fishery. The NPFMC reported the Guideline Harvest Limit (GHL) for Charter Fishing was EXCEEDED in 2006 with these suspect-figures. The IPHC has proposed to DECREASE the Charter Fishing bag-limit by fifty-percent (50%) from two fish to ONE with these suspect-figures. Thousands of Alaskan's whose lives, livelihoods, businesses, net-worth, and futures depend on the Recreational Sport Fishing Industry and how it is managed or mismanaged DESERVE BETTER!

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468



TO: THE EDITOR

RECEIVED  
MAR 10 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

**RE: WHILE NEGOTIATING AWAY OUR RECREATIONAL FISHING RIGHTS TO THE NPFMC, ASK YOURSELF THIS:**

- #1 The NPFMC formulated and implemented a GHJ that was NOT supposed to be a HARD CAP, and then uses the GHJ as a HARD CAP to restrict the Recreational Fishery. Ask yourself, what did the NPFMC implement to restrict the Commercial Fishery?
- #2 The IPHC proposed to implement a one-fish bag-limit to restrict the Recreational Fishery. Ask yourself, what did the IPHC propose to restrict the Commercial Fishery?
- #3 The ADF&G has issued an Emergency Order to prohibit the retention of guide and crew fish on charter boats to restrict the Recreational Fishery. Ask yourself, what Emergency Order did the ADF&G issue to restrict the Commercial fishery?
- #4 The ADF&G is now proposing to implement a Limited Entry Fishing Guide Program to restrict the Recreational Fishery. Ask yourself, what is the ADF&G proposing to restrict the Commercial fishery?
- #5 The NPFMC is now in the process of formulating and implementing a Moratorium on Charter Boats to restrict the Recreational Fishery. Ask yourself, what is the NPFMC in the process of formulating and implementing to restrict the Commercial Fishery?
- #6 The Recreational Fishery ONLY takes approximately 10% of the annual Halibut harvest. Ask yourself, why is the IPHC, the NPFMC, and ADF&G ALL targeting the Recreational Fishery and NOT the Commercial Fishery who takes 90% of the annual Halibut harvest?

**SUMMARY & ANALYSIS:**

There are a long-list of these kinds of restrictions being planned to be placed against the Recreational Fishery in the near future! The IPHC, the NPFMC, and ADF&G are ALL working together to regulate Recreational Sport Fishing for Halibut in Alaska into about **HALF OF WHAT IT IS NOW! THAT MEANS HALF OF YOU WILL SOON TO BE OUT OF BUSINESS!** Ask yourself, why would they want to do that?

**HERE IS THE ANSWER:** The Halibut Fishery in Alaska is a FULLY UTILIZED FISHERY meaning the Commercial Fishery cannot harvest and sell any MORE fish per year than they are now harvesting and selling **unless they get them from the Recreational Fishery share.** The ONLY thing that can save the **HALF OF YOU** who are about to be put out of business is a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut. The **HALF OF YOU** about to be put out of business better get behind the (FMP) because **THE OTHER HALF** does not care if you go out of business! They look at it as eliminating half the competition. Which half are you in? Maybe you won't know until **YOU** go out of business. The Commercial Fishery doesn't care which half of the Recreational Fishery is eliminated, just as long as **HALF IS ELIMINATED!** Their Plan to "Divide and Conquer" and it is working!

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468

TO: THE EDITOR

3-13-07

**ARE THE FEDERAL LAWS WORTH THE PAPER THEY ARE WRITTEN ON ?**

If the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) can choose TO IGNORE and TO NOT be in compliance with following provisions of these two Federal Laws it must mean that they, the two Federal Laws, are not worth the paper they are written on:

**Magnuson-Stevens Act. Sec. 2. (b)** It is therefore declared to be the purpose of the U.S. Congress in this Act (4) to provide for the preparation and implementation, in accordance with the National Standards, a Fishery Management Plan for each fishery.

**Halibut Act of 1982. Sec. 773c. General Responsibility. (c)** Regional Fishery Management Council involvement - If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign halibut fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocation shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen, BASED UPON THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS IN EXISTING FEDERAL LAW, and carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the halibut fishing privileges.

Is it not a fair assumption that the Government Agency "involved", the NPFMC, has chosen to ignore these provisions of these two Federal Laws? Is the NPFMC above the Law? Are these two Federal Laws worth the paper they are written on?

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468

TO: THE EDITOR

2-23-07

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2007

**N.P.F.M.C.**

**RE: THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC) IS OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE NORTHERN PACIFIC HALIBUT ACT OF 1982, AND THE CREDITABILITY AND INTEGRITY OF (NPFMC) IS IN QUESTION**

The Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 states: 773c. General Responsibility.— (c) Regional Fishery Management Council involvement - If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign halibut fishing privileges among various groups of United States fishermen, such allocation shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen, based upon the rights and obligations in existing Federal Law (referring here to the Magnuson-Stevens Act as existing Federal Law), and carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the halibut fishing privileges.

The NPFMC is NOT IN COMPLIANCE with Provision 773c. which is their "General Responsibility."— as Mandated in the Halibut Act of 1982.

How can the NPFMC have ANY CREDITABILITY in any negotiations affecting the Halibut Fishery while they are so flagrantly OUT OF COMPLIANCE with the very Federal Law THEY CITE as the Law under which they "manage" the Halibut Fishery? How can they be TRUSTED to NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH, any other issues affecting the Halibut Fishery, while they so flagrantly disregard Provision 773c. of the Halibut Act of 1982? Should their CREDITABILITY AND INTEGRITY BE HELD UP FOR QUESTION?

Are we, the Recreational Halibut Fishing Public and the Charter Operators who service them, ALL just a "bunch of sheep being led to slaughter"? Wake-up before it is TOO LATE!

Bruce Warner [www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org](http://www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org)

Bruce Warner

907-235-6468

TO: THE EDITOR

RECEIVED

2007

FEB 24 2007

**RE: THE NPFMC NEEDS A FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT INTERPRETATION AND DETERMINATION OF THE MEANING OF "FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARE" AND "AN EXCESSIVE SHARE" OF THE HALIBUT FISHING PRIVILEGES.**

The NPFMC presently allocates a 90% share of the halibut fishing privileges to the Commercial Halibut Fishery, and allocates a 10% share of the halibut fishing privileges to the Public Halibut Fishery. They feel this a "fair and equitable share" for the Public Halibut Fishery, and they feel this is NOT "an excessive share" for the Commercial Halibut Fishery. Public 10% and Commercial 90%. I wonder why that is?

The NPFMC claims to "manage" the Halibut Fisheries under the Mandates of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982.

The Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 states in: Section 773c. NPFMC Responsibility: "such allocations shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen" and "no entity shall acquire an excessive share" of the "halibut fishing privileges".

The NPFMC obviously needs a Federal District Court to Render an Interpretation to Determine the Meaning of "fair and equitable share" and "an excessive share" of the "halibut fishing privileges". Do you think the Federal Court will agree with the NPFMC that a Public 10% share is "fair and equitable" and a Commercial 90% share is NOT "an excessive share"?

Bruce Warner [www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org](http://www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org)

Bruce Warner

907-235-0468

**TO: THE EDITOR**

ALASKA

**RE: THE BASIC QUESTIONS THE NPFMC NEEDS TO ANSWER FOR US ALL**

**Does the NPFMC manage the "Public Halibut Resource" as a Commercial Fishery Resource first and a Public Fishery Resource second, OR the other way around?**

**Is the NPFMC a Public Fishery Agency funded with Public monies, OR is the NPFMC a Commercial Fishery Agency funded with Commercial monies?**

**Does the NPFMC owe an allegiance to the Commercial Fishery Interests first and the Public Fishery Interests second, OR the other way around?**

**"ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS"!**

**Bruce Warner [www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org](http://www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org)**

*Bruce Warner*

*907-235-6468*

TO: THE EDITOR

RECEIVED 2-25-07  
FEB 25 2007

NPFMC

**NORTHERN PACIFIC HALIBUT ACT OF 1982**

**Section.773c. General Responsibility.--**

**(c) North Pacific Fisheries Management Council responsibility: If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign halibut fishing privileges among various groups of United States fishermen, such allocation shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen, based upon the rights and obligations in existing Federal Law ( referring here to the Magnuson-Stevens Act of 1976 as existing Federal Law), and carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the halibut fishing privileges.**

Now I ask you, Is the Halibut fishery really being managed according to the provisions of the Halibut Act, or is the IPHC and the NPFMC treating us like mushrooms - keeping us in the dark and feeding us horse manure? You see, even if the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not apply as they would have us believe, they are NOT in compliance with the Halibut Act either! So my question is, and has been, which is it? Obviously neither!

BRUCE WARNER

Bruce Warner

907-235-6468

# TO: THE EDITOR

## RE: WHY IS THERE NO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) FOR HALIBUT IN ALASKA ?

Why is the Halibut Fishery in Alaska the ONLY Alaska Commercial Fishery without a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)? The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) has a FMP in place for EVERY SPECIES of fish and shellfish of commercial value in Alaska EXCEPT for Halibut. The NPFMC has a total of FIVE FMP's in place covering the management of EVERY Alaska Commercial Fishery EXCEPT Halibut. Why is this so?

### THE FIVE NPFMC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANS (FMP) NOW IN PLACE:

**FMP #1:** Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Groundfish (species included): Pollock, Cod, Flatfish (except Halibut), Sablefish, and Rockfish

**FMP #2:** Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska (species included): Pollock, Cod, Flatfish (except Halibut), Sablefish, and Rockfish

**FMP #3:** Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands King and Tanner Crab (species included): Red, Blue, and Brown King Crab, Tanner Crab, and Snow Crab

**FMP #4:** Alaska Scallop (species included): Weathervane Scallop

**FMP #5:** Salmon Fisheries in the EEZ off the Coast of Alaska (species included): Salmon

### SUMMARY:

The Alaska Halibut Fishery is one of the largest and most valuable Commercial Fisheries in Alaska without a Fisheries Management Plan.

The Alaska Halibut Fishery is one of the largest and most valuable Recreational Fisheries in Alaska without a FMP.

The Alaska Halibut Fishery has the most competition among various user groups, of any fishery in Alaska, without a Fisheries Management Plan.

The Alaska Halibut Fishery is the most controversial fishery, between the Commercial and the Recreational user groups, without a FMP.

The Alaska Halibut Fishery is desperate need of a **Fisheries Management Plan (FMP)** for both Recreational and Commercial user groups.

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-0468

TO: THE EDITOR

3-2-07

**RE: WHAT IS A FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) FOR HALIBUT AND WHAT DOES IT DO ?**

A Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut is a Lawful, prescribed "plan of action" to manage the Halibut Fishery Resource on a Continuing Optimum Yield basis for BOTH the Recreational and Commercial user groups. A FMP for Halibut has the "Conservation and Management" of the Halibut Fishery as its' two main components. A Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut may, by existing Federal Law, be "formulated and implemented" into Law by EITHER ONE of TWO Federal Government Agencies: the Secretary of Commerce thru the U.S. Dept. of Commerce or the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC).

A Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut must, by existing Federal Law, Conform to the Ten "National Standards for Fishery" as prescribed by the Magnuson-Stevens Act including **National Standard number (4) which states: "If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign fishing privileges among various United States fishermen, such allocation shall be (A) fair and equitable to all such fishermen; and carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of such privileges."**

Nationwide, there are now a total of thirty-nine (39) Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) in place including FIVE in Alaska, **EXCEPT FOR THE ALASKA HALIBUT FISHERY**. A Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut in Alaska will settle, once and for all, any dispute over allocation shares between user groups of the Alaska Halibut Fishery. The ongoing, contentious, and controversial dispute between the Recreational Fishery and the Commercial Fishery user groups of the Alaska Halibut Fishery will NEVER BE RESOLVED until a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut is implemented.  
**WHO WOULD BE AGAINST SUCH A PLAN?!**

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*  
907-735-6468



TO: THE EDITOR

3-2-07

**RE SYNOPSIS OF: MAGNUSON-STEVEN'S FISHERY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACT (Federal Public Law 94-265)**

**Section. 2. (B) Purposes.— It is therefore declared to be the PURPOSES of the United States Congress in this Act:**

**(1) to take IMMEDIATE ACTION to conserve and manage the Fishery Resources found off the coasts of the United States.**

**(2) to support and encourage the implementation and enforcement of International Fishery Agreements.**

**(3) to promote domestic commercial and RECREATIONAL FISHING under sound conservation and management principles.**

**(4) to PROVIDE FOR THE PREPARATION and IMPLEMENTATION, in ACCORDANCE WITH the NATIONAL STANDARDS FOR FISHERY, of FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLANS (FMP).**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Act, mandates in Federal Law, for the "preparation and implementation" of a "Fishery Management Plan (FMP)" for Halibut in "accordance with the National Standards for Fishery". WHO COULD BE AGAINST SUCH A PLAN AND WHY? After all, it's the Law!

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468

RECEIVED

2

TO: THE EDITOR

FEB 2 2007

2-17-07

N.P.F.M.C.

**RE: QUIT SELLING FISHING LICENSES**

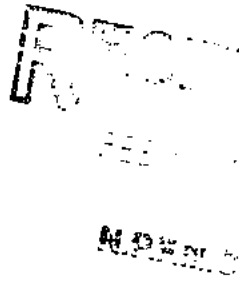
After proposing a one-fish bag-limit for Recreational Fishermen, placing a moratorium on the number of Charter Boats that is now being proposed by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) is like Gun Control. Charter Boats don't propagate fishermen anymore than Guns cause Crime or flies cause garbage. The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC), and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), ALL THREE, want to diminish, reduce, and control the number of Recreational Halibut Sport Fishermen for some reason. Why do they not just QUIT SELLING FISHING LICENSES or propose putting a moratorium on the number of Sport Fishing Licenses sold to the public by the State? That will be the end-result anyway!

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468

TO: THE EDITOR



2-19-07

**RE: ARE ALL THREE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: ADF&G, NPFMC, AND IPHC ANTI-SPORT FISHING AND PRO-COMMERCIAL FISHING ?**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) has issued, for 2007, an Emergency Order (EO) prohibiting the Retention of Halibut by licensed Sport Fishing Guides and Crew of Charter Boats, while the Commercial Halibut Fishing Industry is allowed to catch ninety-percent (90%) of the total annual Halibut Harvest Allocation. Where is the bias and unfairness of this already issued ADF&G (EO)?

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has proposed reducing the Sport Fishing Public's daily-bag-limit by fifty-percent (50%) from two Halibut to one, while allowing the Commercial Halibut Fishing Industry to acquire an excessive ninety-percent (90%) share of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of the Halibut harvest allocation. Where is the bias and unfairness of this proposed IPHC regulation?

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) formulated BOTH of the above Recreational Sport Fishing regulations and "handed" them to the ADF&G and the IPHC for implementation. Now I ask you, are ALL three of these Government Agencies PRO-Commercial Fishing and ANTI-Sport Fishing?

I report - you decide.

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468

TO: THE EDITOR

RECEIVED

FEB 26 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

**RE: HERE IS HOW THE COMMERCIAL HALIBUT INDUSTRY USES THE IPHC, THE ADF&G, AND THE NPFMC AS "TOOLS" FOR THEIR AGENDA**

#1 The IPHC issues a proposal to reduce the Recreational Fishing Public's daily-bag-limit by 50% from two-fish to one-fish while the Commercial Halibut Industry maintains (and increases) their "unfair and inequitable" "excessive 90% share" of the Halibut Fishery allocation. This proposal has absolutely no conservation basis whatsoever! The IPHC is no friend to the Recreational Fishing Public. Whose friend are they?

#2 The ADF&G issues an Emergency Order prohibiting part of the Recreational Fishing Public's retention of Halibut solely because of their occupation while the Commercial Halibut Industry maintains (and increases) their "unfair and inequitable" "excessive 90% share" of the Halibut Fishery allocation. This Emergency Order has absolutely no conservation basis whatsoever! The ADF&G is no friend to the Recreational Fishing Public. Whose friend are they?

#3 The NPFMC is now proposing to place a moratorium on the number of Charter Boats for Hire to limit, hinder, and restrict the access of the Recreational Fishing Public away from the Halibut Fishery while the Commercial Halibut Industry maintains (and increases) their "unfair and inequitable" "excessive 90% share" of the Halibut Fishery allocation. This proposal has absolutely no conservation basis whatsoever! The NPFMC is no friend to the Recreational Fishing Public. Whose friend are they?

The IPHC, the ADF&G, and the NPFMC think the Commercial Halibut Industry has an "Especially Privileged Status" over the Recreational Fishing Public when it comes to the Public Halibut Fishery Resource. They are no friend to the Recreational Fishing Public! Whose friend are they and WHY?

The [www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org](http://www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org) is one of the few friends of the Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing Public.

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-0468

**TO: THE EDITOR**

**RE: THE ONLY TWO SIDES IN THE HALIBUT FISHING CONTROVERSY ARE: THE COMMERCIAL HALIBUT INDUSTRY vs. THE RECREATIONAL FISHING PUBLIC**

Because all fishermen, fishing from Charter Boats for hire, are required by the State of Alaska to purchase a Recreational Sport Fishing License, they ARE the Recreational Sport Fishing Public. Charter boats are NOT "fishing vessels" as Defined in Federal Law, they are "transportation vessels", and "charter fishing" IS "recreational fishing" as Defined in Federal Law. Therefore, there are ONLY TWO sides in the halibut fishing controversy: Commercial Halibut Industry vs. Recreational Fishing Public. The Commercial Halibut Industry would lead you to believe that "Charter Fishermen" are a "third class" of fishermen, which they certainly ARE NOT as defined in Federal Law. There is NO "charter fishing" license separate from the Recreational Sport Fishing License. Do NOT be misled into thinking that the Commercial Halibut Industry is NOT trying to diminish, reduce, hinder, and restrict the rights and privileges of the Recreational Sport Fishing Public for their profiteering motives, because they MOST CERTAINLY are!

Bruce Warner [www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org](http://www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org)

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468

TO: THE EDITOR

**RE: THE NUMBER OF ALASKA LICENSED RECREATIONAL SPORT FISHING PUBLIC ARE DIMINISHING BY THE THOUSANDS**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Alaska Sport Fishing License Sold</u>	<u>Number</u>
2005	non-resident	335,337
2006	non-resident	315,469
2005	resident	191,022
2006	resident	183,982

**SUMMARY:**

There were 19,868 fewer non-resident Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses sold in 2006 than in 2005.

There were 7,040 fewer resident Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses sold in 2006 than in 2005.

There were a total of 26,908 fewer Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses sold in 2006 than in 2005.

**COMMENT:**

With the knowledge of these numbers, why is the IPHC proposing to reduce the recreational bag-limit of halibut by 50% from two-fish to one-fish?

With the knowledge of these numbers, why did the ADF&G issue an Emergency Order prohibiting the retention of fish by guides and crew of charter boats?

With the knowledge of these numbers, why is the NPFMC proposing to place a moratorium on the number of charter boats for hire for transportation?

With the knowledge of these numbers, you would think that the IPHC, the ADF&G, and the NPFMC would do everything in their power to preserve, protect, and enhance Alaska Recreational Sport Fishing rather than diminish it farther.

Bruce Warner [www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org](http://www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org)

Bruce Warner

907-235-6468

TO: THE EDITOR

RECEIVED 2-25-07  
FEB 25 2007

NPFMC.

**NORTHERN PACIFIC HALIBUT ACT OF 1982**

**Section.773c. General Responsibility.--**

**(c) North Pacific Fisheries Management Council responsibility: If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign halibut fishing privileges among various groups of United States fishermen, such allocation shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen, based upon the rights and obligations in existing Federal Law (referring here to the Magnuson-Stevens Act of 1976 as existing Federal Law), and carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the halibut fishing privileges.**

Now I ask you, Is the Halibut fishery really being managed according to the provisions of the Halibut Act, or is the IPHC and the NPFMC treating us like mushrooms - keeping us in the dark and feeding us horse manure? You see, even if the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not apply as they would have us believe, they are NOT in compliance with the Halibut Act either! So my question is, and has been, which is it? Obviously neither!

BRUCE WARNER

Bruce Warner

907-235-6468

TO: THE EDITOR

D

NPFMC

RE: THE BASIC QUESTIONS THE NPFMC NEEDS TO ANSWER FOR US ALL

Does the NPFMC manage the "Public Halibut Resource" as a Commercial Fishery Resource first and a Public Fishery Resource second, OR the other way around?

Is the NPFMC a Public Fishery Agency funded with Public monies, OR is the NPFMC a Commercial Fishery Agency funded with Commercial monies?

Does the NPFMC owe an allegiance to the Commercial Fishery Interests first and the Public Fishery Interests second, OR the other way around?

"ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS"!

Bruce Warner [www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org](http://www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org)

Bruce Warner

907-235-6468



**TO: THE EDITOR**

**FIVE**

2007

**NPFAC**

**RE: THE NPFMC NEEDS A FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT INTERPRETATION AND DETERMINATION OF THE MEANING OF "FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARE" AND "AN EXCESSIVE SHARE" OF THE HALIBUT FISHING PRIVILEGES.**

**The NPFMC presently allocates a 90% share of the halibut fishing privileges to the Commercial Halibut Fishery, and allocates a 10% share of the halibut fishing privileges to the Public Halibut Fishery. They feel this a "fair and equitable share" for the Public Halibut Fishery, and they feel this is NOT "an excessive share" for the Commercial Halibut Fishery. Public 10% and Commercial 90%. I wonder why that is?**

**The NPFMC claims to "manage" the Halibut Fisheries under the Mandates of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982.**

**The Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 states in: Section 773c. NPFMC Responsibility: "such allocations shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen" and "no entity shall acquire an excessive share" of the "halibut fishing privileges".**

**The NPFMC obviously needs a Federal District Court to Render an Interpretation to Determine the Meaning of "fair and equitable share" and "an excessive share" of the "halibut fishing privileges". Do you think the Federal Court will agree with the NPFMC that a Public 10% share is "fair and equitable" and a Commercial 90% share is NOT "an excessive share"?**

**Bruce Warner [www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org](http://www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org)**

*Bruce Warner*

*907-235-0468*

TO: THE EDITOR

2-23-07

RECEIVED

FEB 23 2007

**N.P.F.M.C.**

**RE: THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NPFMC) IS OUT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE NORTHERN PACIFIC HALIBUT ACT OF 1982, AND THE CREDITABILITY AND INTEGRITY OF (NPFMC) IS IN QUESTION**

The Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 states: 773c. General Responsibility.-- (c) Regional Fishery Management Council involvement - If it becomes necessary to allocate or assign halibut fishing privileges among various groups of United States fishermen, such allocation shall be fair and equitable to all such fishermen, based upon the rights and obligations in existing Federal Law (referring here to the Magnuson-Stevens Act as existing Federal Law), and carried out in such manner that no particular individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the halibut fishing privileges.

The NPFMC is **NOT IN COMPLIANCE** with Provision 773c. which is their "General Responsibility."-- as Mandated in the Halibut Act of 1982.

How can the NPFMC have ANY CREDITABILITY in any negotiations affecting the Halibut Fishery while they are so flagrantly OUT OF COMPLIANCE with the very Federal Law THEY CITE as the Law under which they "manage" the Halibut Fishery? How can they be TRUSTED to NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH, any other issues affecting the Halibut Fishery, while they so flagrantly disregard Provision 773c. of the Halibut Act of 1982? Should their CREDITABILITY AND INTEGRITY BE HELD UP FOR QUESTION?

Are we, the Recreational Halibut Fishing Public and the Charter Operators who service them, ALL just a "bunch of sheep being led to slaughter"? Wake-up before it is TOO LATE!

Bruce Warner [www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org](http://www.AlaskaSportFishingAlliance.org)

Bruce Warner

907-235-6468

TO: THE EDITOR

RECEIVED  
FEB 22 2007  
N.P.F.M.C.

2-19-07

**RE: ARE ALL THREE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES: ADF&G, NPFMC, AND IPHC ANTI-SPORT FISHING AND PRO-COMMERCIAL FISHING ?**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) has issued, for 2007, an Emergency Order (EO) prohibiting the Retention of Halibut by licensed Sport Fishing Guides and Crew of Charter Boats, while the Commercial Halibut Fishing Industry is allowed to catch ninety-percent (90%) of the total annual Halibut Harvest Allocation. Where is the bias and unfairness of this already issued ADF&G (EO)?

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has proposed reducing the Sport Fishing Public's daily-bag-limit by fifty-percent (50%) from two Halibut to one, while allowing the Commercial Halibut Fishing Industry to acquire an excessive ninety-percent (90%) share of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of the Halibut harvest allocation. Where is the bias and unfairness of this proposed IPHC regulation?

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) formulated BOTH of the above Recreational Sport Fishing regulations and "handed" them to the ADF&G and the IPHC for implementation. Now I ask you, are ALL three of these Government Agencies PRO-Commercial Fishing and ANTI-Sport Fishing? I report - you decide.

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468

TO: GOD PALIN AND Danby Lloyd AND NPFMC

TO: THE EDITOR

2-8-07

RECEIVED

FEB 10 2007

NPFMC

**RE: THE ACCURACY OF THE STATISTICAL DATA PRODUCED BY ADF&G TO MANAGE THE HALIBUT FISHERY IS IN QUESTION**

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) uses "statistical data" produced by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) as "Gospel" to manage the Halibut Fishery. According to a representative of the ADF&G, the "statistical data" produced by them is "provisional" at best. According to them, they make "estimated projections" from a mail-in survey to produce "estimated data" and come-up with "estimated figures" they then print as "statistical data" that the NPFMC and the IPHC uses as "Gospel" to "manage" the Halibut Fishery. Thousands of Alaskans livelihoods, businesses and futures are hinged on "provisional estimated statistical data" produced by ADF&G that could easily BE IN ERROR, but is used as "Gospel" to come-up with a HARD FIGURE like 8.3 percent over the Guideline Harvest Limit (GHL).

According to "provisional statistical data" produced by ADF&G, every year from 1999 thru 2006 when there was an increase in the "Number of Clients" fishing on Charter Boats there was an expected corresponding increase in the "Number of Halibut Harvested" from Charter Boats. When there was a decrease in the "Number of Clients" fishing on Charter Boats there was an expected corresponding decrease in the "Number of Halibut Harvested" on Charter Boats.

BUT IN THE YEAR 2006, according to ADF&G reported "provisional statistical data" in Area-3A there was a DECREASE of 5,335 in the "Number of Clients" fishing on Charter Boats compared to the previous year, but there was an UNEXPECTED INCREASE of 9,649 in the "Number of Halibut Harvested" on Charter Boats. HOW DOES IT HAPPEN that 5,335 FEWER Charter Clients catch 9,649 MORE Halibut? Could the ADF&G "guesstimates" be in error? Could it be that the "Charter Sector" really IS UNDER THE GHL? Do our livelihoods, businesses, and futures hinge on "guesstimated statistical data"? When asked, ADF&G had no definitive answer!

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468

**Bruce Warner**

CC. GOVERNOR PALIN

From: "Bruce Warner" <brucewwarner@msn.com>  
To: "douglas\_vincent-lang" <douglas\_vincent-lang@fishgame.state.ak.us>  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 9:41 AM  
Subject: ADF&G MUST STOP "CREATING & MANUFACTURING" HALIBUT STATISTICS

Doug,

**RE: ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME (ADF&G) MUST STOP "CREATING" AND "MANUFACTURING" HALIBUT HARVEST STATISTICS**

The Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADG&G), by its own admission, "creates and manufactures" its published statistics of Halibut Harvest Levels from estimates and projections made from a mail-in survey. How ACCURATE can that be? These "estimated, projected, created and manufactured statistics" are then used by the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) as ACCURATE DATA to propose regulations to "manage" the Alaska Recreational Halibut Fishery. The ADF&G MUST begin to "**COLLECT ACCURATE DATA**" that affects such an important issue as the **Guideline Harvest Level (GHL)** of the annual Alaska Recreational Halibut Fishery. The Alaska Recreational Halibut Fishery deserves better than a mail-in survey to determine its' future! Recreational Halibut Fishermen purchase **hundreds-of-millions of dollars** of Alaska Recreational Sport Fishing Licenses each year that would fund a better system. In the year 2006 alone, 180,000 resident Alaska Recreational Fishermen and 320,000 non-resident recreational fishermen, totaling 500,000 Recreational Sport Fishermen purchased Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses. We deserve better from ADF&G!

Bruce Warner



TO: THE EDITOR

3-9-07

**FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR HALIBUT COMING**

Quoting from the, newly reauthorized in December 2006, Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Act: Sec. 2.(b) Purposes. "It is therefore declared to be the purpose of the U.S. Congress (4) to provide for the preparation and implementation, in accordance with the National Standards for Fishery, a Fishery Management Plan which will achieve and maintain, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield from each fishery."

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*  
907-235-6468

# TO: THE EDITOR

## **A FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP) FOR HALIBUT IN ALASKA IS COMING SOON ACCORDING TO THE U.S. CONGRESS**

The United States Congress has declared it to be the purpose of the Congress to take immediate action to conserve and manage the Halibut Fishery resource found off the coast of Alaska, to promote domestic commercial and recreational fishing, and to provide for the preparation and implementation, in accordance with the Ten National Standards for Fishery, a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut in Alaska.

The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) is to exercise sound judgment in the stewardship of the Halibut Fishery resources through the preparation, monitoring, and revision of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut under circumstances which will enable the State of Alaska, the Halibut fishing industry, consumer and environmental organizations, and other interested persons to participate in, and advise on, the establishment and administration of the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut which take into account the social and economic needs of the State of Alaska.

### **REFERENCE:**

#### **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act**

#### **Sec. 2. (b) Purposes of U.S. Congress**

- (1) to take immediate action --
- (3) to promote domestic commercial and recreational fishing of Halibut --
- (4) to provide for the preparation and implementation of a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut --
- (5) to give instruction and guidance to the NPFMC how to prepare a Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for Halibut

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468

**TO: THE EDITOR**

The following statistics are from the IPHC most recently published annual report:  
**IPHC 2005 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Appendix III. Table 3. Harvest by sport fishers (in millions of pounds) page 67**

YEAR POUNDS

1996 8.084

1997 9.025

1998 8.585

1999 7.379

2000 9.017

2001 8.106

2002 8.011

2003 9.348

2004 10.703

2005 9.964

total 88.222 divided by 10 yrs =

**8.822 million pounds/year running average over past 10 years: 1996-2005**

There was a range of 7.379 # in 1999 to 10.703 # in 2004, and the 8.822 # 10 year running average is almost EXACTLY at the mid-point of the range. The sport harvest could NOT have been more STABLE over the past 10 years.

In 2005 there was a DECREASE of 739,000 (.739) million pounds from 2004.

In 2006 ADF&G sold 26,898 fewer Sport Fishing Licenses than in 2005.

**CONCLUSION: There is NO explosive growth in Recreational Halibut Fishing in Alaska. It is on the DECLINE as indicated by the DECREASE in Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses sold in 2006 from 2005.**

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-6468



**TO: THE EDITOR**

The following statistics are from the latest:

**2006 ADF&G FISHING LICENSE SALES STATISTICS REPORT**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
2002	474,865
2003	483,595
2004	509,424
2005	526,349
<u>2006</u>	<u>499,451</u>
total	2,493,689 divided by 5 yrs =

**498,738 average/year running average over the past 5 years: 2002-2006**

**The range was from 474,865 in 2002 to 526,349 in 2005 with the mid-point of the range being 500,607.**

**The Alaska Sport Fishing License sales in 2006 of 499,451 was SLIGHTLY LESS than the mid-point of the range, and SLIGHTLY OVER the 5-year running average. For all practical purposes, the Alaska Sport Fishing License sales for the most recent year, 2006, was the SAME as the 5-year running average. Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses sold could NOT have been more stable over the past 5 years.**

**CONCLUSION: There is No explosive growth in Recreational Halibut Sport Fishing in Alaska. It is actually on the **DECLINE** as indicated by the **DECREASE** in Alaska Sport Fishing Licenses sold in 2006 from 2005.**

Bruce Warner

*Bruce Warner*

907-235-0468

Donna Bondioli  
C-1(f)

I, the Alaska Charter Association, and many other statewide charter operators have been willing to support a charter moratorium for the purpose of allowing a temporary "freeze" on the charter boat fleet. The understanding among most charter operators is that this "freeze" would serve as a temporary "place holder"; with the Sole purpose of collecting adequate, accurate, and comprehensive socio-economic data (from BOTH the longline sector and the charter sector AND the communities dependant on both). Charter operators have been willing to work within the Council process "in good faith" with the belief that the Council would evaluate comparable and reasonable data from BOTH sectors in considering their decision-making.

Ladies and gentlemen, the analyses put forth by Council staff concerning the moratorium and potential GHIL discussions are woefully inadequate with respect to any reasonable socioeconomic data. I am sorely disappointed with the scope and presentation of sed analyses. They are clearly weighted to "enlighten" the reader to the economic loss to the longline sector based on an ownership right, which does not lawfully exist. While, at the same time, minimizing the potential economic impacts to other sectors and claiming the purpose of these Council actions is to stabilize the charter sector. I object strongly to the implications that any of these Council actions are for the benefit of the charter operator, or for that matter, anything other than protecting the IFQ shareholders. The analyses do not illustrate the need for Council action from a biological, ecological, conservation, or management perspective. They only exemplify the "need" from longline sectors financial perspective.

The analyses contain endless pages of economic rhetoric, methodology, and justifications with regard to the socio-economic impacts (or lack thereof) to the **charter sector, the state of Alaska, and the communities** dependant on a healthy charter fleet. All of which is great, except that they never say Anything. There is, in reality, no actual recent data and ultimately every statement draws the same rhetorical conclusions:

- "Information that is currently available does not allow a formal study of the economic impacts....."
- "Collecting that information is outside the scope of this analysis."
- ".....cannot be estimated in this analysis..."
- "...fall outside the bounds of this analysis"
- '...normal operating practices may experience change'
- ".....may or may not have an effect.....there will be some winners and there will be some losers."

All of these conclusions based on what? Rhetoric and manipulation of language....

Certainly not data.

The analyses are "unable" to present any data with regard to economic impacts on the state, the charter operator, or the communities that will be affected by reductions in potential future growth. However, they do fully illustrate the losses to the IFQ shareholders based on a ten-year projection of potential charter halibut harvest. According to (Table 8 p. 32, 03/09/07 EA/RIR/IRFA): Depending on the growth rate used for charter catches, the change in commercial revenue could range from \$11.5 to \$29.2 million

over the 10-year period of 2007 to 2016 in Area 2C. In Area 3A the change in revenue is projected to be \$15.6 to \$34.3 million over the same time period.

An adequate analysis should contain a comparable calculation of, at least, the direct loss of revenue to the charter operator, the loss of license fees to the State (the people) of Alaska, and the loss of taxable revenue (directly from charter fees), as a result of restricting the potential growth of the halibut charter sector. Given the fact that this information has been omitted from the analyses, I have taken the liberty to generate this data (based on the Table 8 projections) for your consideration. The spreadsheet is attached with a summary total (also shown below) of projected losses on the last page.

The summary illustrates the range of unique and cumulative economic losses to various entities if the future growth potential of the halibut charter fleet is reduced due to Council adherence with the arbitrary and capricious GHL. For example; for the ten year period of 2007 to 2016, the estimated losses of license fee revenue to the State of Alaska ranges from \$3.9 million to \$9.9 million in area 2C and from \$5.5 million to \$12 million in area 3A. Over this same time period, the estimated losses to the charter operator as a direct result of reduced harvest potential, range from \$22.4 million to \$56.9 million in area 2C and in area 3A ranges from \$31.2 million to \$68.6 million. This worksheet clearly illustrates that the cumulative losses to the State of Alaska, the charter operator, and the communities that depend (directly/indirectly) on a robust competitive charter fleet can range to over \$1.1 Billion.

**Relative Economic Impacts:**  
(based on Table 8 p.32, 03/09/07 EA/RIR/IRFA)

Summary of total range of losses: Commercial IFQ Vs. State, Charter operator, taxes, and communities						
	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
<b>Estimates of the ex-vessel revenue reductions in the commercial IFQ fisheries</b>						
Total	\$ 11,528,894	\$ 16,374,371	\$ 29,240,966	\$ 15,607,075	\$ 20,436,488	\$ 34,329,900
<b>AS COMPARED TO</b>						
<b>Estimated losses of license revenue to State at \$35 per license</b>						
Total	\$3,928,723	\$5,579,926	\$9,964,506	\$5,456,147	\$7,144,483	\$12,001,543
<b>Estimated Direct losses of revenue to charter businesses due to restricted future growth (\$200/client)</b>						
Total	\$22,449,846	\$31,885,290	\$56,940,037	\$31,177,981	\$40,825,617	\$68,680,247
<b>Estimated losses of taxable revenue associated directly with halibut charter fees (avg. 6%)</b>						
Total	\$1,346,891	\$1,913,117	\$3,416,402	\$1,870,679	\$2,449,537	\$4,114,815
<b>Cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, and the taxable revenue associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential.</b>						
Total	\$27,725,559	\$39,378,333	\$70,320,946	\$38,504,807	\$50,419,637	\$84,696,605
<b>Cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, the taxable revenue, and losses to the communities associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential. (Using revenue multiplier of 10)</b>						
Total	\$252,224,016	\$358,231,235	\$639,721,316	\$350,284,622	\$458,675,810	\$770,489,074
<b>Cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, the taxable revenue, and losses to the communities associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential. (using McDowell Group avg. \$1700/fish)</b>						
Total	\$371,206,198	\$527,223,272	\$941,503,512	\$515,527,924	\$675,051,582	\$1,133,974,383

Many other aspects of the analyses seem innocuous enough, yet there seems to be a prevalence of speculative conclusions similar to those listed above. However, there are a few impacts which are specifically noted.

- "...impacts on other species could be significant in local areas with large active charter fleets..."
- "Restrictions in the halibut fishery would probably also divert a significant amount of effort and harvest toward other groundfish stocks for which there are already conservation concerns."
- "Increased guided effort on these stocks would exacerbate concerns for the sustainable yield of these stocks."

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has repeatedly stated that the impact of the charter harvest is negligible in terms of its effect on the halibut biomass. The IPHC has also repeatedly stated that "charter overage of the GHL" in itself is NOT a biological, ecological, or conservation concern. This fact coupled with the obvious biological and conservation concerns for other species as a direct result of Council action, I question the motives of the "process" and the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. As a biological and conservation management body practicing ecosystem management, I submit to you that true biological impacts be of primary concern in decision-making.

In conclusion, I am willing to support a temporary moratorium solely for the purposes stated previously and not for the purpose of constraining charter harvests. If it is to be implemented and be successful, it must include all those who qualified as of the Dec. 09, 2005 control date. It must contain a use it or lose clause (w/ hardship exception) and must be fully transferable. Given the actual biological and conservation concerns with regard to the halibut resource and other species, and given the potential significant economic losses to the State of Ak., the charter industry and the communities dependant on charter generated revenue; the moratorium should serve as a temporary place holder and should in NO WAY be used as a means to restrict the charter harvest or the guided anglers access to the public resource.

After analyzing the actual biological and conservation concerns with regard to the halibut resource and other species, and the inequity comparing the significant economic losses to the State of Ak., the charter industry and the communities dependant on charter generated revenue, to the potential economic losses to the commercial sector; it is logical to conclude that North Council adherence to the arbitrary and capricious GHL will have significant damaging impacts (biological, ecological, economically, and from a conservation standpoint) which will far outweigh the hypothetical economic loss to the longline sector.

Recently Congress reauthorized the Magnuson/Stevens Act. It is clear from this action that Congress intended the Regional Management Councils to maintain the standards of our Nation. Congress has also illustrated its intent that action by Regional Council be guided by and with adherence to the National Standards of that Act. I encourage this Council to reflect on the principals and intent of the National Standards (particularly #5), as well as, "fairness and equitability" and the "highest and best use of the resource". I respectfully request that this Council, in accordance with the principals of a conservation management body rescind the arbitrary and capricious GHL that exists. The Council must consider an allocation that allows for "reasonable and responsible"

growth within the guided sector, an allocation that is based within the preview of conservation and ecosystem management, and an allocation that will not impose significant economic hardship throughout the State.

Remember: the first line of the commercial IFQ rule (and printed on their permit) it clearly states: "Individual quota shares are NOT an ownership right, they are a privilege and can be revoked, reduced, or removed at any time without cause, compensation, or public comment." The pacific Halibut resource is NOT owned by the longline sector. Allocation decisions should be made analyzing comparative and comprehensive data, and be made with respect to the Standards that dictate Regional Council actions. I implore you to manage this valuable resource within the principals you have sworn to uphold and allocate the Pacific Halibut resource in accordance with those principals.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Bryan Bondioli  
Captain B's Alaskan C's Adventures  
p.o. box 66  
Homer Alaska 99603

The attached worksheet is based on the projected ten-year growth of the guided recreational sector (Table 8 p.32, 03/09/2007 EA/RIR/IRFA moratorium analysis). For the purpose of calculation, the number of clients lost to the charter sector is derived from the number of pounds divided by 18 (lbs/fish) divided by 1.8 (fish/client). Estimated reduction in license fees to the State were calculated at \$35/license (3-day non-resident license fee). Charter operator losses were calculated at \$200/client). Estimated taxable revenue reduction figured at an average of 6% X lost revenue. Estimated community losses were derived in two ways: 1) Losses to the charter operator X multiplier effect of 10. (My typical client spends at least 20 X my charter fee in Alaska and its communities.) 2) Losses of fish (18lbs./fish, 1.8 fish/client) X multiplier effect described in the 2005 Sitka community survey by the McDowell Group. (The McDowell Group illustrates an average (direct/indirect) multiplier effect of \$1700 per charter caught fish)

Estimated ex-vessel revenue reductions in commercial IFQ fisheries relative to projected charter harvest.

Compared to:

Estimated unique and cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, and the taxable revenue associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential.

Table 8								Estimates of the ex-vessel revenue reductions in the commercial IFQ fisheries (3/09/07 EA/RIR/IRFA)									
		AREA 2C				AREA 3A											
Year	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth		Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth										
									Pounds								
2007	66,125	93,917	167,714		91,833	120,250	202,000										
2008	132,250	187,833	335,429		183,667	240,500	404,000										
2009	198,375	281,750	503,143		275,500	360,750	606,000										
2010	264,500	375,667	670,857		367,333	481,000	808,000										
2011	330,625	469,583	838,571		459,167	601,250	1,010,000										
2012	396,750	563,500	1,006,286		551,000	721,500	1,212,000										
2013	462,875	657,417	1,174,000		642,833	841,750	1,414,000										
2014	529,000	751,333	1,341,714		734,667	962,000	1,616,000										
2015	595,125	845,250	1,509,429		826,500	1,082,250	1,818,000										
2016	661,250	939,167	1,677,143		918,333	1,202,500	2,020,000										
Total	3,636,875	5,165,417	9,224,286		5,050,833	6,613,750	11,110,000										
									Ex-vessel value assuming ex-vessel prices of \$3.17 (2C) and \$3.09 (3A)								
2007	\$ 209,616	\$ 297,716	\$ 531,654		\$ 283,765	\$ 371,573	\$ 624,180										
2008	\$ 419,233	\$ 595,432	\$ 1,063,309		\$ 567,530	\$ 743,145	\$ 1,248,360										
2009	\$ 628,849	\$ 893,148	\$ 1,594,963		\$ 851,295	\$ 1,114,718	\$ 1,872,540										
2010	\$ 838,465	\$ 1,190,863	\$ 2,126,617		\$ 1,135,060	\$ 1,486,290	\$ 2,496,720										
2011	\$ 1,048,081	\$ 1,488,579	\$ 2,658,271		\$ 1,418,825	\$ 1,857,863	\$ 3,120,900										
2012	\$ 1,257,698	\$ 1,786,295	\$ 3,189,926		\$ 1,702,590	\$ 229,435	\$ 3,745,080										
2013	\$ 1,467,314	\$ 2,084,011	\$ 3,721,580		\$ 1,986,355	\$ 2,601,008	\$ 4,369,260										
2014	\$ 1,676,930	\$ 2,381,727	\$ 4,253,234		\$ 2,270,120	\$ 2,972,580	\$ 4,993,440										
2015	\$ 1,886,546	\$ 2,679,443	\$ 4,784,889		\$ 2,553,885	\$ 3,344,153	\$ 5,617,620										
2016	\$ 2,096,163	\$ 2,977,158	\$ 5,316,543		\$ 2,837,650	\$ 3,715,725	\$ 6,241,800										
Total	\$ 11,528,894	\$ 16,374,371	\$ 29,240,986		\$ 15,607,075	\$ 20,436,488	\$ 34,329,900										

*Donna  
Bordwell, C-1(F)*

Following Estimates derived using projected charter harvest outlined in the above table

Estimates of lost clients due to restricted future growth (pounds / (18lbs./fish) / (1.8 fish/client))

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	2,041	2,899	5,176	2,834	3,711	6,235
2008	4,082	5,797	10,353	5,669	7,423	12,469
2009	6,123	8,696	15,529	8,503	11,134	18,704
2010	8,164	11,595	20,705	11,337	14,846	24,938
2011	10,204	14,493	25,882	14,172	18,557	31,173
2012	12,245	17,392	31,058	17,006	22,269	37,407
2013	14,286	20,291	36,235	19,841	25,980	43,642
2014	16,327	23,189	41,411	22,675	29,691	49,877
2015	18,368	26,088	46,587	25,509	33,403	56,111
2016	20,409	28,987	51,764	28,344	37,114	62,346
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,249</b>	<b>159,426</b>	<b>284,700</b>	<b>155,890</b>	<b>204,128</b>	<b>342,901</b>

Estimated losses of license revenue to State at \$35 per license

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	\$71,431	\$101,454	\$181,173	\$99,202	\$129,900	\$218,210
2008	\$142,863	\$202,906	\$362,346	\$198,406	\$259,799	\$436,420
2009	\$214,294	\$304,360	\$543,519	\$297,608	\$389,699	\$654,630
2010	\$285,725	\$405,813	\$724,691	\$396,810	\$519,599	\$872,840
2011	\$357,157	\$507,266	\$905,864	\$496,014	\$649,498	\$1,091,049
2012	\$428,588	\$608,719	\$1,087,037	\$595,216	\$779,398	\$1,309,259
2013	\$500,019	\$710,173	\$1,268,210	\$694,418	\$909,298	\$1,527,469
2014	\$571,451	\$811,625	\$1,449,382	\$793,622	\$1,039,198	\$1,745,679
2015	\$642,882	\$913,079	\$1,630,556	\$892,824	\$1,169,097	\$1,963,889
2016	\$714,313	\$1,014,532	\$1,811,729	\$992,026	\$1,298,997	\$2,182,099
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,928,723</b>	<b>\$5,579,926</b>	<b>\$9,984,506</b>	<b>\$5,456,147</b>	<b>\$7,144,483</b>	<b>\$12,001,543</b>

Estimated Direct losses of revenue to charter businesses due to restricted future growth (\$200/client)

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	\$408,179	\$579,735	\$1,035,272	\$566,870	\$742,284	\$1,246,914
2008	\$816,358	\$1,159,463	\$2,070,549	\$1,133,747	\$1,484,568	\$2,493,827
2009	\$1,224,537	\$1,739,198	\$3,105,821	\$1,700,617	\$2,226,852	\$3,740,741
2010	\$1,632,716	\$2,318,932	\$4,141,093	\$2,267,488	\$2,969,136	\$4,987,654
2011	\$2,040,895	\$2,898,660	\$5,176,364	\$2,834,364	\$3,711,420	\$6,234,568
2012	\$2,449,074	\$3,478,395	\$6,211,642	\$3,401,235	\$4,453,704	\$7,481,481
2013	\$2,857,253	\$4,058,130	\$7,246,914	\$3,968,105	\$5,195,988	\$8,728,395
2014	\$3,265,432	\$4,637,858	\$8,282,185	\$4,534,981	\$5,938,272	\$9,975,309
2015	\$3,673,611	\$5,217,593	\$9,317,463	\$5,101,852	\$6,680,556	\$11,222,222
2016	\$4,081,790	\$5,797,327	\$10,352,735	\$5,668,722	\$7,422,840	\$12,469,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$22,449,846</b>	<b>\$31,885,290</b>	<b>\$56,940,037</b>	<b>\$31,177,981</b>	<b>\$40,825,617</b>	<b>\$68,580,247</b>

Estimated losses of taxable revenue associated directly with halibut charter fees (avg. 6%)

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	\$24,491	\$34,784	\$62,116	\$34,012	\$44,537	\$74,815
2008	\$48,981	\$69,568	\$124,233	\$68,025	\$89,074	\$149,630
2009	\$73,472	\$104,352	\$186,349	\$102,037	\$133,611	\$224,444
2010	\$97,963	\$139,136	\$248,466	\$136,049	\$178,148	\$299,259
2011	\$122,454	\$173,920	\$310,582	\$170,062	\$222,685	\$374,074
2012	\$146,944	\$208,704	\$372,699	\$204,074	\$267,222	\$448,889
2013	\$171,435	\$243,488	\$434,815	\$238,086	\$311,759	\$523,704
2014	\$195,926	\$278,271	\$496,931	\$272,099	\$356,296	\$598,519
2015	\$220,417	\$313,056	\$559,048	\$305,111	\$400,833	\$673,333
2016	\$244,907	\$347,840	\$621,164	\$340,123	\$445,370	\$748,148
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,346,991</b>	<b>\$1,913,117</b>	<b>\$3,416,402</b>	<b>\$1,870,679</b>	<b>\$2,449,537</b>	<b>\$4,114,815</b>

Estimated losses to the communities dependant on charter generated tourism (McDowell Group '05) (fish lost (clients lost X 1.8) X \$1700)

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	\$6,245,139	\$8,869,939	\$15,839,656	\$8,673,117	\$11,356,944	\$19,077,778
2008	\$12,490,278	\$17,739,783	\$31,679,406	\$17,346,328	\$22,713,889	\$38,155,556
2009	\$18,735,417	\$26,609,722	\$47,519,061	\$26,018,444	\$34,070,833	\$57,233,333
2010	\$24,980,556	\$35,479,661	\$63,358,717	\$34,692,561	\$45,427,778	\$76,311,111
2011	\$31,225,694	\$44,349,506	\$79,198,372	\$43,365,772	\$56,784,722	\$95,388,889
2012	\$37,470,833	\$53,219,444	\$95,038,122	\$52,038,889	\$68,141,667	\$114,466,667
2013	\$43,715,972	\$62,089,383	\$110,877,778	\$60,712,006	\$79,498,611	\$133,544,444
2014	\$49,961,111	\$70,959,228	\$126,717,433	\$69,385,217	\$90,855,556	\$152,622,222
2015	\$56,206,250	\$79,829,167	\$142,557,183	\$78,058,333	\$102,212,500	\$171,700,000
2016	\$62,451,389	\$88,699,106	\$158,396,839	\$86,731,450	\$113,569,444	\$190,777,778
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$343,482,639</b>	<b>\$487,844,939</b>	<b>\$871,182,567</b>	<b>\$477,023,117</b>	<b>\$624,631,944</b>	<b>\$1,049,277,778</b>



**Estimated losses to the communities dependant on charter generated tourism (Lost revenue X 10)**

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	\$4,081,790	\$5,797,346	\$10,352,716	\$5,668,704	\$7,422,840	\$12,469,136
2008	\$8,163,580	\$11,594,630	\$20,705,494	\$11,337,469	\$14,845,679	\$24,938,272
2009	\$12,245,370	\$17,391,975	\$31,058,210	\$17,006,173	\$22,268,519	\$37,407,407
2010	\$16,327,160	\$23,189,321	\$41,410,926	\$22,674,877	\$29,691,358	\$49,876,543
2011	\$20,408,951	\$28,986,605	\$51,763,642	\$28,343,642	\$37,114,198	\$62,345,679
2012	\$24,490,741	\$34,783,951	\$62,116,420	\$34,012,346	\$44,537,037	\$74,814,815
2013	\$28,572,531	\$40,581,296	\$72,469,136	\$39,681,049	\$51,959,877	\$87,283,951
2014	\$32,654,321	\$46,378,580	\$82,921,852	\$45,349,815	\$59,382,716	\$99,753,086
2015	\$36,736,111	\$52,175,926	\$93,174,630	\$51,018,519	\$66,805,556	\$112,222,222
2016	\$40,817,901	\$57,973,272	\$103,527,346	\$56,687,222	\$74,228,395	\$124,691,358
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$224,498,457</b>	<b>\$318,852,901</b>	<b>\$569,400,370</b>	<b>\$311,779,815</b>	<b>\$408,256,173</b>	<b>\$665,802,469</b>

**Cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, and the taxable revenue associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential.**

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	\$604,101	\$715,972	\$1,278,560	\$700,085	\$916,721	\$1,539,938
2008	\$1,008,202	\$1,431,937	\$2,557,128	\$1,400,177	\$1,833,441	\$3,079,877
2009	\$1,512,303	\$2,147,909	\$3,835,689	\$2,100,262	\$2,750,162	\$4,619,815
2010	\$2,016,404	\$2,863,881	\$5,114,249	\$2,800,347	\$3,666,883	\$6,159,753
2011	\$2,520,505	\$3,579,846	\$6,392,810	\$3,500,440	\$4,583,603	\$7,699,691
2012	\$3,024,606	\$4,295,818	\$7,671,378	\$4,200,525	\$5,500,324	\$9,239,630
2013	\$3,528,708	\$5,011,790	\$8,949,938	\$4,900,610	\$6,417,045	\$10,779,568
2014	\$4,032,809	\$5,727,755	\$10,228,499	\$5,600,702	\$7,333,765	\$12,319,506
2015	\$4,536,910	\$6,443,727	\$11,507,067	\$6,300,787	\$8,250,486	\$13,859,444
2016	\$5,041,011	\$7,159,699	\$12,785,627	\$7,000,872	\$9,167,207	\$15,399,383
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,725,559</b>	<b>\$39,378,333</b>	<b>\$70,320,946</b>	<b>\$38,504,807</b>	<b>\$50,419,637</b>	<b>\$84,696,605</b>

**Cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, the taxable revenue, and losses to the communities associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential. (Using revenue multiplier of 10)**

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	\$4,585,891	\$6,513,318	\$11,631,276	\$6,368,789	\$8,339,560	\$14,009,074
2008	\$9,171,782	\$13,026,566	\$23,262,622	\$12,737,647	\$16,679,120	\$28,018,148
2009	\$13,757,674	\$19,539,884	\$34,893,899	\$19,106,435	\$25,018,681	\$42,027,222
2010	\$18,343,565	\$26,053,202	\$46,525,175	\$25,475,224	\$33,358,241	\$56,036,296
2011	\$22,929,456	\$32,566,451	\$58,156,452	\$31,844,082	\$41,697,801	\$70,045,370
2012	\$27,515,347	\$39,079,769	\$69,787,798	\$38,212,870	\$50,037,361	\$84,054,444
2013	\$32,101,238	\$45,593,086	\$81,419,074	\$44,581,659	\$58,376,921	\$98,063,519
2014	\$36,687,130	\$52,106,335	\$93,050,351	\$50,950,517	\$66,716,481	\$112,072,593
2015	\$41,273,021	\$58,619,653	\$104,681,696	\$57,319,306	\$75,056,042	\$126,081,667
2016	\$45,858,912	\$65,132,971	\$116,312,973	\$63,688,094	\$83,395,602	\$140,090,741
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$252,224,016</b>	<b>\$358,231,235</b>	<b>\$639,721,316</b>	<b>\$350,284,622</b>	<b>\$458,675,810</b>	<b>\$770,499,074</b>

**Cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, the taxable revenue, and losses to the communities associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential. (using Mcdowel Group avg. \$1700/fish)**

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	\$6,749,240	\$9,585,911	\$17,118,216	\$9,373,202	\$12,273,665	\$20,617,716
2008	\$13,498,480	\$19,171,720	\$34,236,534	\$18,746,505	\$24,547,330	\$41,235,432
2009	\$20,247,720	\$28,757,631	\$51,354,750	\$28,119,707	\$36,820,995	\$61,853,148
2010	\$26,996,960	\$38,343,542	\$68,472,966	\$37,492,908	\$49,094,660	\$82,470,864
2011	\$33,746,200	\$47,929,351	\$85,591,182	\$46,866,212	\$61,368,326	\$103,088,580
2012	\$40,495,440	\$57,515,262	\$102,709,500	\$56,239,414	\$73,641,991	\$123,706,296
2013	\$47,244,680	\$67,101,173	\$119,827,716	\$65,612,615	\$85,915,656	\$144,324,012
2014	\$53,993,920	\$76,686,982	\$136,945,932	\$74,985,919	\$98,189,321	\$164,941,728
2015	\$60,743,160	\$86,272,894	\$154,064,250	\$84,359,120	\$110,462,986	\$185,559,444
2016	\$67,492,400	\$95,858,805	\$171,182,466	\$93,732,322	\$122,736,651	\$206,177,160
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$371,208,198</b>	<b>\$527,223,272</b>	<b>\$941,503,512</b>	<b>\$515,527,924</b>	<b>\$675,051,582</b>	<b>\$1,133,974,383</b>

**Summary of total range of losses: Commercial IFQ Vs. State, Charter operator, taxes, and communities**

	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
<b>Estimates of the ex-vessel revenue reductions in the commercial IFQ fisheries</b>						
Total	\$ 11,528,894	\$ 16,374,371	\$ 29,240,986	\$ 15,607,075	\$ 20,436,488	\$ 34,329,900
<b>AS COMPARED TO</b>						
<b>Estimated losses of license revenue to State at \$35 per license</b>						
Total	\$3,928,723	\$5,579,926	\$9,964,506	\$5,456,147	\$7,144,483	\$12,001,543
<b>Estimated Direct losses of revenue to charter businesses due to restricted future growth (\$200/client)</b>						
Total	\$22,449,846	\$31,885,290	\$56,940,037	\$31,177,981	\$40,825,617	\$68,580,247
<b>Estimated losses of taxable revenue associated directly with halibut charter fees (avg. 5%)</b>						
Total	\$1,346,991	\$1,913,117	\$3,416,402	\$1,870,679	\$2,449,537	\$4,114,815
<b>Cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, and the taxable revenue associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential.</b>						
Total	\$27,725,559	\$39,378,333	\$70,320,946	\$38,504,807	\$50,419,637	\$84,696,605
<b>Cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, the taxable revenue, and losses to the communities associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential. (Using revenue multiplier of 10)</b>						
Total	\$252,224,016	\$358,231,235	\$639,721,316	\$350,284,622	\$458,675,810	\$770,499,074
<b>Cumulative losses to the State, the Charter operator, the taxable revenue, and losses to the communities associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential. (using Mcdowel Group avg. \$1700/fish)</b>						
Total	\$371,208,198	\$527,223,272	\$941,503,512	\$515,527,924	\$675,051,582	\$1,133,974,383

1  
C

C

C

1

**Estimated losses of license revenue to State at \$20 per license**

Year	AREA 2C			AREA 3A		
	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth	Slower growth	Medium growth	Faster growth
2007	\$40,818	\$57,973	\$103,527	\$56,687	\$74,228	\$124,691
2008	\$81,636	\$115,946	\$207,055	\$113,375	\$148,457	\$249,383
2009	\$122,454	\$173,920	\$310,582	\$170,062	\$222,685	\$374,074
2010	\$163,272	\$231,893	\$414,109	\$226,749	\$296,914	\$498,765
2011	\$204,090	\$289,866	\$517,636	\$283,436	\$371,142	\$623,457
2012	\$244,907	\$347,840	\$621,164	\$340,123	\$445,370	\$748,148
2013	\$285,725	\$405,813	\$724,691	\$396,810	\$519,599	\$872,840
2014	\$326,543	\$463,786	\$828,219	\$453,498	\$593,827	\$997,531
2015	\$367,361	\$521,759	\$931,746	\$510,185	\$668,056	\$1,122,222
2016	\$408,179	\$579,733	\$1,035,273	\$566,872	\$742,284	\$1,246,914
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,244,985</b>	<b>\$3,188,529</b>	<b>\$5,694,004</b>	<b>\$3,117,798</b>	<b>\$4,082,562</b>	<b>\$6,858,025</b>

**Cumulative losses to the State (@\$20 license fee), the Charter operator, and the taxable revenue associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential.**

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,041,821</b>	<b>\$36,986,937</b>	<b>\$66,050,443</b>	<b>\$36,166,459</b>	<b>\$47,357,716</b>	<b>\$79,553,086</b>
--------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------	---------------------

**Cumulative losses to the State (@\$20 license fee), the Charter operator, the taxable revenue, and losses to the communities associated directly with the reduction in charter harvest potential. (Using revenue multiplier of 6)**

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$160,740,895</b>	<b>\$228,298,677</b>	<b>\$66,050,665</b>	<b>\$223,234,347</b>	<b>\$292,311,420</b>	<b>\$491,034,568</b>
--------------	----------------------	----------------------	---------------------	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 2007 MEETING IN ANCHORAGE**

**by  
ROBERT HOWARD**

Good day Madam Chair, members of the Council, I am Bob Howard, Homer Alaska.

I support the imposition of a Moratorium on the recreational guided halibut fleet as approved in December, 2005. That action set forth the requirements for inclusion under the moratorium, **which included all operators logging bottom fish trips in either 2004, 2005, or both, and must be logging trips in the year prior to Moratorium implementation.**

Consistent with that decision, the Moratorium should be all inclusive to those that meet that qualifying criteria.

Since your action, there have been much discussion and analysis about eliminating operators from the fleet by setting entry criteria that were not contemplated in your original action. Reducing the number of eligible businesses is putting people out of business. They are legitimately working to make a living with the expectation that they have the freedom to operate consistent with governing law. They should be allowed to continue to do so.

Reducing the fleet in the amount that is being discussed will not reduce the pressure from recreational anglers seeking their fish. It will simply concentrate those anglers to the privileged class that is not cut by your action.

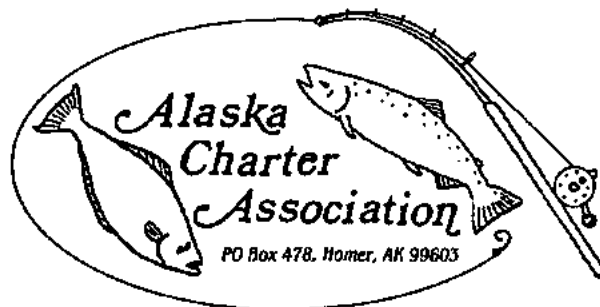
Harvest control measures are necessary to reduce harvest, not unfairly eliminating a hand full of operators.

If limited access privileges are transferable, they should be transferable by all qualified operators. Again, we are dealing with people's livelihood and their reasonable expectation that they could carry out their business activities without fear of losing their investment due to a discriminating regulatory action.

If action is taken that puts people out of business, or eliminates a portion of their business, implement an appropriate compensation program that will fairly compensate those who are damaged. These damages should be paid by those remaining who are benefiting by removal of competition from the industry.

The moratorium period needs to be used to gather more complete data that will support the long term solution. The data should include a comprehensive socioeconomic study of the halibut fishery for its optimum value to the residents of the United States, and the local residents that rely on it for their livelihood. Use the period to gather accurate harvest data. It's required in the commercial sector and it should be required in the guided recreational fishery. If it takes the operator measuring every fish, let's do it. Let's get it right.

Thank you,  
Robert Howard



"To preserve and protect the rights and resources of Alaska's Sport Fishermen."

March 29, 2007

## Moratorium

Madame Chair, and Council members, the Alaska Charter Association (ACA) appreciates this opportunity to present our views on the charter issues facing this council. I am, Greg Sutter, president of the ACA, and owner/operator of Capt. Greg's Charters in Homer. The ACA membership consists of over 360 businesses and individuals from across the state. We have many members that have well established substantial businesses with a very long history in this fishery as well as members who are hoping to grow their operations. The ACA has many members in Southeast and South Central Alaska.

The charter industry in Alaska makes a substantial contribution to the overall economy of the state, especially in our coastal communities. We help attract tourism to the state and provide a valuable service to many residents. Many of the actions before this council can have substantial negative impacts on the overall health of our industry with resulting negative impacts to our coastal communities and the state.

After reviewing the staff analysis concerning many of the proposed actions by this council, the analysis is inadequate and does not properly identify many potential negative consequences to our industry. Apparent in the analysis, it is much easier to identify the consequences to the commercial sector. But when reviewing the data concerning our industry, the findings are elusive at best. The ACA believes it is imperative that a comprehensive socio-economic study be completed before any action is taken to reduce the either bag limits or the size of our fleet. This study should be broad and include the contributions of both the commercial and sport charter industries. The results of the study should be incorporated in all of your decisions concerning the charter issues. It is the only way to make a properly informed decision.

The ACA's position on the moratorium is as follows:

-Issues 1-9: We agree.

-Issue 10: charters if operators fished in either 2004 or 2005 as outlined to meet the 12/09/05 control date, and are currently fishing and each subsequent year prior to the implementation of moratorium, they should be issued a permit.

-Issue 11: 5 permits

-Issue 12: Until the allocation is sufficient to allow more entrants, we recommend the minimum qualifying entrants for CQEs. The ACA agrees with the Stakeholder's outlined provisions.

Other recommendations:

- 1) The moratorium should allow for the transfer of a permit for any qualifying operator.
- 2) Military morale, welfare, and recreational boats should be exempted from the moratorium as well as their resulting catches should be exempt from the GHL.
- 3) The moratorium should sunset in three years, or when the permanent solution is in place.
- 4) We encourage improved fishery data collection that is timely and accurate. We suggest that the length of each halibut harvested by clients be entered onto logbooks.

The ACA wants to advise the Council that we are very concerned about adopting any of the proposed cuts to the charter fleet by eliminating any number of charterboats. Although we looked across the country for other examples from federal councils where charterboats were under moratoriums, we could not find any examples where a portion of the charter fleet was eliminated by direct, formal action by a council. We hope you consider this fact in your action. ACA thanks this Council for your time.



**OUZINKIE NATIVE CORPORATION**  
500 Main Street, Ouzinkie, Alaska 99644

**Phone: (907) 680-2208 Fax: (907) 680-2268**

March 30, 2007

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council  
Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
605 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Re: Agenda Item C -- Halibut Charter Moratorium

Dear Council Members:

As a life long resident of Ouzinkie and as a 32 year board member and current chairman of the Ouzinkie Native Corporation I want to see fishing jobs and opportunities stay in Ouzinkie. I see that the Council has identified a preliminary preferred alternative for your charter halibut moratorium program. Community or CQE permits will help to keep halibut charter opportunities in Ouzinkie. Nevertheless, on behalf of the Ouzinkie Native Corporation and the community of Ouzinkie I strongly urge the Council to increase the number of permits for Ouzinkie to 10. Anything less than 10 moratorium licenses will not be sufficient for the long term community needs.

As I have testified before, I don't believe there is a single person in Ouzinkie that understands why the Council would limit halibut sport fishing licenses for our area. We have just one person that is currently operating a charter business out of our community and there is plenty of room for more charter boats. The moratorium just takes away our opportunities.

The Moratorium is not the real problem that needs to be addressed by the Council. The charter fleet is taking too many fish. Just put a hard limit on the amount of fish the charter fleet can catch and then provide opportunities for charter boats to purchase more fish if they need them. I know and understand the Council's concern about the charter fleet (that is the road system and cruise ship fleet) exceeding their guideline harvest level. The moratorium is not a solution to this problem. Here in Ouzinkie we try to keep only what we can eat and generally let the little fish as well as the big fish go. The Council should consider sport fish size limits that require big fish to be released and catch limits

that prohibit sport fishermen from retaining more than 100 - 150# of halibut (50-100# after processing) annually – about 5 or 6 average fish.

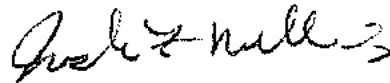
The other moratorium provisions identified by the Council under issue 12 were good choices. The Council should stick with the 10 business limit for qualification. However, the Council needs to clarify that the 10 business are businesses that obtain permanent permits, not just interim permits.

Again, I invite any one of you on the Council as well as any of the Council staff members to please come to Ouzinkie and to meet with our people. We're a village that is actively trying keep families and fishing jobs in Ouzinkie. Yet, we keep going backwards on fisheries and now face yet another program of exclusion. Please make sure that Ouzinkie gets 10 halibut charter permits.

Thank you for your continued support for a few community (CQE) halibut charter permits. I know you folks are trying to do a good job. I'm just afraid that you'll cut us too short on the number of permits you'll provide to Ouzinkie.

If you have any questions regarding Ouzinkie's concerns about the proposed halibut charter moratorium, please contact me at 907-680-2225.

Thank you very much,

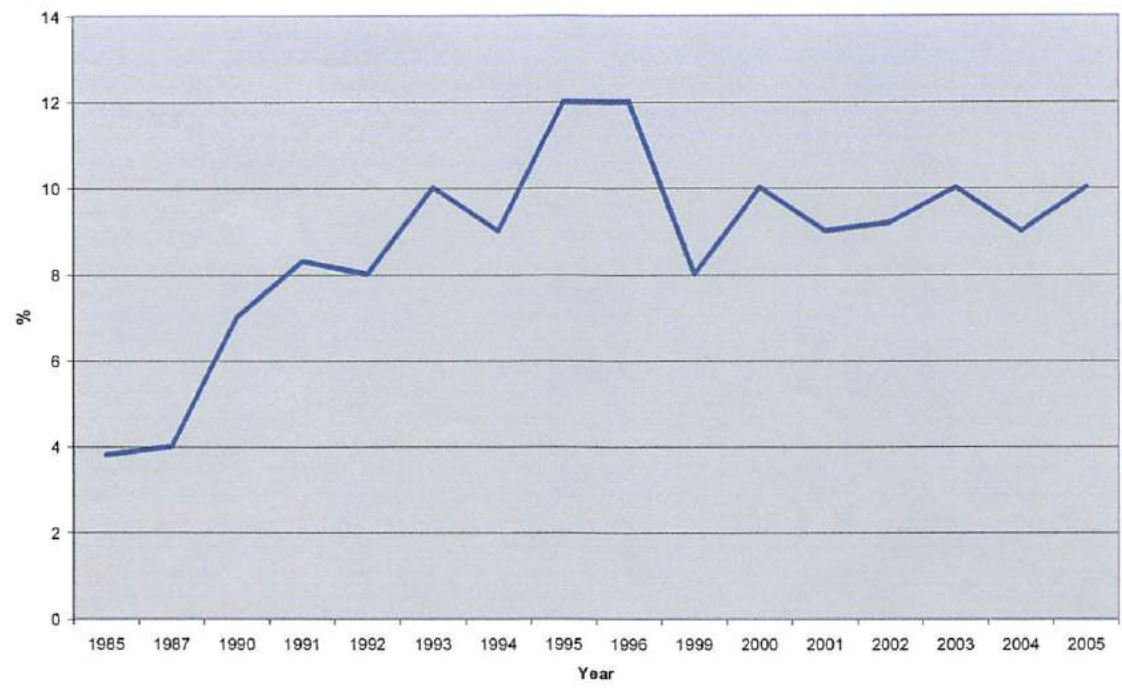


Jackie Muller, Sr., Chairman.



*C-1(a-e)  
Frank Casey*

Sports Catches as % of Total Halibut Removals





March 28, 2007

Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Management Council  
605 W 4th Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Dear Ms Madsen:

The Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) represents over 1,000 member Alaskan tourism interests and many of these are reliant on sports fishing in coastal waters of Alaska, including halibut. The long-term health of the tourism industry in these areas in part relies on your Council's actions regarding the sports charter halibut fishery

ATIA appreciates the continuing deliberations of the NPFMC in seeking a solution to the halibut fishery allocation issues. The efforts undertaken for the halibut fishery have been complex and sometimes contentious. In spite of the challenges, the NPFMC has made deliberate efforts to continue with dialogue and open discussion which ATIA believes will lead to a viable long-term solution for all concerned interests.

ATIA would like to recommend that the NPFMC continue to resolve the important sports charter halibut fishery issue by moving forward on a moratorium that will allow the sports charter halibut fishery to continue taking a 2 fish per day limit both now and in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me or Mark Miller of the ATIA staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Peck", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ron Peck  
President & COO

2600 Cordova Street, Suite 201  
Anchorage, AK 99503-2745  
Tel (907) 646-3319  
Fax (907) 561-5727  
ATIA@alaskatia.org  
[www.alaskatia.org](http://www.alaskatia.org)

Council, Madam Chair

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today regarding the proposed halibut charter industry moratorium. My name is Steve Zernia, owner and operator of ProFish-n-Sea Charters in Seward. Like the majority of charter operators, I am in favor of implementing the Halibut Charter Moratorium. The moratorium is the first step in a long term management solution for the charter industry which should include permanent limited entry, a revised allocation, and a plan such as the Rasmuson Plan to compensate the commercial sector for any reallocation of the resource over and above the revised allocation.

I would like to urge you to approve the moratorium program immediately, to avoid delays that have, in the past, resulted in overturning of previous actions. It is imperative that you protect the Dec. 2005 control date. I feel the council should adopt a 10 trip or higher threshold for inclusion under the moratorium as this keeps the fleet size very close to the level it was at prior to the Dec. 2005 control date. The moratorium program should not allow for greater vessel participation than was exercised in the control year of 2005, as would be allowed under the 1 or 5 trip minimums. An across the board 10 trip minimum also eliminates the problem of having two classes of permits with some being transferable and some not.

I would like to see the council exclude military morale vessels from both the moratorium program and the GHL. This is another situation, much like the harvests made by skipper and crew, where it is unclear as to the extent the military morale harvest is counted in the charter catch numbers. Their catch should be taken off the top much like the sport fishery, this way all sectors equally contribute to the morale opportunities for our troops.

Again, I would urge you to please implement the moratorium as quickly as possible to embark on the road to a permanent solution for the regulation of the halibut charter industry.

Thank you.

**TESTIMONY AT THE NPFMC  
MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 2007 MEETING IN ANCHORAGE**

Good day Madam Chair, members of the Council, I am Bob Howard, Homer Alaska.

The Council is considering a suite of options to manage halibut harvest to achieve compliance with the Guideline Harvest Level.

In addition to the 8 options already proposed, please include the NMFS preferred option of one fish of any size and one fish less than 32" to your options.

In preference to implementation-

1. Elimination of skipper and crew fish by Council, not by the State
2. NMFS preferred alternative, one fish any size, one fish < 32"
3. An annual bag limit that can vary with the GHL. Should the GHL be increased, so could the annual limit, or vise versa.

The balance of the options, daily or season closure, less than 2-fish daily bag limit, the large fish slot limits and minimum fish size of 32" are troublesome.

Daily, and season closure, and less than two fish bag limit restricts the recreational angler from continuing to enjoy the traditional season and harvest levels.

Though not a burden on the recreational angler, the large fish slot limit is burdensome to the guide. Accurately measuring a large fish while still in the water is extremely difficult. It is difficult enough to measure a 40" (30 pound) fish on the deck that is flopping around, without doing it harm. You can't even get a 45" fish (43 pounds) on board without gaffing it.

Enforcement will be difficult and costs will increase for options that contain any size regulation. Costs will increase for the charter operator, the recreational angler, and the enforcement agency.

Whole fish or their frames would have to be returned to the dock for potential verification, and later disposal. Filleting at sea would need to be restricted, leading to the attendant issues with concentrated carcass discard near our harbors.

I support analysis of appropriate harvest control measures for 3A, so they are available should it required. Within these, use NMFS preferred option for partial seasons to fine tune the harvest reductions.

All of these issues go away with a sufficient allocation to meet the traditional fishing experience and expectation of the guided recreational angler.

Sincerely,  
Robert Howard

## Agenda 2c-3a

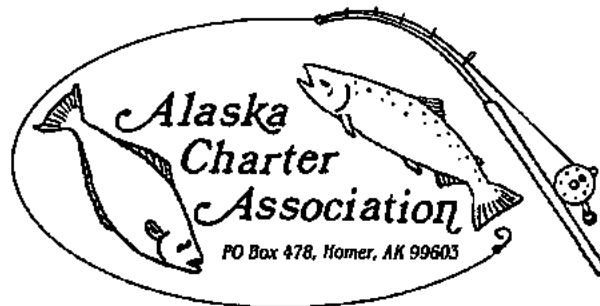
The members of FVOA support for areas 2c and 3a such restrictions be adopted that bring the charter boat fleet into compliance with the Secretarial approved GHL's. We request that you release the regulatory document for area 2c so final action can be taken at your June meeting with the additions recommended by the Advisory Panel.

Relative to area 3a at the Portland meeting the SSC of the council stated the following:

“While the draft work plan is intended to explore possible management measures for Area 2c the SSC **urges that serious consideration be given to extending the analysis to Area 3a.** It is likely that some non resident anglers whose primary trip purpose is to catch halibut may substitute trips to Area 3a for trips in area 2c if management measures implemented in area 2c are perceived as being more restrictive than measures in force in area 3a. Moreover, even if this substitution effect is minor, there is a clear pattern of increasing halibut charter catches in area 3a and every reason to anticipate that the GHL will be exceeded by ever larger margins for the foreseeable future.”

We therefore request of the Council that you support the proposed regulatory review for area 3a as recommended by the AP, which is similar to that for area 2c. The members of the FVOA, though they hold 3a quota shares would rather have an analysis of the options recommended by the AP and have implementation of them if required in the 2009 than not have a complete set of options available to the council.

Comments from Fishing Vessel Owners Association  
Robert Alverson



"To preserve and protect the rights and resources of Alaska's Sport Fishermen."

March 31, 2007

## **Guideline Harvest Level**

Madame Chair, and Council members, the Alaska Charter Association (ACA) appreciates this opportunity to present our views on the charter issues facing this council. I am, Greg Sutter, president of the ACA, and owner/operator of Capt. Greg's Charters in Homer. I have 27 years in the charter fishing business. The ACA membership consists of over 360 businesses and individuals from across the state. We have many members that have well established substantial businesses with a very long history in this fishery as well as members who are hoping to grow their operations. The ACA has many members in both Southeast and South Central Alaska.

The charter industry in Alaska makes a substantial contribution to the overall economy of the state, especially in our coastal communities. We help attract tourism to the state and provide a valuable service to many residents. Many of the actions before this council can have substantial negative impacts on the overall health of our industry with subsequent negative impacts to our coastal communities and the state. Please order a comprehensive socio-economic study that parallels each sector so most of the economic consequences can be properly identified. Analyzing results of this study is essential to sound decision making, especially concerning our issue at this time.

The very first thing that should be adopted by this council is to amend the GHL. It should float with abundance. The GHL has a maximum ceiling that never rises with abundance but does go down when the halibut stocks fall below certain levels. Had the GHL been allowed to float, no overages would have occurred in area 3A and the overages in area 2C would not have been as dramatic. Hence, the proposed regulatory measures would not have to be as extreme. At a minimum, the GHL should float with abundance.

Another major weakness of the GHL is that it was set too low when established. The amount used to establish the GHL provided for a 25% allowance for growth. Yet, every year since it was promulgated, the charter harvests were exceeded in both areas. The GHL must be adjusted upwards to allow for reasonable growth for our clients: recreational anglers, which largely represent the American public. They provide an enormous economic benefit to our state in relation to the amount of the halibut resource they extract. They need to be properly recognized in this equation and appropriately accommodated. The GHL needs to be increased to reflect recent history and with an allowance for appropriate growth.

The ACA firmly believes in maintaining a two fish bag limit, preserving a historical length of season, and precluding any in-season management measures, unless there is a legitimate conservation/biological concern. All three elements are extremely important to our industry.

Since timely catch data is not available, this Council is faced with taking action for 2008 before the 2006 data has been confirmed. Confirmed data will not be available until August of 2007. The ACA feels it is inappropriate to take adverse action in 2008, based on 2006 data before it is even substantiated. This needs to be remedied. Data needs to be complete and available to the Council by the end of the year in which the fish are caught. Charter logbooks with specific client catch information should include the length of each halibut harvested, and reported in a timely manner. At the current method, determining 2008 restrictions based on incomplete 2006 data is entirely inappropriate. The current year's catch data up to November 15<sup>th</sup> should be available to the NPFMC and the IPHC by November 30 of that year.

However, since we are faced with the ADF&G Commissioner's Executive Order in both areas, we do encourage this Council to institute a 10 fish annual bag limit in both area 2C and in 3A in lieu of this executive order. This will address the skipper/crew fish issue as well as reduce the overall harvest. The

options the ACA will not accept for 2C, unless there is a conservation/biological concern, are 2C options 4, 6, or 7 as listed on page 9, Draft AP minutes, dated 03/30/07.

Regarding area 3A GHJ recommendation to initiate analysis for options for management measures to constrain charter halibut harvest to the GHJ in area 3A, the public was not given notice that the council would identify options for 3A. 3A is totally different from 2C and charters in 3A should be given the opportunity to provide comment on the options that go forward for analysis. Therefore, the ACA is requesting that options and analysis for 3 A be postponed until the October council meeting in Anchorage.

The ACA does encourage this council to take action to continue to receive more accurate and timely data, adjust the GHJ to float with abundance, and appropriately correct the GHJ figures to reasonably account for recreational anglers' harvests on charter boats.

The ACA thanks this Council for its time and effort to resolve our industries issues.

# Puffin Fishing Charters

"Experience makes the difference"

1-800-978-3346

P.O. Box 606  
Seward, AK 99664

Holiday Inn Express Hotel  
1412 Fourth Avenue, Ste. D

March 30, 2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

RE: Halibut Allocation

Chairwoman Madsen and Council Members:

I am testifying with regard to the Halibut Allocation provided for recreational anglers fishing from charter vessels and will address the following requests to the Council:

1. **That the Council propose to the IPHC that there be no further increases in the commercial catch limit for Area 3A until allocation issues are resolved and a more equitable allocation is provided for the guided sport sector**
2. **That any program providing for quota share transfer from the commercial sector to the guided sport sector be accompanied by restrictions that remove commercial longlining vessels from inshore fisheries targeted by recreational anglers in an effort to reduce localized depletion**

**No further increase in the Commercial Catch Limit until issues are resolved:** When Commercial Halibut IFQs were established, the recreational fishing sector was granted priority for the fish – after removals for recreational, subsistence, and bycatch, the remainder was provided to the commercial industry. Quota share was granted in units and not pounds and with the clear understanding that it was **not a permanent entitlement**, but was designed to **fluctuate, based not only on the health of the biomass, but on the demand for the resource by the recreational sector**. There was no discussion of a fair allocation – the public was given priority access, as would be expected of a public resource.

The premise of public access to the resource has shifted, commercial quota is now seen as an entitlement, and public access to the resource through guided recreational fishing is being curtailed. I know that the commercial industry argues that they bring fish to the entire American public, but in all honesty most folks can't afford to pay \$14 to \$18 a pound for halibut. In addition, more halibut is exported outside the United States than is caught by the recreational anglers. As you know, more halibut is wasted as bycatch than is caught by recreational anglers. It is a sad commentary when the public's access to a resource is being limited at a time when they take less of the resource than the commercial industry does in its bycatch alone.

Now that there is increased demand for halibut fishing by the public, as evidenced by the increasing numbers of guided and non-guided anglers, it has been proposed that the recreational fishery buy back quota share from the commercial sector. In light of this, **I would ask that the Council propose to the IPHC that the Commercial Catch Limit in Area 3A NOT be further increased until the recreational allocation is adjusted to better meet demand. Increasing**



**Halibut Allocation Comments to NPFMC  
Hawks -- page 2**

**the Catch Limit further privatizes a public resource to which the public has shown that it wants greater access.**

Last year, in Area 3A, the commercial catch limit was increased by one million pounds while the IPHC proposed a simultaneous bag limit restriction on recreational fishing. This excess poundage could be used, for example, for the CQE charter program. To continue to give away a public resource to the private sector, then force the public to purchase the right to access this resource is a travesty and goes against the foundation upon which the IFQ program was based: that the public have first access to the resource and that IFQ shares are revocable (this doesn't revoke shares, but reduces the poundage to which those units are attached).

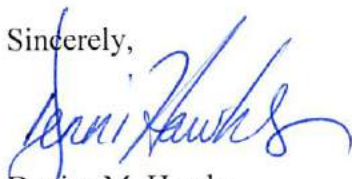
When the IFQ program was established, the Commercial Catch Limit for Area 3A was 20 million pounds – for 2007, it is 26.2 million pounds. **If quota share is returned from the commercial sector to the public, at what catch limit does the commercial entitlement begin? The original 20 million pounds? The current 26.2 million pounds?**

**Commercial longliners should be restricted from inshore recreational fishing areas:** Area 3A is a very large area, but that part of 3A that is available to recreational fishing is a very small area. Recreational fishing is limited by distance and depth of both safety and practical reasons. **The proposal to transfer quota share between sectors contains no consideration of localized depletion.**

I would ask that if the Council considers transferring commercial quota share to the guided recreational sector, that it also **work to preserve adequate fishing areas for recreational fishing by prohibiting commercial longlining from these areas.** That would help to assure that the quota share is more than a transfer on paper, but actually brings more fish to the recreational fishing public.

Thank you for your consideration of these points.

Sincerely,



Denise M. Hawks

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 2007 MEETING IN ANCHORAGE**

**by  
ROBERT HOWARD**

Good day Madam Chair, members of the council, I am Bob Howard, Homer Alaska.

The following three items are lumped together for purposes of testimony.

- a. State/Federal Management- review discussion paper
- b. Review discussion paper on sport fish discard mortality
- c. Discussion paper on halibut allocations, action as necessary

**On Federal/State management-**

I would like to see the Council continue to take a cautious position on this topic. We want to see this flushed out more fully before endorsing the concept. I would prefer the NPFMC use their authority to limit crew harvest instead of the blanket measure imposed by the State on all species. NPFMC could limit skipper and crew to an annual bag limit such as 10 fish to allow for some harvesting for personal use, or it could restrict skipper and crew fishing during peak times such as the months of June, July and August.

**On sport fish discard mortality**

I would like to see better science being applied in this determination. The data used is old, and may not be applicable to current gear and fishing practices. A previous study used in the analysis is over 40 years old and was conducted with long line gear. Data from that study is being applied to sport gear. The work may not be representative of reality. A new study needs to be undertaken employing nothing but rods and reels with various hook types.

**Allocation Analysis**

The recreational fishery goal- maintaining traditional fishing privileges- two fish per day for every qualified recreational angler for the duration of the traditional halibut season as long as there is no biological jeopardy to maintaining a healthy halibut population.

Near term projections indicate that the allocation necessary to carry the guided recreational fishery to implementation of the long term solution (2011) ranges between 2.58M#-3.73M# in 2C (see attached work sheets).

Similar projections for Area 3A indicate the allocation needs to be 4.41M# to achieve adequate fish until 2011 (see attached work sheets).

Thank you,

Robert Howard  
629 Rangeview Ave.  
Homer, Alaska 99603

Halibut Harvest by Guided Sportsmen in Region 2C

Year	Historic Harvest		Historic Harvest	
	Use for 2000-2006 Plot Year No.	Guided Sport Removals <sup>1</sup>	Use for 1995-2006 Plot Year No.	Guided Sport Removals
1995		0.99	1	0.99
1996		1.19	2	1.19
1997		1.03	3	1.03
1998		1.58	4	
1999		0.94	5	0.94
2000	1	1.13	6	1.13
2001	2	1.2	7	1.2
2002	3	1.28	8	1.28
2003	4	1.41	9	1.41
2004	5	1.75	10	1.75
2005	6	1.95	11	1.95
2006	7	2.11	12	2.11

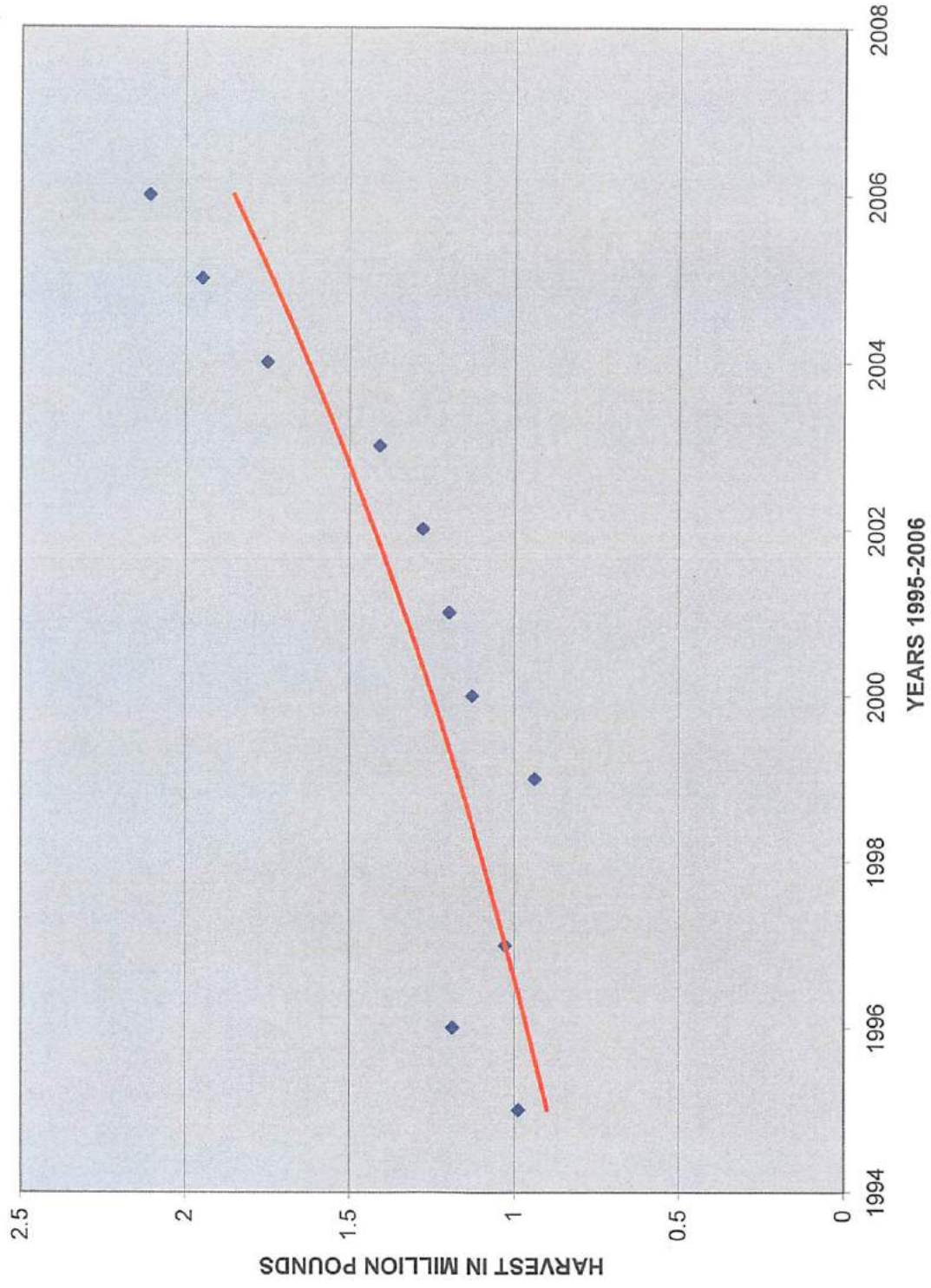
PLOTTING THE ENTIRE DATA SET YIELDS AN EXPONENTIAL CURVE DEFINED BY  $y = .8459 * e^{.0654x}$ , WHERE x IS THE NUMBER OF YEARS PAST 1995, WITH 1995 BEING YEAR 1  
 PLOTTING THE DATA SET FOR 2000-2006 YIELDS AN EXPONENTIAL CURVE DEFINED BY  $Y = .9597 * E^{.1126x}$ , WHERE x IS THE NUMBER OF YEARS PAST 2000, WITH 2000 BEING YEAR 1

Develop the mathematical relationships using the equations for the probable harvest in future years

Year	Number of Years	Projected Harvest		Number of years	Projected harvest using data set starting at 2000	
		Projected harvest using full data set equation	ADF&G Nos.		ADF&G Nos.	
1995	1	0.90	0.99			
1996	2	0.96	1.19			
1997	3	1.03	1.03			
1998	4	1.10	1.58			
1999	5	1.17	0.94			
2000	6	1.25	1.13	1	1.07	1.13
2001	7	1.34	1.2	2	1.20	1.2
2002	8	1.43	1.28	3	1.35	1.28
2003	9	1.53	1.41	4	1.51	1.41
2004	10	1.63	1.75	5	1.69	1.75
2005	11	1.74	1.95	6	1.89	1.95
2006	12	1.86	2.11	7	2.12	2.11
2007	13	1.99		8	2.37	
2008	14	2.12		9	2.66	
2009	15	2.27		10	2.97	
2010	16	2.42		11	3.33	
2011	17	2.58		12	3.73	
2012	18	2.76		13	4.17	
2013	19	2.95		14	4.67	
2014	20	3.15		15	5.23	
2015	21	3.36		16	5.86	

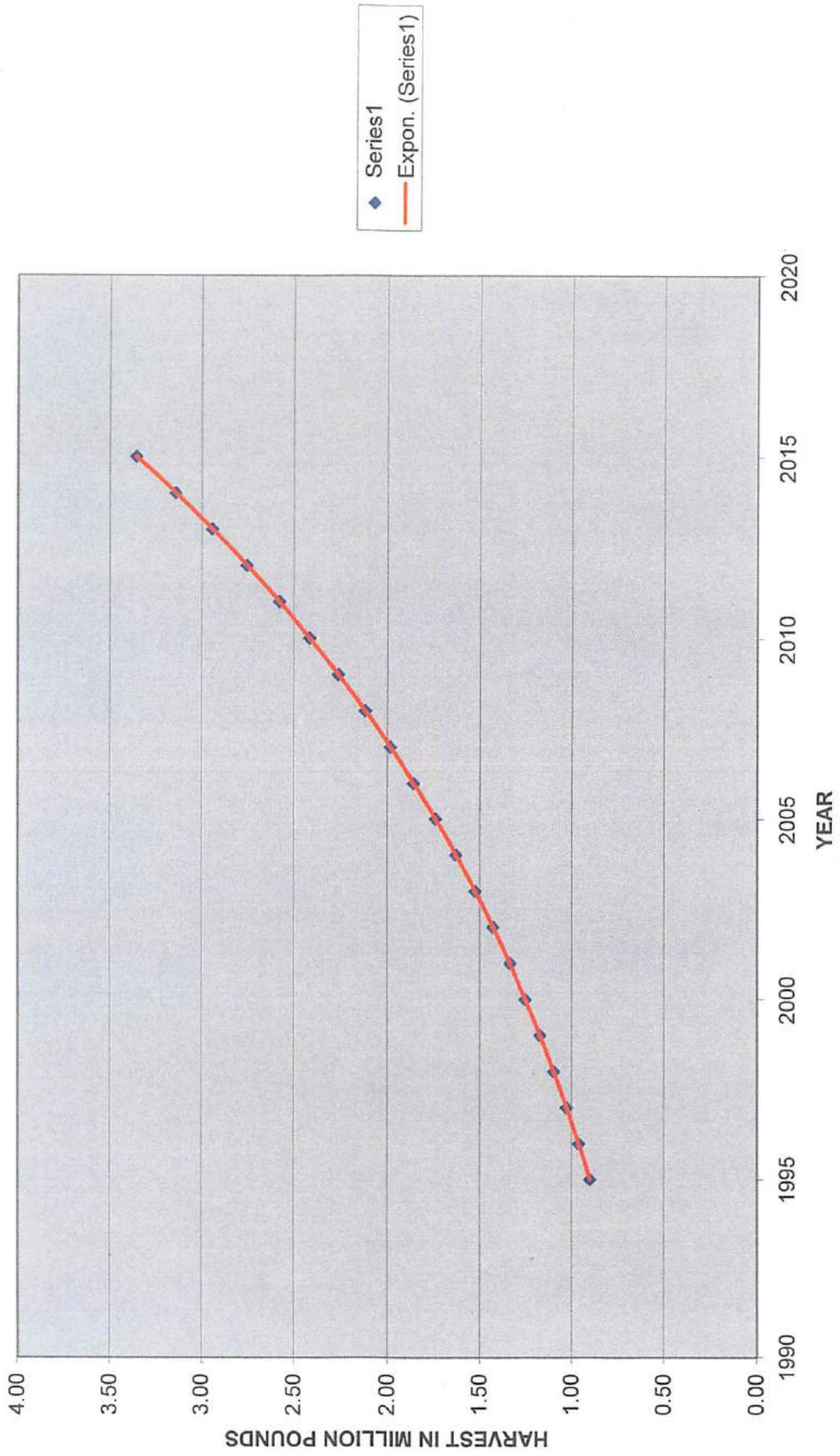
<sup>1</sup>DATA TAKEN FROM ADF&G PUBLISHED DATA

# HISTORIC GUIDED RECREATIONAL HARVEST IN REGION 2C

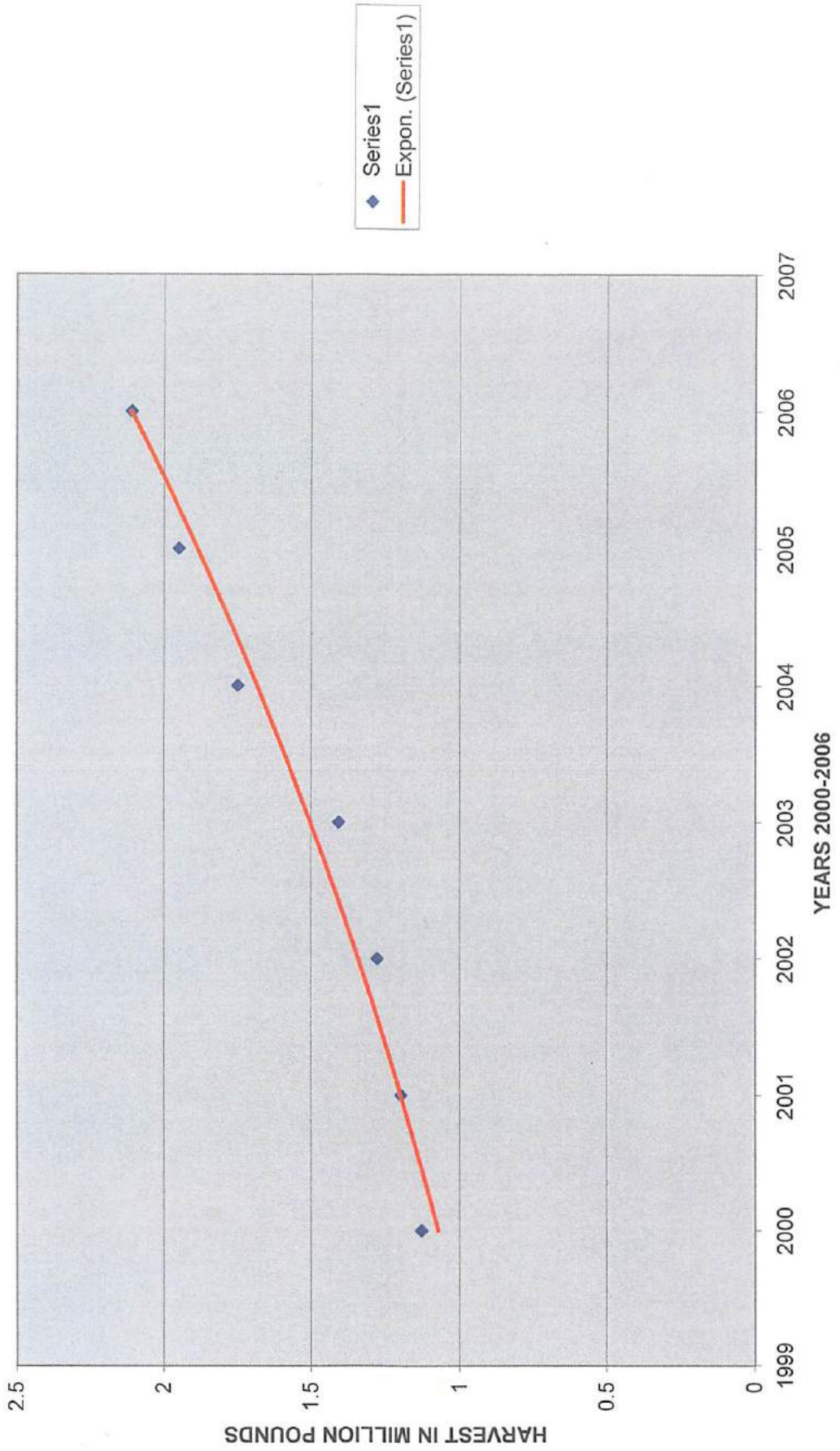


◆ Series1  
— Expon. (Series1)

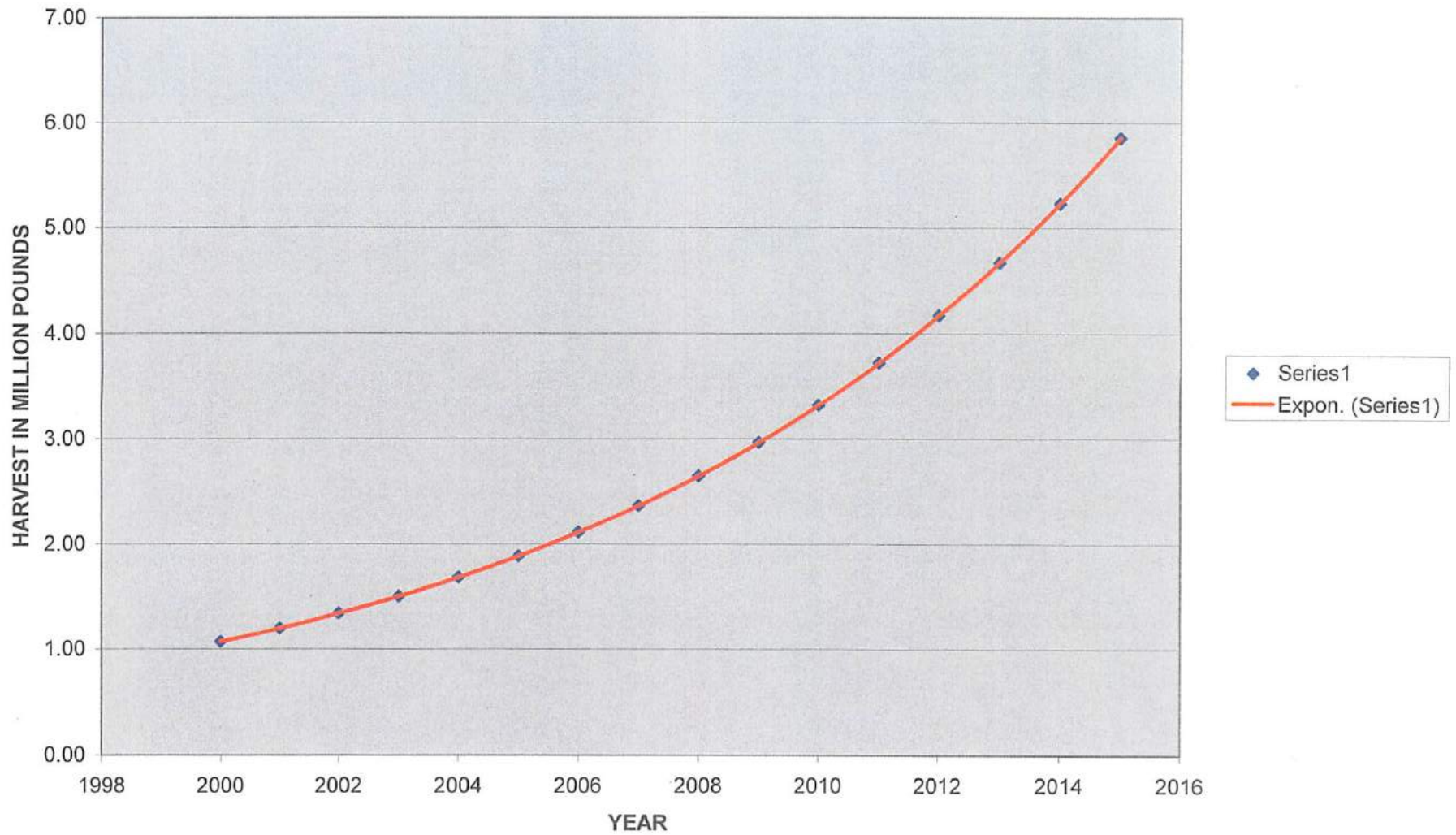
PROJECTED GUIDED RECREATIONAL HARVEST IN REGION 2C  
USING DATA FROM 1995-2006 FOR PROJECTION



HISTORIC GUIDED RECREATIONAL HARVEST IN  
REGION 2C 2000-2006



PROJECTED GUIDED RECREATIONAL HARVEST  
IN REGION 2C USING DATA FROM 2000-2006



HISTORIC RECREATIONAL GUIDED HALIBUT HARVEST IN REGION 3A

Year	YEAR SINCE 1995	HARVEST IN MILLION LBS. <sup>1</sup>	OUTLIER DATA NOT USED IN PROJECTION
1995	1	2.85	
1996	2	2.82	
1997	3		3.41
1998	4	2.98	
1999	5		2.53
2000	6	3.14	
2001	7	3.13	
2002	8		2.72
2003	9	3.38	
2004	10	3.67	
2005	11	3.69	
2006	12	3.95	

PLOTTING THE ENTIRE DATA SET YIELDS AN EXPONENTIAL CURVE DEFINED BY  $y=2.6615 \cdot e^{.0296x}$ , WHERE x IS THE NUMBER OF YEARS PAST 1995, WITH 1995 BEING YEAR 1

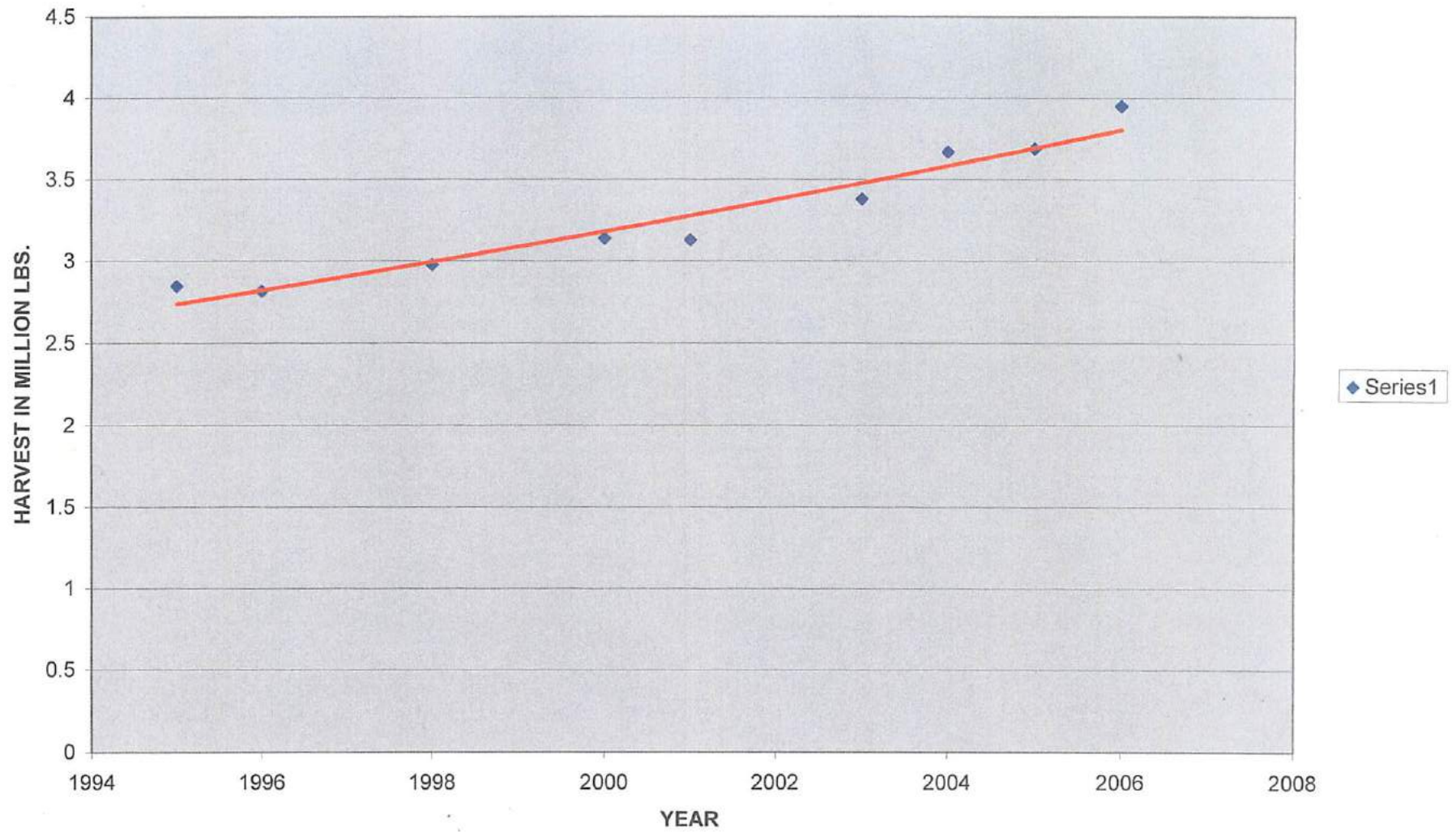
USE THE EXPONENTIAL EQUATION DERIVED FROM THE DATA ANALYSIS AND DETERMINE THE PROJECTED HARVEST INTO THE FUTURE

YEAR	NUMBER OF YEARS SINCE 1995 WITH 1995 BEING YEAR NUMBER 1	PROJECTED HARVEST CALCULATED USING THE EQUATION (MILLION LBS.)	ADF&G NUMBERS
1995	1	2.74	2.85
1996	2	2.82	2.82
1997	3	2.91	3.41
1998	4	3.00	2.98
1999	5	3.09	2.53
2000	6	3.18	3.14
2001	7	3.28	3.13
2002	8	3.38	2.72
2003	9	3.48	3.38
2004	10	3.58	3.67
2005	11	3.69	3.69
2006	12	3.80	3.95
2007	13	3.92	
2008	14	4.04	
2009	15	4.16	
2010	16	4.28	
2011	17	4.41	
2012	18	4.54	
2013	19	4.68	
2014	20	4.82	
2015	21	4.97	

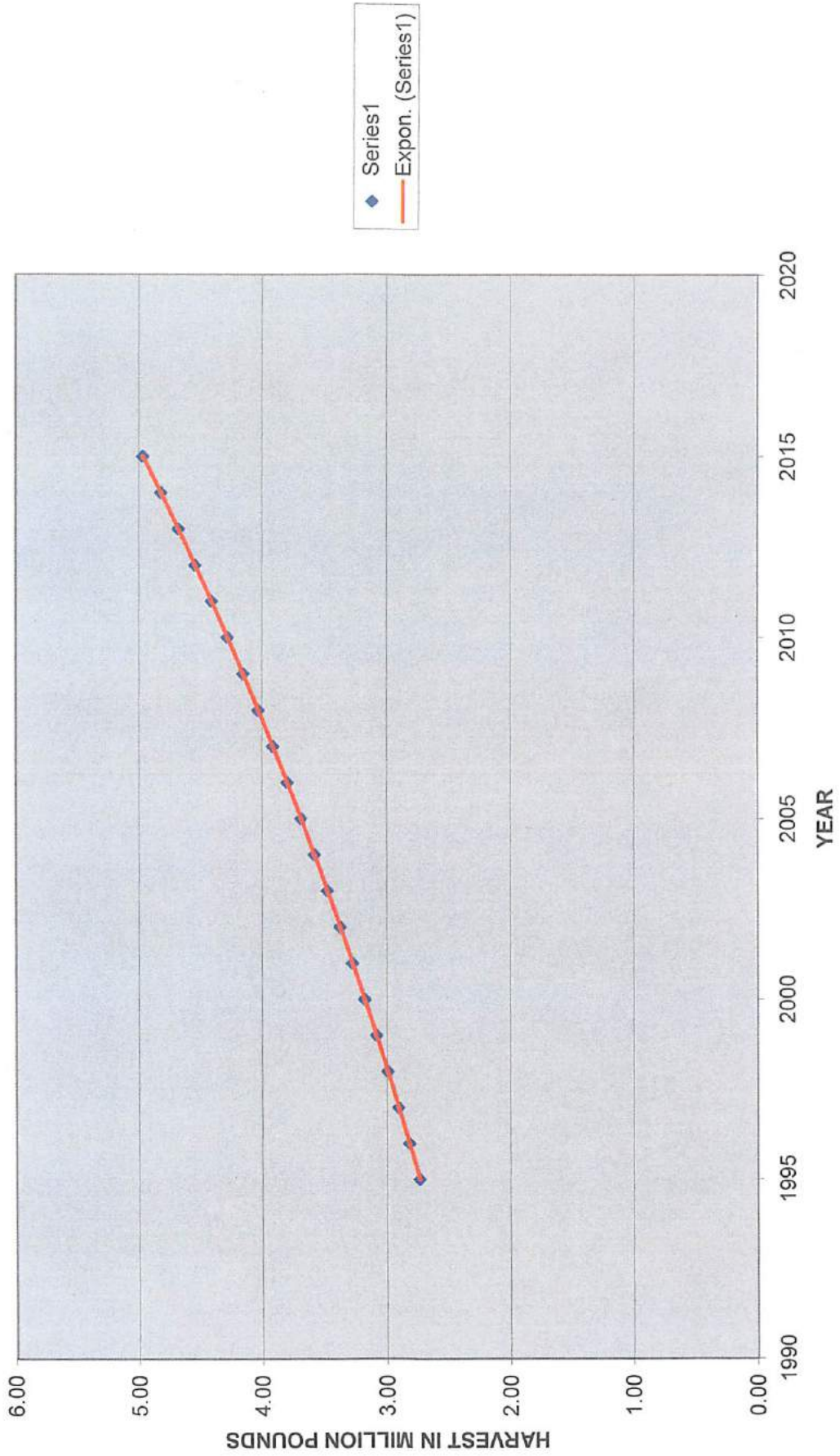
<sup>1</sup>DATA TAKEN FROM ADF&G PUBLISHED DATA



### HISTORIC RECREATIONAL GUIDED HALIBUT HARVEST IN REGION 3A



PROJECTED GUIDED RECREATIONAL HALIBUT HARVEST  
IN REGION 3A PROJECTED OUT TO 2015



Dear madam chairman-members of the council:

This letter represents the concerns of the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union regarding the halibut charter fleet over fishing in areas 2C and 3A resulting in exceeding the GHL to the point of what we feel to be a resource crisis as well as a severe economic hardship for fishermen struggling to repay their quota loans.

The Deep Sea Fishermen's Union was first established in 1912 representing the halibut and sablefish fleet out of Seattle and Alaska. Over half our members are still working on these vessels and are second and third-generation longline fishermen. We have a long and distinguished history in the fishing industry.

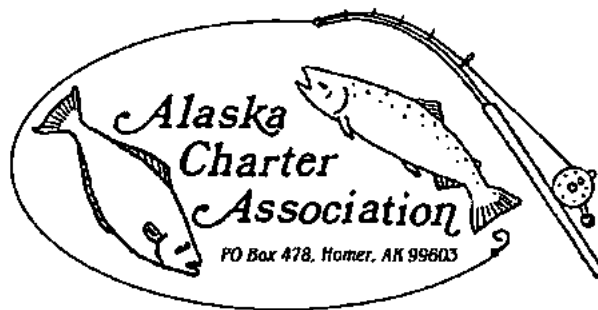
We are a crewman and skippers Union. Our members did not receive initial allocation but have since then purchased IFQ through their own resources. Crewmen have larger holdings in 2C and 3A than any other of the IPHC regulatory areas which is why it is of the greatest concern to the Union. Crewmen now hold 32% of area 2C and 23% of area 3A with an average debt load of \$ 34,000,000 in 2C and \$ 99,000,000 in 3A respectively.

We as longliners are a very resilient and hard working group, however crewmen with quota cannot continue to absorb the economic fallout of the guided charter boat industry's continued unchecked expansion.

In addition to the economic hardship, a very damaging and divisive rift is developing among citizens of our coastal communities. We the members of the Deep Sea Fishermen's Union find this particularly disturbing and we urge this Council to come to a swift and equitable solution to this problem for the sake of the health of our industry and the well being of our communities.

Respectfully:

Tim Henkel President  
Deep Sea Fishermen's Union of the Pacific



"To preserve and protect the rights and resources of Alaska's Sport Fishermen."

April 01, 2007

### **IPHC, STATE MANAGEMENT, ALLOCATION, CROSS OVER, RASMUSON CONCEPT**

Madame Chair, and Council members, the Alaska Charter Association (ACA) appreciates this opportunity to present our views on the charter issues facing this council. I am, Greg Sutter, president of the ACA, and owner/operator of Capt. Greg's Charters in Homer. The ACA membership consists of over 360 businesses and individuals from both Southeast and Southcentral Alaska. We have many members that have well established, heavily invested businesses with a very long history in this fishery as well as members who are hoping to grow their operations.

The charter industry in Alaska makes a substantial contribution to the overall economy of the state, especially in our coastal communities. We help attract tourism to the state and provide a valuable service to many residents. Many of the actions before this council can have substantial negative impacts on the overall health of our industry with subsequent negative impacts to our coastal communities and the state. Please order a comprehensive socio-economic study that parallels each sector so most of the economic consequences can be properly identified. Analyzing results of this study is essential to sound decision making, especially concerning our issue at this time. Up to this point and throughout the history of the fishery, both sectors have done extremely well. We should keep it that way.

The ACA did not agree with this year's IPHC decision with two of its actions: 1) to reduce bag limits to one fish, 2) the result of using the GHL amounts, versus actual charter catch data from 2006, to calculate the final allowable catch. The IPHC needs to focus their attention on preserving the health of the biomass and determining the catch allocations between the USA and Canada. The domestic allocation within the USA rests with this Council and not the IPHC.

The IPHC decision on bag limits was made without consideration for any socio-economic impacts and without sufficient public notice. This type of action should rest with this Council as it provides the opportunity for adequate public input. Though overturned by the Secretary of State and reverted back to NMFS, the IPHC decision did negatively impact our industry.

In using the GHL amounts instead of historic harvest estimates for calculating the TAC, it appeared to the ACA board that the IPHC, by default, employed Separate Accountability. The ACA opposes the Separate Accountability. However, the True Accountability proposal should be incorporated once the allocation issue is settled.

The ACA supports the State of Alaska and the federal government being able to share information and enforcement capabilities. We support the Alaskan HB 186 to reach this end. And the ACA does continue to support the State's expressed desire to seek Delegation of Authority for practical matters. However, many members have expressed concern over the possibility of in-season management measures that will impact our business models.

The State Executive Order to eliminate skipper/crew fishing is onerous amongst our membership. Even though many in our industry feel that skipper/crew harvest should be one of the first privileges sacrificed, the EO measure is too broadly applied and effects harvests of other species not related to this issue. An annual bag limit by this Council is the more appropriate measure. We feel this issue can be handled by a 10 fish annual bag limit. This measure will provide for client's expectations that are booking multiple day trips and concurrently restrict skipper/crew harvests.

The ACA strongly encourages the Council to amend the GHL to float with abundance and appropriately raise our industry's allocation to reflect recent data and an allowance for growth. Had the GHL been allowed to float, no action would have been required in 3A, and the proposed harsher restrictions in 2C would have been minimized. The GHL should be allowed to float with abundance.

## ACA

The allocation should be sufficient enough to carry our industry through the year 2011. We cannot afford to endure cuts through the next several years before the permanent solution is in place. The ACA firmly believes in maintaining a two fish bag limit, preserving a historical length of season, and precluding any in-season management measures, unless there is a legitimate conservation/biological concern.

The allocation must be appropriately raised to reflect current trends. Currently, the charter industry is facing more and more restrictions that will ultimately have severe impacts on our industry as well as our state's tourism trade. Both industry are inter-related and provide very significant social benefits. The potential detrimental effects by reducing the health of either sector are not well understood nor adequately documented. However, empirical data suggests the negative impacts will greatly affect coastal communities. The allocation must be raised. Attached are amounts the ACA recommends for analysis. The range of allocation alternatives found in Element 1 of the AP motion is too narrow and must be broadened.

The ACA does support the concepts contained within the Rasmuson Plan. Recently, there was a Study Group formed with representatives from each industry sector. The focus of this group was to establish a framework around various "compensated reallocation" mechanisms. The Rasmuson Plan allows for a compensated reallocation the GHF is raised. We support that concept and encourage this Council to instruct the Stakeholder's Committee to finish work on this plan and the compensated reallocation mechanism.

The ACA opposes the Crossover Plan brought forward for this Council's consideration. It should not even be considered by this Council until the permanent solution is in place. The ACA opposes any IFQ plan or any attempt to "privatize" our clients' right to the fishery. The Recreational Fishing Alliance and the ACA will jointly oppose this and any IFQ plan.

Again, we thank this Council for your time and consideration.

## CHARTER ALLOCATION OPTIONS

Option A)	<u>Historical Harvest Growth Projections to 2011</u>		
	2C	2,580,000 pounds	19.5% of 2006
	3A	4,410,000 pounds	14.9% of 2006
Option B)	<u>Based on Anglers days in 2005 (angler days = clients x 2 fish x 20lb avg.)</u>		
	2C	77,610 anglers 3,104,000 pounds	22.1% of 2006
	3A	133,773 anglers 5,350,000 pounds	17.4% of 2006
Option C)	<u>125% of 2005 Harvest Amount</u>		
	2C	(1,952,000 x 1.25) 2,440,000 pounds	18.2%
	3A	(3,689,000 x 1.25) 4,611,250 pounds	15.3%
Option D)	<u>125% OF 2001-2005 Harvest Amount</u>		
	2C	1,898,000 pounds	16.7%
	3A	4,149,000 pounds	15.0%
Option E)	<u>125% of 2006 Harvest Amount</u>		
	2C	(2,028,000 x 1.25) 2,535,000 pounds	18.0% est.
	3A	(3,968,000 x 1.25) 4,960,000 pounds	16.1% est.

**Please amend the GHL to allow it to float with abundance.**

McQuarrie

## HCCA Choices

### AREA 2C GHL MANAGEMENT MOTION Halibut Charter Coalition of Alaska Recommendations 31 March 2007

Reference is made to the Draft AP Minutes dated 8:39 AM, 3/30/2007 which contained their passed Motion on the following Area 2C revised Management Options:

- Option 1: No more than one trip per vessel per day  
Suboption: Trip defined as beginning a new fishing trip with a different group of halibut anglers.
- Option 2: No harvest by skipper and crew.
- Option 3: Annual limits of 4, 5, 6, or 8 fish per (charter) angler.
- Option 4: Reduced bag limits of 1-fish per day in May, June, July, August or for the entire season.
- Option 5: A 1-fish bag limit with the option to harvest a 2nd fish larger than 40", 45", or 50". (Note: the removal of 55" & 60")
- Option 6: Closing the season after August 15, September 1, or September 15.
- Option 7: Closing one or more days during the week to halibut fishing.
- Option 8: A minimum size limit of 32".
- Option 9: 1-fish any size with an option for a 2nd fish under 32" with demand reduction analysis.
- Option 11: Limit the number of lines to the number of halibut angling clients on board.

Additionally, the AP recommends Council further analyze the following management options in combination with demand reduction impacts:

- Suboption 1: Options 1, 2, 11, and 9.
- Suboption 2: Options 1, 2, 11, 5 and 9.
- Suboption 3: Options 1, 2, 11, and 5.
- Suboption 4: Options 1, 2, 11, 3, and 9.

#### HCCA supports the AP's recommendations with the following additions:

- Option 1:** In defining a "day" we want a breakout of using a trip defined as 12 AM to 12 AM – Current ADF&G definition. OR in a 24-hour period beginning with departure from Port or beginning the trip.
- Option 3:** Reevaluate enforcement concerns post passage of HB 186, Log Book Data Sharing Bill, on 30 Mar 07.
- Option 4:** Include September for analysis.
- Add Option 10:** Reverse Slot Limit: 1-Fish any size and 1-Fish either under 32" OR larger than 40", 45", 50".
- Add Suboption 5** under Demand Reduction Impacts: Options 1, 3, 9, and 10.

*Do Agree*  
~~We recommend no analysis be initiated for Area 3A at this time.~~ Current ADF&G E.O. prohibiting Skipper & Crew Fish retention should accomplish necessary reduction to maintain Area 3A below GHL. In addition, IPHC's projection for the TAC is relatively stable.

AREA 30 BILL MANAGEMENT MOTION  
Habitat Chapter Coalition of Alaska Recommendations  
17 March 2007

Reference is made to the Draft AP Minutes dated 8:39 AM 3/30/07 which contain the passed motion on the following Area 30 revised Management Options:

The following are the recommendations of the Habitat Chapter Coalition of Alaska regarding the Area 30 Management Options. The recommendations are based on the information provided in the Draft AP Minutes and the Habitat Chapter Coalition of Alaska's understanding of the Area 30 Management Options. The recommendations are intended to provide a more comprehensive and detailed set of options for the Area 30 Management Options. The recommendations are intended to provide a more comprehensive and detailed set of options for the Area 30 Management Options. The recommendations are intended to provide a more comprehensive and detailed set of options for the Area 30 Management Options.

HCOA supports the AP's recommendations with the following additions:

- Option 1: In defining a "day," we want a break-out of using a day defined as 12 AM to 12 AM -- Current ADF&G definition. OR in a 24-hour period beginning with departure from Port of... beginning the...
- Option 2: Reevaluate enforcement concerns post passage of H9 189. Log Book Data Sharing Bill on 30 Mar 07.
- Option 4: include September for analysis.
- Add Option 10: Revealers 300 Limit 1-Fish any size and 1-Fish either under 32. OR larger than 40" 40" 50" 60"
- Add Suboption 2 under Demand Reduction impacts. Options 1, 2, 9, and 10.

We recommend no analysis be initiated for Area 3A at this time. Current ADF&G E.O. prohibiting Skipper & Crew fish retention should accomplish necessary reduction in mortality. In addition, if HCO's projection for the TAC is relatively stable, Area 3A below 30L.



# Goodhand Charters of Valdez

P.O. Box 90, Ester, Alaska 99725  
907-479-5562

AGENDA C-1  
Supplemental  
MARCH 2007

North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

March 24, 2007

# LATE COMMENT

RE: Agenda C-1 Halibut Moratorium

I am writing to you to bring my two cents forward. I will not be able to attend the meetings this week for medical reasons. This March meeting, while I feel is the most important meeting to date, I can not be in attendance, according to my doctor, if I would like to work this season. I need to work, so I am hoping that you will take the time to read this message. Normally, I would try and get time with you in the hall or at break times, etc. and then in public testimony when I normally get some questions from the council members. My involvement at the meetings has thus far been 100%. This will be the first meeting that I will miss, and is regrettable for me, as there is a much on the plate.

Please bear with me as I go through the issues; then, I would like to share five e-mails with you that have come to me, as somewhat of an eye opener, and I feel very important to the over all charter issue. These e-mails below can give you some insight on problems in the charter fleet. I know this is somewhat lengthy, but please take the time to read these notes of mine and the e-mails from 5 charter operators. I normally don't call or write you, as I feel my issues and feelings can and are heard at the meetings. Since I have been on numerous Council Committees on the halibut charter issues in the last 14 years, and the Council has bothered to put me on the Stakeholders Committee, I would think you would like to consider my input. At this time I would ask for your indulgence.

I started this morning at about 5AM, and for a side bar, it's 17 below outside so I would rather be in Anchorage for the meeting.

- **Moratorium:** Establishment of a Halibut Charter Moratorium, with the 9 Dec 05 Control Date, and use the 2004 or 2005 Logbook data as preferred for qualifying criteria.
- **Threshold:** A 5 day-trip threshold for qualification for inclusion in the Moratorium, with a secondary 20 day-trip threshold for a transferable moratorium permit is preferred. While only two of my membership would be effected by the higher threshold of 20 trips, my association, as well as the Stakeholders Committee recognized the business models of some long time charters should not be affected by too high of a threshold. A second threshold of 20, for a transferable permit, would help address the latent capacity issue. This would be somewhat of a problem to those businesses caught in that 5 to 19 category, but that would be temporary, as the Council rapidly moves into a permanent solution. The fear of an entry threshold set too high would also cause there to be too many disenfranchised businesses, which along with the additional people who have entered halibut charting since 12/09/05, would possibly cause a problem. If you don't use this two tiered method, then I would recommend that no less then 10 trip-days be used. Even if you only go with a threshold of 5 - close the door, but please don't go to a zero threshold. Use of 2004 or 2005 Logbook data is preferred. We have a latent capacity problem that needs to be addressed. Recently HCCA\* board member Bob Candopoulis and HCCA\* Executive Director Kimberly Tebrugge were in DC, with Congressmen Young personally and again through our lobbyist repeatedly mentioned the need for strictly limiting new entries—as if we didn't know this—and even used it as an ultimatum: limit yourselves or don't ask for any help on future halibut charter issues. It was a bit insulting, but the point was clear: decision-makers are serious about seeing a threshold established. Close the door.

## Goodhand Charters of Valdez

- **Crossover plan:** This plan has merit in that it gives the option of individual choice for a business. This plan should not be considered as replacement of the needed adjustment in allocation between commercial and charters. I believe the cross over is being put forward by some, for the replacement of an allocation solution. Charters need a fair adjustment, for a jumping off place to start a permanent solution. At the time that the allocation issue is chosen by the council, then the cross over would be a useful tool for a compensated shift, back and forth, between sectors. But, unless this plan includes purchasing of quota in addition to leasing, then it's worthless.
- **Rasmusson plan:** This plan has some merit with the proper permanent plan. However, I feel that this plan comes with the thought that it will eliminate the Moratorium, or the need for any other long range permanent plan. One of the problems is the real possibility of State management. In conversations with charters up and down the coast, State management is not desired except by a very few. Frankly, I haven't talked to one charter that wants the State involved. They're out there I'm sure, but to consider another layer of Government, when we can have plans coming to the table, that simplify and limit the need to have bureaucracies involved in our businesses, this is ridiculous. This plan has the affect of "mortgaging the fleet" or more accurately, the invested charter would be paying for the newer operator to grow. Councilmen Rasmusson came to the last Stakeholder Committee meeting and when the subject of any privatizing of halibut came up, one of his comments was: he did not want competition in the banking business, but that, that did not stop competition from happening. My thoughts are that there is a limited halibut resource, compared to the Government continuing to print more money on daily basis. That's a big difference; they're not comparable. This plan should be analyzed so we can consider its impacts; impacts like making it difficult for the new commercial fishermen to get started because of competition from this plan. Also, the impacts of taxing the charters that are already established to benefit the undeveloped charter.
- **GHL:** I would suggest that you consider the allocation issue first, as that could reduce the need for potentially devastating restrictions like a 1 fish limit. Also, 3A is a different animal then 2C. So, you may possibly need to have separate limitations or tools for each area. Some areas of 2C may feel they could survive with 1 fish, whereas I believe for all of 3A, it would be devastating.
- **Allocation:** The allocation needs to be adjusted for the Charter sector so it's adequate for the Moratorium and for the move to a permanent solution. I don't like to put numbers forward, but the predicament that charters are in now is because of the Federal Government's failures to put forward a moratorium requested by charters, 3 times in the past 10 years, and inaction by NMFS and NOAA for the foot dragging of the Charter IFQ plan. Frankly, the Fed's should write the check.
- **New vs. Old charters:** In the December 2005 Council meeting, the State's data was showing that there were 65% of the charters in business in 2005 that would qualify for the (old guys) Charter IFQ plan. In other words, a business would have had to be in business in 1999 and turn in a logbook with halibut landings in that year at least. Further, those 65% provided 75% to 80% of the access to halibut for the public. Conversely, it also showed that 35% of the charters in business in 2005 that would not qualify (newbees) for the Charter IFQ plan represented between 20 and 25% of the public access. I hope that you keep in mind, who is providing the public access consistently. If you would look into the demographics of these two groups, you'd see they are two different, but ever changing groups. I believe you will find that in the old guys group, you have had a turnover, or loss of businesses, of about 7% to 10% annually, while in the newer group, the turnover is about 30 to 40% annually. Obviously, some of the "newbees" become "old guys" or permanent businesses eventually. While there is a marked turnover, there is a core group as in the Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association which has an overall average of 12.3 years in business. Our newest business is only 3 years old and our oldest is 26 years. This group of "old guys" provides the majority of the public access to the halibut resource. These people – these

## Goodhand Charters of Valdez

businesses - want a Moratorium and a permanent solution that provides for business choice individually, in some form or another.

- Local depletion: I can only speak to Prince William Sound. In the years of 1993 and 1994, the take of commercial halibut within the 3 mile limit of Prince William Sound was about 350,000 pounds each year. By 1998, the commercial harvest in the same area of Prince William Sound, increased to 1,200,000 pounds - well over a 3 fold increase. The commercial TAC for 3A only had a very small increase by comparison. Charters and non-charter halibut fishermen are being displaced by the commercial IFQ halibut fishermen. This is a problem the council will need to address in the near future. The Valdez community has been losing charter businesses steadily since the beginning of commercial IFQ's.
- Permanent Solutions: With the above problems we are finding with local area depletion, and the possibility of one or both 2C and 3A areas being under a restriction (other than the traditional 2 fish per day, and an uninterrupted season), requalifying for a permanent solution is wrong. However, we do have all the info needed in the logbooks right now, to move ahead for a program. For instance: the 2006 logbook data that we have is verifiable. I am not suggesting that we use 2006 for anything other than ground proofing the prior years. I also believe that all of the members in my association will be included in any permanent solution that will come out of the Stakeholders Committee. More on this at the next meeting. Please don't hesitate to call, I'll be at 907-479-5562 most anytime, good in the evenings also.

Thank you,  
John Goodhand

\*As a footnote, the following people and associations have started the Halibut Charter Coalition of Alaska in the last 45 days because of the perception that we are being represented by the ACA. We are not.

The HCCA includes:

John Goodhand of the Prince William Sound CBA 18 years in business,  
Larry McQuarrie Sportsman's Cove Lodge 23 years in business, of Prince of Wales Island  
Ken Dole Water Fall Lodge 28 years in business, of Prince of Wales Island  
Bob Candopoulos of Seward 28 years in business,  
Bob Ward - Homer Charter Association 21 years in business,  
Tim Evers Deep Creek Charter Association 18 years in business,  
Rick Bierman 14 years in business Juneau Charter Operators,  
HCCA is an industry organization, geared to providing a quality product, for the public.  
HCCA represents 174 independent charter businesses, and growing.

John

These first 3 of 5 e-mails are listed in order from top to bottom for easier reading. I have tried to hide the identity of T, so please use discretion, as she is obviously concerned.

John

"Hey Ken,

*Thanks for some clarification on HB 186. I will not be able to make it to Anchorage next week. I will be glad to help all I can with lodging and meals in June, if I have the rooms open...and when we have more info on who will need housing we can help find others to help...the more of you that can be here the better! I plan to testify at the June NPFMC meeting very reluctantly and hope many others will as well. A Power Point presentation may be one way to alleviate some of the stress of speaking in front of the Council and all the commercials. I will clarify the stress part more in a moment...*

*I'm sure many folks are wondering where is Sitka in all of this? Good question...! Maybe this will help clarify that question to some small degree"*

## Goodhand Charters of Valdez

"- Being verbally slandered with bumper stickers that say CHARTER FISHING IS AN ORGANIZED CRIME! on MANY vehicles in Sitka (both on their bumpers and in their back windows) has been part of some of the commercial's latest campaign to insult us over this last year. Imagine what the tourists think when they see that plastered all over our town?!?!

- Being accused of not paying our way, because we, the guided sport industry, don't pay a 3% raw fish tax, like the commercials do. Our public image seems to be in the gutter!

- Being the only town (probably in the US) that now has a \$10 per (any size) Fish Box Tax for all sport charter caught fish is a real slap in our faces. This was voted in by the citizens of Sitka, and city administrators don't know what it is going to cost to implement or enforce! All city administrators have to go on is speculative, and commercials think this is one way to get us to pay our way.

- Being one of many charter operators in Sitka that have had our tires slashed, and/or our charter vessels vandalized over the years, causing thousands and thousands of dollars in damages and is demoralizing folks from ever speaking out. This has been an ongoing problem from the time of the king salmon allocation battles, to the latest halibut issues being debated now in the NPFMC arena.

**All of you should know TERRORISM is alive and well in Sitka!** We have to be very careful what we say at all times. We can't run, and we can't hide. We live here - many have children!

All of you can waltz into town, state your positions, and then leave, and know you are safe and have dodged the bullets that will ultimately land on us in personal attacks on our vehicles and vessels at the minimum.

To give you a little background information about myself: I am speaking from some experience. I grew up on the Oregon coast and worked on charterboats as a deckhand throughout my teenage years. I saw the charter industry crash after I left Oregon! Moved to Alaska permanently when I was 19 and crewed on trollers and longliners for a couple of years and worked at Petersburg Icicle Seafoods for five years. I am an entrepreneur. I created Alaska XXXXXX XXXX and processed and sold 100,000 lbs of salmon eggs a year for bait for salmon, trout and steelhead stream fishing. I sold my bait company to XXXXXX XXXXX and went partners to start XXXXXX XXXXXX Charters, Inc. in 1990. I am a local resident of Sitka for 22 plus years now. I have been the owner of XXXXXX XXXXXX Charters, / XXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX Lodge since April 1990 and a USCG licensed guide for 17 years. I married another Charter Operator X years ago come June 1st., who also works as crew on a productive Sitka longline vessel for the last several years.

We earn a living from both sides of the fence, so to speak. This has brought me to an acute awareness of what both charter and longline fisheries are about. I was on the Sitka Fish and Game Advisory Panel for seven years in the latter 90's sitting in a very lonely seat as the only charter representative during the years of the king salmon allocation battles and I was on the first Halibut Task Force back then. I tried to advocate for a gear free corridor around population areas way back then, because I could see the writing on the wall! And the local area depletion is happening! But it was too early and the commercials were on a roll and not willing to give one inch! Eventually this will have to change. Finally, I had to just step back and regroup for a few years.

I am a member of SCBOA. I feel like I we have a cart with no wheels, and a very few of us are the donkeys trying to pull this cart with no wheels up Halibut Hill, meanwhile being bombed at by the commercial interests to try and stop us from achieving our goals of keeping an uninterrupted access to this common property resource open at the same levels of the past years. The letters from Don and Greg are right on! Wish we could achieve a massive objection and win a legal challenge, and not be perceived by the public as putting a "Band-Aid on cancer!" We recognize we are the "taxis" for the public to access the resource. We don't get the fish. Commercials don't seem to get that.

In closing, I would agree and like to see ALL of us go on the record soon stating that the existing and proposed halibut management measures are unwarranted under Magnusson; however, pending a determination by the Secretary of Commerce if a fishery management plan for Alaska halibut is required, the SCBOA will continue to participate in NPFMC halibut meetings, panels, and discussions.

Don't know if this has helped or not... Thanks for listening."

Sincerely,

T.

## Goodhand Charters of Valdez

"T.:

*I've heard of the bumper stickers and vandalism before from Tom Ohaus and other Sitka folks I've met over the years during my various fishery meetings. You" "folks are probably deeper in and at personal risk more than most. I've swung to both sides of the debate and learned that it is very complicated and contentious. There's good guys and bad guys on both sides and more than a few of us that wish we'd never entered the fray. Let alone invested the 100's of thousands of dollars that many of us have in a life style and living that will most likely disappear in the next 20 years despite our best efforts.*

*The COM Fish guys saw the handwriting on the wall first and made their grab in 1995 and truly do have the economic clout and appointments and politicians in their hip pockets to outlast us open access/sport fish folks. Because of almost year round fishing access by the COM Fish guys, the fishing dynamic for us charter sports guys has so drastically changed due to near shore depletion, that we will not recover no matter how much allocation is bought or given to us, unless the gear conflict is fixed, and fixed soon. And that will be tough to do, and will require many compromises. I wish I had more immediate answers for you and will ponder some more over the next week and a half... Hang in there. Ken"*

V/R

Ken L Larson

Secretary, PWSCBA

Home: (907)488-2960

Cell: (907)322-2798

"Ken,

*The letter from Sitka has REALLY bothered me all night. It is chilling.*

*I have thoughts like:*

- *Why would we, as a group expose ourselves to such an environment for a NPFMC meeting in the first place?*
- *Should the NPFMC even hold a meeting in a community that is so polarized that this behavior prevails?*
- *What would be the effect if we, en masse, as an industry, refused to attend a meeting in a venue like Sitka?*
- *What would happen if the NPFMC refused to hold a meeting in a community that fosters such behavior?*
- *The NPFMC is a federal body. Harassment such as described should raise federal hackles over civil rights.*
- *This is a direct reflection upon the leadership of fisheries groups (perhaps on both sides of the aisle) in Sitka and those leaders need to sit down together, perhaps under pressure, and put a stop this kind of behavior*
- *Why are we so concerned about an "orderly and compensated reallocation" if we are compensating people who have little respect for others rights?*
- *Don't we have enough problems without this kind of thing going on?*
- *Where are civic leaders in all this? Are these actions being ignored, or worse condoned by police, local governments, newspapers, Rotary, fraternal orders, and other civic groups? What is wrong with this picture? What kind of culture is this?*
- *How can decent people ignore such things if they are as blatant as described?*
- *Have charter operators played a hand in this? Are they just as bad? Where does this kind of"*

## Goodhand Charters of Valdez

"activity end? By someone getting hurt or even killed?"

- What are the implications for non-residents, visitors, and how will that affect Sitka economically if it is allowed to continue, or even escalate?

*This is really sickening. I had no idea it had reached this level...*

*"I hadn't planned on going to Sitka for the NPFMC meeting anyway. I can't get away, but I know I will not spend any of my money in that town, ever, as long as that kind of behavior persists.*

*There was (still is) a Native village on the Inside Passage called Klemtu, in the middle of nowhere, that behaved similarly toward "outsiders." It had only a small commercial fishery to maintain its economy and provide jobs. It was unpleasant and considered even dangerous to stop there. It withered and nearly died until local leaders turned things around. Now it is considered a destination of choice when you are transiting the IP. It takes leadership to make a change, and conversely, when things are bad, it is the leaders of the community, and in particular, the leadership of the groups responsible for these activities that bear the brunt of the responsibility for them.*

*I think the Council should hear from us on this..."*

Mac

This next one comes from a Homer charter that has been in business for 29 years and runs a large certified vessel. He was involved early on in the issue but backed out because of not liking conflict.

John

*"On 3/20/07 8:42 AM, "North Country Charters" wrote:*

*"Good morning Bob, I feel that the concerns of you and I and everyone like us in the industry are not being acknowledged on the stake holder committee. Have you or anyone you know ever been contacted by a stakeholder about your concerns on our immediate and long term issues?"*

*I haven't but I have contacted Rex Murphy and Greg Sutter but they don't seem very open to any ideas that don't come from Bob Penny or Ed Rasmusen. The reality may be that the carrying capacity of Homer Charter Association and other like minded thinkers in the industry actually is greater than the ACA. Most of the big boats in our area I think are on the IFQ wagon. Maybe not but lets add up how many clients we take and see if its possible that we take the majority. I think I am ready to petition the MC to take a look at Homer's representation on the committee and find out why the make up was changed and how the names were decided on. How is it that a person from the Kenai River is even on there. Did Bob Penny have a hand in helping Stephanie pick names?"*

*Why did Homer go from 1 to 2 reps. and why are they both ACA members. I am really starting to be concerned about this as the stakeholders committee has a greater sway of the council than we do being on the outside. I think that it is possible we could come up with a petition that represents hundreds of clients and ask the council to reconsider the stakeholder make up to more fairly represent us. Perhaps Tim Evers could rally the troops in Deep Creek. And someone in Seward and anyone else you can think of.*

*I also want to see if it is possible to bypass the stakeholder committee and present a problem statement directly to the AP with a well thought out IFQ plan that could be accepted. I don't believe the stakeholder committee will ever do this. They are too influenced by Bob Penny. I also feel that we need to start contacting the other members of the stakeholder committee with our IFQ concerns so that they don't think Rex Murphy and Greg Sutter represent us.*

*We represent a great many people and we were waylaid by the IFQ battle and I think it is time we raised our voices again, get united and come up with a tight simple IFQ plan.*

*Rasmusen wants to tax us all to build our competitors businesses even in other towns that will directly compete with us for customers. With a good IFQ plan maybe we could tax ourselves and pool the money to purchase Quota over and above initial issue so that there is always quota in times of lower TAC. We lease back in the fall what we"*

## Goodhand Charters of Valdez

"don't use so commercials could catch it. It could sit in the pool ( individual or entire fleet pools ) if and when we needed it. TAC comes out in Jan. so we would always know if we needed to use fish from our pool. I would much rather manage my business for my own benefit than manage it to create my competition. If someone new wants to get in let them buy quota and get in. Just like commercials do. I think we need to start thinking along these lines or we are going to be pre-empted by Penny/Rasmusen. Let me know your thoughts, Sean"

This last one is from the secretary of the Homer Charter Association, Bob Ward in answer to Sean.  
John

"SEAN, I talk to John Goodhand and Larry McQuarry and Bob Candopoulis almost daily, but you are correct in that YOUR concerns have not been sought after by any Stakeholder directly.

As far as Penny's influence in committee selection, I am sure of it but can't prove it. Ricky Gease is paid by Penny as the Executive Director of Bob Penny's association.

Sean, I am sending this to John Goodhand, Larry McQuarry, Bob Candopoulis, and Kathy Hansen the Stakeholders. I am also sending this to Tim Evers."

"All Us Guys & Gals,

Sean and I just had a good conversation, he talked and then I talked, not like Bruce Warner.....anyway this is what we need to emphasize at the council in our testimony, each one of us...

Go over your port and figure out how many businesses, boats, seats per boat, total season length in days, and then the total number of charter clients we are actually carrying and use these numbers in your testimony. We need to also say we (the charter businesses that you represent) were here in 1993, 1997, 2001, 2005, and WE ARE STILL HERE, WE ARE THE CHARTER INDUSTRY THAT CARRIES THE MASS MAJORITY OF CHARTER FISHING CUSTOMERS. (now I am talking like Bruce Warner). We are the traditional and historical fleet, not the ones that come and go, not the ones that are speculating in getting a moratorium permit or some other non earned reward, we are the fleet you are trying to manage. We are not fully represented in the stakeholders committee, and we are not represented on this council at all. We want a tight moratorium and we want a long term management plan that will provide each business to hold it's destiny in it's own hands, based on our own business plan, not some one size fits all idea. While it was on my mind I had to share it with you. Let me know if you see problems. Larry, you can do the same for the lodges you and Ken D. know feel as we do".

Robert Ward

A-WARD CHARTERS

P. O. Box 631

Anchor Point, AK. 99556

(907) 235-7014

(907) 399-7014 cell

bob@awardcharters.com

<http://www.awardcharters.com>

"IN GOD WE TRUST"


An AMERICAN Phrase

Dear Stephanie Madsen

# LATE COMMENT

I'd like to comment regarding Charter Halibut moratoriums and permits. The most accurate and easiest way to do it is issue shares by years of longevity. No one can cheat and pad the numbers and it gives those in the business the longest their due. Those late comers causing the problem will become wealthy. Is this just? Vote for longevity or don't do anything but don't cut my business investment of 25 yrs.

Sincerely,



Kenneth P. Teune  
Northern Lights Charters  
P.O. Box 793  
Ward Cove, AK 99728

1-888-550-8488 toll-free



EDWARD S. STAHL  
f/v NIKKI MARIE  
651 Deerberry Ct.  
Ketchikan, AK 99901

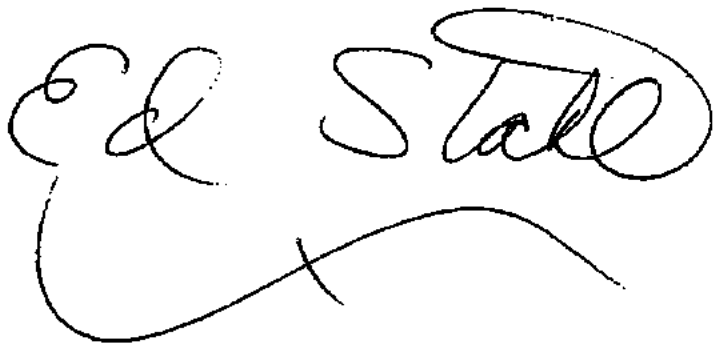
LATE COMMENT

To: Council Members  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
Date: March 25, 2007  
Fax: 907-271-2817  
Re: Charter Halibut Proposals

I have been conducting salmon and halibut charters out of Ketchikan for 22 years. It has been and hopefully will continue to be my main source of income for myself and my family.

It is my understanding that it is under consideration to base my future catches of halibut on the number of rock cod and other bottom fish logged in 2004 and 2005. As a charter boat operator, when fishing for halibut we seldom caught rock cod or other small bottom fish as we used large hooks, (3.5/0 J hook), and pink salmon heads as bait to keep the rock cod and small halibut off. Attempting to provide accurate records for our salmon catches was our priority, not the number of rock cod we successfully released. In the areas we fished for halibut our primarily by-catch would be rat fish, skate, dog fish and octopus. We logged no days bottom fishing as we were not required to log halibut or any of the species of our typical by-catch in those years.

It is not logical, rational or fair to base my future halibut quotas on years in which there was no data collection for halibut.



## Forget-Me-Knot Charters

Sightseeing, Guided Fishing  
Salmon, Halibut, Bottom Fish  
M/V "SILVER LADY"



Ivan Leighton, Capt.  
907-225-4276  
907-225-4200 Fax

P.O. Box 8175  
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901  
Email: silverlady@qci.net

Hotel Reservations made upon request  
Lifetime Fishing and Ketchikan resident

NPFMC  
605 W 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99591

March 24, 2007

### Council Members,

My name is Ivan Leighton, owner and operator of Forget Me Knot Charters, which was established in 1996. My vessel, the Silver Lady, has been in the charter industry since 1982, originally owned by Al Turner, of Ketchikan. I began as a deck hand for Mr. Turner in 1986, and took over the boat in 1996. I am a life-long Ketchikan resident.

I have averaged 100 charters per season, mostly salmon and some halibut. The only records I have of my bottom fishing trips, come from the Log Books the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has issued since 1998 to 2005.

- 1998 shows 8 bottom fishing trips
- 1999 shows 2 bottom fishing trips
- 2000 shows 6 bottom fishing trips
- 2001 shows 2 bottom fishing trips
- 2002 shows 6 bottom fishing trips
- 2003 shows 7 bottom fishing trips
- 2004 shows 1 bottom fishing trip
- 2005 shows 1 bottom fishing trip

I cannot explain why some years were low, but I gave a lot of charters to other companies from 1999 to 2001, because my Mother was very ill during that time, and passed away in late 2001. In 2004, my Dad was very ill, and passed away. This contributed to the low number of bottom fishing trips during those years.

One thing that concerns me is that from 2002 to 2005, there appears to be a flaw in those years log books: there is no place in the ADF&G log books, or any log book, to record troll-caught halibut, or any halibut caught. You can say you are targeting both salmon and halibut if you are mooching, and there was a place to record such efforts in the log book, but not for trolling, unless the charter fleet misunderstood the instructions. I was informed that ADF&G removed the area for entering halibut catches from their log books, because the federal agency in charge were to issue their own log books for recording halibut catches, which never happened.

I would like to know if my charter business will not receive a permit and thus be excluded from catching halibut, if this moratorium goes into effect using catch records from my lowest years recorded. It seems far more fair to go with each fisherman's highest year recorded in the log books from 1998 thru 2005.

The way this proposed action is structured, it benefits businesses that have many boats, and excludes small, single-boat operations that want to continue their livelihood in the charter industry.

My single-boat business has to depend primarily on sub-contracting 4 hour charters from the cruise ship industry. Due to weather, distance needed to travel to the halibut holes, time to set and pull anchor, it leaves very little time to fish for halibut on a 4 hour charter. But I have to be able to offer halibut fishing, as well as salmon, to my clients that make private bookings for full day charters, or they will go elsewhere.

My charter business is the only employment I have all year long, unlike some others, who work for the school district, etc. My livelihood is at stake, if I don't get to participate in this fishery. My preference is to either use the highest years catch from 1998 thru 2005, or to stop this moratorium. If it is implemented using only the log book records from 2004 and 2005, which were flawed, I will have no choice but to challenge it.

Thank you for your time,

*Ivan Leighton*  
Ivan Leighton

cc: Congressman Don Young  
Senator Ted Stevens  
Senator Lisa Murkowski

LATE COMMENT

Ms. Stephanie Madsen  
Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

LATE COMMITMENT

March 18, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen and Members of the Council,

Localized depletion of Halibut in Sitka, Homer, Seward and Kodiak, along with other coastal communities around the state has become a major problem. The cause of this depletion is due widely to the sport charter fishery. Commercial fisheries are managed and controlled with strict regulations and penalties. These penalties carry enough consequence to keep fishers within the regulations. The sport charter fleet has gone unregulated and without penalty for long enough. By instating effective regulations and penalties, it would be beneficial to both sport/charter and commercial fleets.

The problem is apparent. The answer however, is not as easily seen. However, by controlling both the number of entries and the number of fish taken by sport/charter fishers, it will slow the localized depletion and help restore fish stocks in these localized areas. Thus, protecting the resource and ensuring a future for all user groups: commercial, subsistence and sport/charter.

It is imperative to adopt the moratorium to adopt the December 2005 control date and ensure that it is restrictive enough to be meaningful and significant.

It is also very important to use the hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHL. We must keep the sport/charter fleet at a manageable level and help solve the problem of localized depletion. In addition, I would like you to **rule out the use of J hooks** and limit the sport charter sector to circle hooks when catching halibut.

Management of the sport/charter sector is imperative to the viability of the commercial fishing sector. While a majority of the commercial halibut fleet is aging out of the fishery, younger fishermen are getting involved and need to have faith in the Council process. Please work together to solve this ongoing problem and bring reasonable stability back into the commercial halibut fishery. To manage the GHL, the council must implement effective control measures for 2008. We all know how long it could take for a new measure to take effect. Let's move forward with the ideas that are on the table and adjust them as needed.

The crossover proposal paired with a one fish per day bag limit is an excellent option to manage the sport/charter fishery for the short term at least. Thanks for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you here in Sitka in June 2007.

Thank you,

Bradley V. Padon  
for support bag

BRADLEY V. Padon  
PO Box 6346 Sitka, AK  
3-20-07

Dear Chair Madsen & Members of the Council.

RE: HB 186

Last year I purchased \$5,200 lbs.

**LATE COMMENT**

Ms Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
271-2817

Re: NPFMC March 28-April 3, 2007 meeting  
Charter Halibut Management agenda Items

Dear Ms. Madsen,

**Stakeholder Committee report -**

Ed Rasmuson will present his plan to be included as a long term solution.

**Yes on Ed's Plan** - I encourage you to analyze Ed's plan for a long term solution -

Adequate allocation with initial allocation given in fixed pounds.

Loan to buy additional IFQ's which float up and down with abundance.

Method to repay loan - holding company and halibut tickets with charge to

Halibut fishermen to repay loan.

Ed's plan appears to be one that could bring both recreational and commercial together for a workable solution.

**Do not consider an IFQ or Angler Day IFQ plan** - Keep the halibut in the public sector;

**Don't privatize halibut!**

**No on the Crossover plan!!** Charters who own IFQ's can sell them to the entity set up with Ed's plan.

**Moratorium-**

Should be prioritized to be implemented in 2008. Sunset with permanent solution. Be inclusive as possible. Allow the non-transferable permits to be sold after 3-5 years.

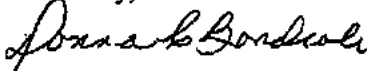
**Area 2C GHM measures**

**Do not include 3A measures** along with 2C measures. 3A should be analyzed and presented with separate restrictions - not necessarily in the same order as 2C. 3A representatives need to have buy-in before any decisions are made for 3A.

**Halibut allocations**

Allocations should be increased so that the allocation is adequate until the permanent solution is passed (approx. 2011). Allocation should accommodate any CQE action with the Moratorium.

Sincerely,



Donna Bondioli  
PO Box 66  
Homer, AK 99603

# LATE COMMENT

Ms. Stephanie Madsen

Chair

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

605 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 306

Anchorage, AK 99501

RECEIVED

MAR 22 2007

N.P.F.M.C.

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the Council to take immediate and effective action to control the charter halibut fishery and initiate analysis of the crossover proposal.

Please adopt the moratorium using the December 2005 control date and ensure that the moratorium is restrictive enough to be meaningful. A lenient moratorium will not reduce the GHIL overage or protect personal use and subsistence fishermen from localized depletion of halibut.

The charter industry needs a hard allocation with separate accountability based on the existing GHIL. The current GHIL allowed substantial growth in the charter harvest. The fact that the charter industry continually exceeds its GHIL because of poor management is not reason to increase the GHIL. The commercial fleet would welcome the opportunity to take more halibut but accepts limits as part of responsible resource management. The charter industry should be held to the same standard.

In order to manage to the GHIL, the Council must implement effective harvest control measures that will be in place for 2008. Clearly the measures should be coupled with the crossover proposal, allowing a limited leasing of commercial quota to the charter industry. There is no other method that will protect the resource and the investments of the commercial quota holders while allowing increased harvest by the charter sector. If charter owners are unwilling to pay \$2 a pound to lease quota then the demand for more quota must be overstated.

Commercial fishermen are currently investing \$18-\$25/pound to purchase commercial quota. I have worked hard to become a commercial halibut quota holder and accept conservation burdens and regulatory controls in exchange for a well-managed, sustainable fishery. Uncompensated reallocation to the charter sector is indefensible.

The NPFMC has a reputation of being a leader in sustainable fisheries management. Please live up to the reputation by establishing a responsible management plan for the charter fishery. That plan must include a meaningful moratorium, effective harvest control measures, and a mechanism for limited compensated reallocation, such as the crossover proposal.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Name/Date

Frederick E Washburn

Vessel name

FV ALHATAN JOY

Address

660 KEELEY RD  
SEQUIM WA  
98382

Ms. Stephanie Madsen, Chair  
North Pacific Fishery Management Council  
605 West 4th Street Suite 306  
Anchorage, AK 99501

Sitka, AK

March 11, 2007

Dear Chair Madsen,

I am writing to urge the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to take immediate and effective action to conserve and manage the halibut resource by taking control of the guided sport halibut fishery. I have some experience helping the Council conserve and share fisheries resources as I served 8 years on your advisory panel and have authored or helped develop several proposals over the years that have been adopted by the Council. I also have had the privilege over the years to be asked by different user groups, including guided sport fishermen, to facilitate fisheries task forces using a consensus based collaborative process. We have had remarkable successes (including winning a national award) developing consensus based plans using this process.

Part of the reason for our success is a real motivation by all the participants to work together as they face the very real possibility of more severe regulations by the regulatory bodies than the solutions they might work out together. It is important for the Council to instill that fear in the guided sport fishery. As the situation stands now commercial longline fishermen and subsistence fishermen in SE Alaska are both facing serious problems due to declining quotas and finding fish due to localized and generalized halibut depletions in SE Alaska.

These groups are highly motivated to participate in group processes to conserve and share the halibut resource. Guided sport fishermen and guides are not motivated due to the recent roll back of International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) restrictions by the by the United States Secretaries of State and Commerce. Until the Council sets absolute quotas for the guided sport halibut fishery, like they do for the commercial sector, this fishery will remain out of control.

Until halibut guides and clients are motivated to participate in meaningful processes to conserve and share halibut they will resist serious efforts by regulatory bodies to conserve and manage the fishery. The failure of the Council to finalize regulatory controls has contributed to ongoing unsustainable growth of the guided sport industry here in SE. Not only do we have unsustainable growth but the harvest level has grown to an unsustainable level. So, there has to be regulatory correction and containment for the conservation of the resources and the protection of other interests, subsistence, commercial, and un-guided sport. These corrections, because they are relatively too late, will be very painful to the guided sport industry. Our task as concerned community members is to try and minimize the collateral damage.

The Council has a well deserved reputation for conserving and sustaining fishery resources on a large scale. It looks to this more than casual observer that it is struggling with making timely and sensible internal resource allocation recommendations. Please prove me wrong by making smart decisions to conserve and allocate the halibut resource.

I do not own commercial halibut shares and I do not sport fish guide anymore. I no longer work for a marine conservation group. I do harvest a couple halibut or so a year to eat. I troll salmon for a living. I care greatly about the conservation of marine resources particularly in my area of SE Alaska.

I have been advised that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is seriously considering an alternative to the IPHC recommendation that includes a minimum size limit of about 32 inches for the first halibut and a minimum size limit for the second halibut of 60 lbs or thereabout. Be advised that as a participant in Alaska Fishery management groups since the 1960's I see the NMFS being very reckless both in terms of the details of this bad idea (see addendum) and in the political dynamics of their reputation as a fisheries management and conservation institution if they implement this bad idea. I hope the Council distances itself from any association with this bad idea.


I have spent about 100-200 days a year fishing many of the years of my life. I have longlined halibut, I have commercially fished them with sport rods, I have guided people to halibut, and I have harvested them with hand lines to eat. I have released hundreds of halibut from the end of my troll leaders.

I have also thought seriously about, and facilitated groups of people who have worked very hard to understand, halibut management and conservation. I have sometimes seen otherwise well meaning and very responsible groups of people make very bad decisions that have taken us years to recover from. It took us years to recover from the bad idea that 8 day lay-ups were enough to conserve the halibut resource in the 60's.

I am not smart enough to figure out by myself what you should do to conserve and allocate halibut. I am observant enough to see that you have both a localized resource depletion problem and a guided halibut sport fishery management problem. I am smart and experienced enough to know if you don't control the guided sport fishery you will exacerbate the resource depletion. I am also experienced enough to know the NMFS so called "trophy" idea is a very bad idea both in resource conservation and political dynamics.

I am so concerned about this issue that if you decide to call upon me to help in any way I will take the time.

Sincerely,



Eric Jordan  
103 Gibson Place  
Sitka, Alaska 99835  
(907) 747-6743

Addendum on why the "Trophy limit" for halibut is such a *bad idea*.

Unlike most people who will comment on this idea I have proposed and had a fisheries management body adopt a "trophy" limit. I proposed a 32" inch limit for steelhead on Sitkoh Creek in the late 70's. I had good biological reasons for the proposal in that the majority of steelhead in Sitkoh Creek in any given year are repeat spawners. Some were returning for the 5<sup>th</sup> time according to Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) data at the time. Unfortunately, according to Art Schmidt, Sitka Area Sport Fisheries Management Biologist at that time, the "trophy" limit attracted the notice of anglers and resulted in an increase of effort on Sitkoh Creek. The regulation was repealed on the recommendation of ADF&G. Eventually more comprehensive regulations including size limits were adopted for steelhead in SE Alaska but that is another story. The point is that "trophy limits" become a target for many anglers and can exacerbate rather than solve a problem.

Here is how I see the situation with a halibut "trophy" limit based on thousands of hours fishing and releasing hundreds of halibut (although not many in the last couple of years) lingcod, rockfish, and salmon over the years both sport and commercial fishing.

1. You immediately create a target for nearly every guide and client to catch at least one "trophy halibut" every trip. I think this might have been a both unintended and undesirable consequence before you realized it. Now you know.
2. Releasing a 40 to 55 pound halibut after you have taken one about 15 pounds while you are looking for one 60 or better leads to all kinds of ethical decisions and enforcement problems that I am sure you can quickly understand.
3. Carefully measuring a 55-65 pound live halibut without hurting it does not seem like a very practicable idea to this very experienced fisherman. I would humbly suggest that I have probably released more 50 - 60 pound halibut in my life than any of the guides assembled here have in their guiding operations. Most guides are keeping 50-60 pound halibut as many clients feel they are the most desirable for eating.
4. A rule requiring an angler to turn loose a 59 pound fish after a long battle when that fish has a good chance of dying doesn't make much sense. Such a rule will lead to a lot of justifiable frustration with the fishery management body imposing the rule.
5. Decision making by the guide to head for areas where he can fill halibut bag limits in flats and gravel beds known to hold smaller 10-40 lb halibut versus deciding to head first for the reefs and coral beds where big halibut are know to frequent becomes problematic for overall conservation and reduction in by-catch as rockfish and lingcod are more common in coral reefs and rocky patches frequented by big halibut than they are on the gravel flats frequented by the smaller halibut. So, your rule exacerbates mortality on halibut, rockfish, and ling. It also means more anchors impacting coral. Is that what you want?
6. Finally, and most importantly, very few male halibut weigh more than 60 lbs so your trophy limit is targeted almost exclusively on larger, more fecund, female halibut. Does this make conservation sense??