

C4 CHARTER HALIBUT MANAGEMENT



DECEMBER 2024
Sarah Marrinan, NPMFC Staff



Photo credit: F. Braden



CHARTER MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Oct

Charter Halibut Management Committee

- Recommends management measures for analysis

Dec

Charter Halibut Management Committee Meeting

- Receives ADF&G analysis of projected halibut removals
- Recommends a range of management measures for next year

AP and Council Meeting

- Receives ADF&G analysis of projected halibut removals
- Receives Committee Report
- Recommends a range of management measures for next year

Jan

International Pacific Halibut Commission Annual Meeting

- Management measures recommended along with U.S. regulations
- IPHC sets TCEY and area-specific catch limits
- Management measures chosen from the range identified

Feb

IPHC Regulations and Federal Register Notice for Fed Regs

- Sets annual regulations



ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Charter Halibut Management Committee met virtually **Oct 25, 2024**

- ✓ Received final estimates of charter halibut removals for 2023 and preliminary estimates for 2024
- ✓ Recommended management measures for analysis
- ✓ Received information and updates on a number of topics from NMFS: Preliminary Guided Angler Fish (GAF) data, the performance of management measures overtime, Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) renewal statistics and revoked permits, Marine Recreation Information Program (MRIP), and an update on the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) funding mechanism



ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Charter Halibut Management Committee met **Dec 3, 2024**

- ✓ Reviewed the ADF&G analysis on requested management measures
- ✓ Received public testimony
- ✓ Provided recommendations on a preferred range of management measures for 2025
- ✓ Other business: motion on Charter Halibut Permit Use



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – AREA 2C

Under all allocations include a daily bag limit of one halibut and a reverse slot size limit where the upper limit is fixed at O80, and a restriction of 1 trip per charter vessel per day with retention of halibut and 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day.

Step	If the allocation is between	Additional measures
1	1.013 Mlb and 0.897 Mlb	begin with a lower size limit of U38 and increase this limit until the allocation is reached
2	0.897 Mlb and 0.752 Mlb	begin with a lower size limit of U38 closing Tuesdays starting September 9 working to May 13 until the allocation is reached
3	0.752 Mlb and 0.715 Mlb	begin with a lower size limit of U37 closing Tuesdays as needed until the allocation is reached



Detailed recommendation in Committee report (page 2)
Uses Table 2C.7a (page 25) and 2C.72a (page 44) in the analysis



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - AREA 3A

All allocations include, unless otherwise specified: a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; one fish of any size and one fish with a maximum size limit of 28 inches; 1 trip per charter vessel per day with retention of halibut; and 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day.

Step	If the allocation is between	Additional measures
1	2.079 Mlb and 1.762 Mlb	Close Wednesdays as needed to keep charter harvest removals within the allocation
2	1.762 Mlb and 1.497 Mlb	Also, close as many Tuesdays as needed to keep the charter harvest removals within the allocation
3	1.497 Mlb and 1.425 Mlb	Also lower the size of the second fish to as low as 26 inches , until the projected charter harvest removals meet the allocation.



Detailed recommendation in Committee report (page 3)
 Uses Table 3A.13 (page 33), 3A.14, (page 34) and 3A.16 (page 36)
 in the analysis



ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MOTION

The Charter Halibut Management Committee voted unanimously to recommend initiation of discussion paper on Charter Halibut Permit use.

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests fresh analysis of CHP use of transferable, non-transferable, CQE, and Military permits for areas 2C and 3A. This data could be useful in understanding disappearing angler opportunity in the charter halibut fishery and in projecting how latent capacity in the permit program might affect future angler effort and the resulting effects on harvest measures.

Analysis would include separate data for Areas 2C and 3A of the following:

- Trends in transfer (including lease transfer of transferable, non-transferable, and CQE permits), consolidation, and retirement since implementation
- Trends in usage since program implementation for each permit type (transferable permits only needed to hit a 15-trip threshold, and non-transferable permits a 5-trip threshold)
- Trends and projections of latent capacity in terms of both permits and angler endorsements
- Projections of the effects of latency by area with CHPs at low, medium and max usage on harvest measures, with and without RQE aggregate caps reached.

