

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
December 3-7, 2019 - Anchorage, AK

C8 Unguided Halibut

AP Motion

The AP recommends the Council move the analysis forward as a Public Review Draft with the following Preliminary Preferred Alternative (PPA) highlighted in **bold**:

Alternative 1: No Action (Status quo)

Alternative 2: Require registration for ~~non-guided vessel~~ unguided rental vessels

Require registration for ~~non~~-unguided motor vessels that operate in IPHC Areas 2C and 3A that are used to retain recreationally harvested halibut and that are rented for compensation. This registration would apply to all vessels used to provide access to the halibut resource for compensation, including but not limited to unguided rental boats, mother ships, bare boat charters, fishing clubs, time shares and all other means whereby compensation is exchanged for access to the halibut resource.

Element 1: Apply the registration requirements:

Suboption 1: IPHC Regulatory Area 2C and 3A

Suboption 2: Only IPHC Regulatory Area 2C

Element 2: Require ~~non~~-unguided rental vessel registration be renewed:

Suboption 1: Annually-renewal

Suboption 2: Every 3 years

Suboption 3: Every 5 years

New Element 3: Require accounting of halibut harvest and effort by anglers using rental boats or businesses providing rental boats for halibut harvest.

Alternative 3: Align bag and size limits between charter anglers and anglers on ~~non~~-unguided rental vessels

~~Apply the same daily bag limit or size limit to anglers~~ Unguided anglers on rental vessels shall comply with the same daily bag and size limits that apply to charter anglers under the Catch Sharing Plan.

Suboption: Provide an exemption to aligning bag and size limits to MWR vessels

Motion passed 17-0

Rationale:

- *This motion reflects the overall recommendations of the Charter Halibut Committee, which received an overview of the initial review analysis from staff earlier this week. Questions asked by the Committee addressed the lack of information available on the demographic makeup of*

the rental boat customer base and the inability to draw conclusions about whether and to what extent the expansion of unguided rental boat catch could impact other sectors. The Committee supported moving forward with Alternative 2. Members noted that a registration requirement will enable the gathering of information that is necessary to manage unguided rental boat use from an informed perspective. The Committee also noted that it is difficult to know whether to include Area 3A without knowing the extent of unguided rental activity on an area basis.

- *The Committee did not support moving forward with Alternative 3 at the present time because it is premature to complicate management of recreational halibut when the extent of the impact that unguided rental boat catch is having and where it is occurring is not yet known and felt that subjecting a new user group (unguided rental boat anglers) to a new set of regulations would further fracture the recreational angling sector to address an activity that may or may not be a problem or might only be a problem in certain areas.*
- *The new Element 3 is intended to better align the action with the Purpose and Need Statement of the action. There is a need to account for harvest and effort by rental boats in order to provide the necessary data that will help inform whether or not further regulation is warranted*