

C2 Charter Halibut Permit Discussion paper
Council motion
12/9/2016

The Council initiates an analysis with the following purpose and need statement and alternatives:

Purpose and Need:

Developing an annual registration for the Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) Program will provide much needed information about the trends of the usage and ownership of CHPs. It will also insure that the Council and stakeholders will get more complete information about the performance and usage of CHPs and to ensure that CHP holders are demonstrating active participation in the fishery. This information will be the first step to understanding the capacity and growth of the fleet. Finally, the annual registration program could limit the use of non-transferable CHPs only to persons, vessels, and areas identified during the registration process.

Alternative 1 – Status quo

Alternative 2 – Implement an annual registration process for transferable and non-transferable charter halibut permits. A CHP holder must submit the following information to NMFS on an annual basis to register a CHP: CHP number, CHP holder name (individual or non-individual entity), and CHP holder address. If a CHP is not registered with NMFS, the CHP would not be valid for use during the applicable fishing year.

Options for additional requirements could include (options are not mutually exclusive):

Option 1. CHP ownership (e.g., ownership holdings for the CHP by individual(s), partners, or a corporate entity).

Option 2. Natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that will use the permit.

Sub-option. If a non-transferable CHP is used by a natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following fishing year.

Option 3. For non-transferable permits, the CHP holder must notify NMFS where the permit will be used (i.e., the beginning and/or ending port(s) to trips where the CHP is used.

Suboption. If a non-transferable CHP is used for a trip that begins or ends in a port that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following year.