

ADVISORY PANEL
Motions and Rationale
December 2-3, 6-9, 2021 - Anchorage, AK

C1 Charter Halibut

The AP recommends the Council adopt the following Recommended Management Measures for 2022

For Area 2C:

1. A reverse slot with an upper limit fixed at O80, and a lower limit decreased until the allocation is reached, but no lower than U40; Yield of 0.814 Mlb (rounds to status quo 0.81) (Table 6, page 26 in ADF&G analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2022)
2. If the allocation is insufficient to maintain at least a U40 on the lower limit, add Monday closures starting September 19th and work consecutively toward the beginning of the season until a lower limit of U40 is reached; Yield of 0.689 Mlb (Table 9, page 31)
3. If a lower limit of U40 can't be reached after closing all Mondays, add an annual limit of 4-fish (Yield of 0.679 Mlb; Table 12, page 40), progressing to an annual limit of 3-fish, as necessary to meet the allocation (Yield of 0.648 Mlb; Table 13, page 44); if possible, use any unused allocation to increase the lower limit above U40 until the allocation is reached
4. If the allocation is not reached by closing all Mondays and a 3-fish annual limit, allow the lower limit to drop until the allocation is reached; Yield of 0.583 Mlb at U37080 (Table 13, page 44)

If an annual limit is adopted in Area 2C, implement a requirement for charter anglers to record, immediately upon retaining a halibut, the date, location (IPHC area), and species (halibut) on their harvest record, consistent with the past reporting requirement in Area 3A.

For Area 3A:

- A two-fish daily bag limit
- One halibut of any size and a maximum size for one of the two fish is 28 inches
- One trip per CHP per day
- One trip on which halibut is harvested per vessel per day
- Prohibition on halibut charter fishing on Wednesdays, all year
- Adjust Tuesday closures according to Table 16 and Table 17 on page 52 and 53 in ADF&G

analysis of proposed harvest regulations for 2022 to bring the projected harvest within the Area 3A allocation.

For example, in combination with the other proposed measures:

- 4 Tuesdays closed would result in a yield of 2.034 Mlb (see Table 17, page 52)
- 8 Tuesdays closed would result in a yield of 1.928 Mlb (see Table 17, page 52)

For Area 3A, it is unnecessary to include a requirement to record retained halibut on the back of the license or harvest record card as an enforcement mechanism because an annual limit is not recommended for 2022.

Motion passed 20-0

Rationale:

- *Recommendations for Areas 2C and 3A are consistent with those recommended by the Charter Halibut Committee.*
- *The 2C Committee members selected harvest measures and their order of application to keep the Area 2C guided recreational fishery within their allocation. As harvest measures impact different business operations differently, the order of harvest measures reflects the Committee's best attempt to spread the impacts equitably among the many areas and business models in Area 2C. Area 2C Committee members highlighted that this is likely to be a particularly challenging year for their 2C operations, especially if the IPHC adopts the Area 2C charter allocation resulting from the interim management procedure's reference TCEY (0.60 Mlb). It was noted that without any adjustments the IPHC International agreement to assign a fixed allocation percentage in Area 2B could potentially impact the 2C reverse slot limit by 3 critical inches.*
- *For Area 3A, Committee members acknowledged management measures would need to be similar to those implemented in pre-pandemic conditions, as the overages in 2021 demonstrated a rebound in angler effort. Measures were chosen to maintain consistency with previous regulations adopted. It was suggested that 28 inches would be the smallest acceptable size for the second fish and that while day-of-the-week closures limited halibut opportunities for operations, this negative impact was relatively equitable across operations in Area 3A. Thus, the Committee recommended adjusting the numbers of Tuesday closures as needed to fit the projected yield under the adopted catch limits. If the resulting allocation is outside of the range considered, Committee members confirmed they recommend managers use Table 16 and Table 17 to continue to adjust the numbers of closed Tuesdays accordingly.*