

**ADVISORY PANEL**  
**Motions and Rationale**  
**April 5-8, 2022 - Anchorage, AK**

**C2 RQE Fee Collection**

The AP recommends the council adopt Alternative 2, with additions shown in **bold**, as its preferred alternative:

Alternative 2:

Establish a fee collection program for Charter Vessel Operators to fund the Recreational Quota Entity.

Option 1: Charter Halibut Stamp

**Administration**

- **NMFS will develop regulations to establish the fee requirement for a Charter Halibut Stamp and develop the fee collection system.**
- **The Charter Halibut Stamp will be required for charter vessel anglers 18 years of age and older for each day they intend to harvest halibut on a charter vessel fishing trip in regulatory areas 2C and 3A. This includes charter halibut vessels operated and permitted under the Community Quota Entity (CQE) and Military Morale and Welfare (MWR) programs.**

**Fee amount**

- **Stamp fees in the first three-years after the implementation of the program cannot exceed the following amounts:**
  - A) **One-day stamp - \$20.00**
  - B) **Three-day Stamp - \$40.00**
  - C) **Seven-day Stamp - \$60.00**
- **After the first three years of implementation, the RQE may increase the fee amounts in each category by up to 10% annually. NMFS will provide the Council with an update on fee increases to the Council.**

**Fee payment**

- **The Sportfishing Guide Business Owner or their designee (as defined by ADF&G) will be responsible for paying all required fees.**
- **Charter Vessel Guides (as defined by NMFS) will be responsible for ensuring there is a validated halibut stamp on the vessel for each angler subject to the fee for each day of halibut fishing.**
- **Fee payment and charter halibut stamp validation would need to occur prior to departure prior to start of each fishing day.**

**In developing these regulations, it is the intent of the Council that NMFS coordinate with the Charter Halibut Committee and the RQE in the development of the stamp requirements and fee collection system and update the Council as appropriate.**

*Motion passed 17-0*

*Rationale in Favor*

- *In 2016 the Council recommended and in 2018 NMFS issued regulations that authorized formation of a recreational quota entity (RQE) that could participate in the Pacific Halibut and Sablefish Individual Fishing Quota Program in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A. The RQE is authorized to purchase and hold a limited amount of commercial halibut quota share that will yield additional pounds of recreational fishing quota on an annual basis to augment the amount of halibut available for harvest in the charter halibut fishery. The RQE will provide a mechanism for a compensated reallocation of a portion of commercial halibut quota share to the charter halibut fishery. The regulations associated with the formation of the RQE are intended to promote social and economic flexibility in the charter halibut fishery.*
- *This recommended action establishes a funding mechanism for the RQE and is based on industry recommendations through the Charter Halibut Management Committee. Pending Congressional reconciliation, in-depth details regarding some of the mechanics of the funding mechanism were omitted as they will be further developed by the Council, Council Staff, Charter Halibut Management Committee, NMFS staff, and OLE.*
- *A Charter Halibut Stamp (Alternative 2, Option 1) developed by NMFS would be similar to other programs already in place and enforced by ADFG (e.g., ADFG King Salmon Stamp). The use of a stamp instead of an annual user fee would add resolution and use-based equity to fee collection as it would link fee collection to utilization of individual Charter Halibut Permits (CHPs).*
- *Recommended fee amounts are capped at \$20 for a one-day stamp, \$40 for a three-day stamp, and \$60 for a 7-day stamp. It is important to note that these stamps are intended to be valid for consecutive days from the time of initial issuance (regardless of actual angler effort or whether the timeframe encompasses a day of the week closure), which follows ADFG language for other sport-fishing licenses.*
- *Under the proposed recommendations, the sport-fishing guide business owner or their designee (as defined by ADFG) would be responsible for paying all required fees and stamp validation prior to the beginning of any charter fishing fish where the angler has intent to retain Pacific halibut. This would ensure that responsibility for stamp use and proper utilization would be on those who ultimately benefit from its use, which should limit the potential for violations of use or non-issuance.*
- *It is intended for the issuance of the Charter Halibut Stamp to apply to all anglers 18 years of age or older. This ensures that all guided anglers issued a ADFG sportfishing license who intend to retain a Pacific halibut on a guided trip would be required to also possess a valid Charter Halibut Stamp.*