

NPFMC October 2008 Motion on Area 2C/3A Catch Sharing Plan

Agenda Item C-1(b) – Halibut Charter Catch Sharing Plan

Motion to establish a halibut charter allocation and management plan based on bag limits

The purpose of the proposed action is to create a catch sharing plan that establishes a clear allocation, with sector accountability, between charter and setline sectors in Areas 2C and 3A. The Council requests that the IPHC annually set a combined charter and setline catch limit to which the allocation percentage for each area will be applied to establish the domestic harvest targets for each sector. This action also establishes the management actions for the charter sector at identified combined charter and setline catch amounts.

The Council recognizes that management measures are imprecise therefore a small variance can be expected to occur around the allocation. The Council's expectation is that the variances will balance over time to ensure IPHC conservation and management objectives are achieved.

Element 1 – Initial allocation and bag limits.

Area 2C

In Area 2C, when the combined charter and setline catch limit is less than 5 million pounds, the charter allocation will be 17.3% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. When the combined charter and setline catch limit is 5 million pounds and above the allocation will be 15.1%. Management variance not to exceed 3.5 percentage points (plus or minus) may occur around this allocation. The Council's expectation is that the variances will balance over time to ensure IPHC conservation and management objectives are achieved.

Trigger 1: When the combined charter and setline catch limit is below 5 Mlb, the halibut charter fishery will be managed under a 1 halibut daily bag limit. The allocation for the charter sector will be 17.3% of the combined charter and commercial catch limit. The charter sector's expected catch may vary between 13.8% and 20.8%. However, if the charter harvest for an upcoming season is projected to exceed 20.8% of the combined charter and setline catch limit, then a maximum size limit will be implemented to reduce the projected harvest level to be lower than 17.3% of the combined charter and setline catch limit, and if the projected charter harvest results in a catch rate (percentage of projected charter harvest divided by the combined commercial and charter catch limit for that IPHC Area) that is lower than the lowest charter harvest percentage in that trigger range, then the charter harvest shall be managed under the daily bag limit of the next higher trigger, so long as the projected charter harvest percentage of the combined commercial harvest catch limit falls within the percentage range included under that trigger.

Trigger 2: When the combined charter and setline catch limit is ≥ 5 Mlb and < 9 Mlb, the halibut charter fishery shall be managed under a 1 halibut daily bag limit. The charter sector's allocation will be 15.1% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. The charter sector's expected catch may vary between 11.6% and 18.6%. However, if the charter harvest for an upcoming season is projected to exceed 18.6% of the combined charter and setline catch limit, then a maximum size limit will be implemented to reduce the projected harvest level to 15.1% of the combined charter and setline catch limit and if the projected charter harvest results in a catch rate (percentage of projected charter harvest divided by the combined commercial and charter catch limit for that IPHC Area) that is lower than the lowest charter harvest percentage in that trigger range, then the charter harvest shall be managed under the daily bag limit of the

next higher trigger, so long as the projected charter harvest percentage of the combined commercial harvest catch limit falls within the percentage range included under that trigger.

Trigger 3: When the combined charter and setline catch limit is \geq 9 Mlb and $<$ 14 Mlb, the halibut charter fishery shall be managed under a 2 halibut daily bag limit (only one of which may be longer than 32 inches). The charter sector's allocation will be 15.1% of the combined charter and commercial catch limit. The charter sector's expected catch may vary between 11.6% and 18.6%. However, if the charter harvest for an upcoming season is projected to exceed 18.6% of the combined charter and setline catch limit, then the charter fishery will revert back to a 1 halibut daily bag limit and if the projected charter harvest results in a catch rate (percentage of projected charter harvest divided by the combined commercial and charter catch limit for that IPHC Area) that is lower than the lowest charter harvest percentage in that trigger range, then the charter harvest shall be managed under the daily bag limit of the next higher trigger, so long as the projected charter harvest percentage of the combined commercial harvest catch limit falls within the percentage range included under that trigger.

Trigger 4: When the combined charter and setline catch limit is \geq 14 Mlb, the halibut charter fishery will be managed under a 2 halibut daily bag limit. The charter sector's allocation will be 15.1% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. The charter sector's expected catch may range between 11.6% and 18.6%. However, if the charter harvest for an upcoming season is projected to exceed 18.6% of the combined charter and commercial catch limit, the charter fishery will revert back to a 2 halibut daily bag limit, only one of which may be longer than 32 inches.

Area 3A

In Area 3A, when the combined charter and setline catch limit is less than 10 million pounds, the charter allocation will be 15.4% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. When the combined charter and setline catch limit is 10 million pounds and above, the allocation will be 14.0%. Management variance not to exceed 3.5 percentage points (plus or minus) may occur around this allocation. The Council's expectation is that the variances will balance over time to ensure IPHC conservation and management objectives are achieved.

Trigger 1: When the combined charter and setline catch limit is $<$ 10 Mlb, the halibut charter fishery will be managed under a 1 halibut daily bag limit. The charter sector's allocation will be 15.4% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. The charter sector's expected catch may vary between 11.9% and 18.9% of the combined charter and setline catch. However, if the charter harvest for an upcoming season is projected to exceed 18.9% of the combined charter and setline catch limit, then a maximum size limit will be implemented to reduce the projected charter harvest below 15.4% of the combined charter and setline harvest and if the projected charter harvest results in a catch rate (percentage of projected charter harvest divided by the combined commercial and charter catch limit for that IPHC Area) that is lower than the lowest charter harvest percentage in that trigger range, then the charter harvest shall be managed under the daily bag limit of the next higher trigger, so long as the projected charter harvest percentage of the combined commercial harvest catch limit falls within the percentage range included under that trigger.

Trigger 2: When the combined charter and setline catch limit is \geq 10 Mlbs and $<$ 20 Mlb, the halibut charter fishery will be managed under a 1 halibut daily bag limit. The charter sector's allocation will be 14.0% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. The charter sector's expected catch may vary between 10.5% and 17.5% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. However, if the charter harvest for an upcoming season is projected to exceed 17.5% of the combined charter and setline catch limit, then a maximum size limit will be implemented to reduce the projected charter harvest level to 14%

of the combined charter and setline catch limit and if the projected charter harvest results in a catch rate (percentage of projected charter harvest divided by the combined commercial and charter catch limit for that IPHC Area) that is lower than the lowest charter harvest percentage in that trigger range, then the charter harvest shall be managed under the daily bag limit of the next higher trigger, so long as the projected charter harvest percentage of the combined commercial harvest catch limit falls within the percentage range included under that trigger.

Trigger 3: When the combined charter and setline catch limit is \geq 20 Mlb and $<$ 27 Mlb, the halibut charter fishery will be managed under a 2 halibut daily bag limit (only one of which may be longer than 32 inches). The charter sector's allocation will be 14.0% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. The charter sector's expected catch may vary between 10.5% and 17.5% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. However, if the charter harvest for an upcoming season is projected to exceed 17.5% of the combined charter and setline catch limit, then the charter fishery will revert back to a 1 halibut daily bag limit and if the projected charter harvest results in a catch rate (percentage of projected charter harvest divided by the combined commercial and charter catch limit for that IPHC Area) that is lower than the lowest charter harvest percentage in that trigger range, then the charter harvest shall be managed under the daily bag limit of the next higher trigger, so long as the projected charter harvest percentage of the combined commercial harvest catch limit falls within the percentage range included under that trigger.

Trigger 4: When the combined charter and setline catch limit is \geq 27 Mlb, the halibut charter fishery will be managed under a 2 halibut daily bag limit. The charter sector's allocation will be 14.0% of the combined charter and setline catch limit. The charter sectors expected harvest may range between 10.5% and 17.5% of the combined charter and setline catch limits. However, if the charter harvest for an upcoming season is projected to exceed 17.5% of the combined charter and setline catch limit, the charter fishery will revert back to a 2 halibut daily bag limit, only one of which may be longer than 32 inches.

In Areas 2C and 3A, there is no retention of halibut by skipper and crew while paying clients are on board.

Element 2 – Annual regulatory cycle/timeline.

It is not the Council's intent to revisit or readjust bag limits; such bag limit changes will be triggered by changes in combined charter and setline catch limits established annually by the IPHC. Bag limits will be implemented by the IPHC based upon their determination of the combined charter and setline catch limits and the bag limit parameters described above.

Element 4 – Timeline—DELETE FROM ANALYSIS

Element 5 – Supplemental, individual use of commercial IFQ to allow charter limited entry permit holders to lease commercial IFQ, in order to provide additional anglers with harvesting opportunities, not to exceed limits in place for unguided anglers.

A. Leasing commercial IFQ for conversion to Guided Angler Fish (GAF).

1. A LEP (Limited Entry Permit) holder may lease IFQ for conversion to GAF for use on the LEP.
2. Commercial halibut QS holders may lease up to 1500 pounds or 10 percent (whichever is greater) of their annual IFQ to LEP holders (including themselves) for use as GAF on LEPs. If an IFQ holder chooses to lease to a CQE, then the same limitations apply as if they were leasing to an individual charter operator—1500 lbs or 10% whichever is greater—the 100% has no application here. With regard to CQE leasing: any quota which a CQE holds, regardless of its origin, could be leased up to 100% to eligible residents of the CQE

community. For example, a CQE may hold quota share derived from purchase, lease from another qualified CQE, or leased from an individual, and then lease out up to 100% of the quota it holds.

3. No more than 400 GAF may be assigned to an LEP endorsed for 6 or fewer clients.

Suboption: No more than 600 GAF may be assigned to an LEP endorsed for more than 6 clients.

- B. LEP holders harvesting GAF while participating in the guided sport halibut fishery are exempt from landing and use restrictions associated with commercial IFQ fishery, but subject to the landing and use provisions detailed below.

- C. GAF would be issued in numbers of fish. The conversion between annual IFQ and GAF would be based on average weight of halibut landed in each region's charter halibut fishery (2C or 3A) during the previous year as determined by ADF&G. The long-term plan may require further conversion to some other form (e.g., angler days).

- D. Subleasing of GAF would be prohibited.

- E. Conversion of GAF back to commercial sector.

Unused GAF may revert back to pounds of IFQ and be subject to the underage provisions applicable to their underlying commercial QS either automatically on November 1 of each year or upon the request of the GAF holder if such request is made to NMFS in writing prior to November 1 of each year.

- F. Guided angler fish derived from commercial QS may not be used to harvest fish in excess of the non-guided sport bag limit on any given day.

- G. Charter operators landing GAF on private property (e.g., lodges) and motherships would be required to allow ADF&G samplers/enforcement personnel access to the point of landing.

- H. Commercial and charter fishing may not be conducted from the same vessel on the same day.