

D1 Halibut CSP review
DRAFT Council motion
February 8, 2022

The Council adopts the following Purpose and Need and set of alternatives for Initial Review.

The Council is concerned about the impacts of charter management measures in the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan on the charter sector, particularly at times of lower abundance. The measures imposed on the halibut charter fleet have reduced demand for charter trips and the socioeconomic well-being of some charter operators and coastal communities. The CSP did not anticipate the current and continued low halibut abundance levels for the foreseeable future and recent changes in catch limits across management areas. These changes have increased uncertainty related to annual allocations for the charter sector, contrary to the goals of the halibut catch sharing plan.

The preferred mechanism for dealing with allocations in this Catch Sharing Plan is compensated reallocation via the Recreational Quota Entity. Without an operational, RQE funding mechanism the Council intends to review the catch sharing plan allocations as a possible way to alleviate this problem, while balancing impacts to the commercial sector and dependent communities. Should the RQE fee funding mechanism become law and the Council take final action on the RQE funding mechanism, the Council intends to table or refine this action.

Alternatives

Alternative 1: Status quo

Alternative 2: Revise the halibut catch sharing plan sector allocations.

Option 1: In Area 2C, revise the charter allocation as follows:

- In Tier 1: from 0 to 4,999,999 lb, increase the charter allocation by (sub option 1% to 5%) of the annual combined catch limit
- In Tier 2: Adjust the allocation and length of the stair-step according to percentage shifts in Tiers 1 and 3
- In Tier 3: Decrease the charter allocation by (sub option 1% to 3%) of the annual combined catch limit

Option 2: In Area 3A, revise the charter allocation as follows:

- In Tier 1: From 0 to 9,999,999 lb, increase the charter allocation by (sub option 1% to 5%) of the annual combined catch limit
- In Tier 2: Adjust the allocation and length of the stair-step according to percentage shifts in Tiers 1 and 3
- In Tier 3: Decrease the charter allocation by (sub option 1% to 3%) of the annual combined catch limit
- In Tier 4: Adjust the length of the stair-step according to percentage shifts in Tier 3 at combined catch limits of up to 25 MIb: allocation to the charter sector remains at 3.5 MIb
- Tier 5 Remains the same

The analysis of both options should maintain the current approach for the transition between tiers to ensure stable allocations for the charter sector (i.e., establishing a fixed charter allocation to avoid a “cliff” drop in charter allocations).

The analysis should explore methods of implementing charter measures for more than one year through either the existing Council/IPHC process or through domestic regulations.

Current halibut CSP allocations:

Table 7 Area 2C CSP allocations to the charter and commercial halibut fisheries relative to the annual Combined Catch Limit (CCL)

Area 2C annual CCL for halibut in net lb.	Charter halibut fishery CSP allocation (% of annual CCL or net lb.)	Commercial halibut fishery CSP allocation (% of annual CCL or net lb.)
0 to 4,999,999	18.30%	81.70%
5,000,000 to 5,755,000	915,000 lb.	Area 2C CCL minus 915,000 lb.
5,755,001 and up	15.90%	84.10%

Table 9 Area 3A CSP allocations to the charter and commercial halibut fisheries relative to the annual Combined Catch Limit (CCL)

Area 3A annual CCL for halibut in net lb.	Charter halibut fishery CSP allocation (% of annual CCL or net lb.)	Commercial halibut fishery CSP allocation (% of annual CCL or net lb.)
0 to 9,999,999	18.90%	81.10%
10,000,000 to 10,800,000	1,890,000 lb.	Area 3A CCL minus 1,890,000 lb.
10,800,001 to 20,000,000	17.50%	82.50%
20,000,001 to 25,000,000	3,500,000 lb.	Area 3A CCL minus 3,500,000 lb.
25,000,001 and up	14.00%	86.00%

Example of alternative halibut CSP allocations – increase the charter allocation in step 1 by 3% of CCL, decrease the charter allocation in step 3 by 1% of CCL:

For Area 2C:

Area 2C annual CCL for halibut in net lb.	Charter halibut fishery CSP allocation (% of annual CCL or net lb.)	Commercial halibut fishery CSP allocation (% of annual CCL or net lb.)
0 to 4,999,999	21.3%	78.7%
5,000,000 to 7,148,000	1,065,000 lb.	2C CCL minus 1,065,000 lb.
7,148,001 and up	14.9%	85.1%

For Area 3A:

Area 3A annual CCL for halibut in net lb.	Charter halibut fishery CSP allocation (% of annual CCL or net lb.)	Commercial halibut fishery CSP allocation (% of annual CCL or net lb.)
0 to 9,999,999	21.9%	78.1%
10,000,000 to 13,273,000	2,190,000 lb.	3A CCL minus 2,190,000 lb.
13,273,001 to 21,212,000	16.5%	83.5%
21,212,001 to 25,000,000	3,500,000	3A CCL minus 3,500,000 lb.
25,000,001 and up	14.0%	86.0%