

Charter Halibut Management Committee

Minutes 10/30/18

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee (Committee) met on Tuesday, October 30, 2018 to develop a list of management measures for analysis by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for possible implementation in 2019.

Committee members in attendance: Andy Mezirow (Chairman), Daniel Donich, Matt Kopek, Steve Zernia, Richard Yamada, Steve MacLean (Council staff) Sarah Webster (ADF&G), Stan Malcolm (ph), Denise May (ph), Kent Huff (ph).

Others in attendance: Sarah Marrinan, Tom Taube, Jim Hasbrouck, Tom Brookover, To Gemmell, Bob Powers, Ivan Lukin (ph), Abner Nelson (ph), Sam Weinstein, Steve Keith, Lara Erickson, Jocelyn Runnebaum.

Sarah Webster presented final estimates of the 2017 charter halibut harvest for areas 2C and 3A, and preliminary estimates of 2018 charter halibut harvest for areas 2C and 3A. Preliminary 2018 estimates are 10.0% under allocation for Area 2C and 4.3% over allocation for Area 3A.

Area 3A Recommendations

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests the following management measures for analysis in Area 3A with the following status quo regulations (unless noted): a two-fish bag limit, 28-inch maximum size limit on one fish, 4-fish annual limit, one vessel-trip per permit per day, Wednesday charter halibut closure, closure of halibut fishing on six Tuesdays from mid-July through mid-August:

- Status quo,
- Additional closures on Tuesdays from June – August,
- Additional closures on other days of the week from June – August,
- 28-inch maximum size limit on one fish, a second fish with a reverse slot limit (U35-50:O50-80)
- Reduction (> 28 inches) in size of second fish.

Area 2C Recommendations

The Charter Halibut Management Committee requests the following management measures for analysis in Area 2C with the following status quo regulations (unless noted): one-fish daily bag limit, retained halibut must be less than or equal to 38 inches or greater than or equal to 80 inches in length (reverse slot limit):

- Status quo
- Reverse slot limit (U35-50: O50-80)
- Annual limit of 1-5 fish

- Trip limits of 1 trip per permit per vessel per day
- Closure of one day per week

Other Charter Halibut concerns

Mr. Donich requested clarification on the requirement to “immediately” record halibut on an angler’s fishing license, and whether the term “immediately” could be removed from regulation. No action was taken at this time.

Ms. May requested information about when the unguided halibut rental boat analysis would be available. The analysis is scheduled for review in April 2019.

Mr. Yamada recommended a discussion paper addressing whether NMFS can establish charter halibut catch limits a year in advance of the discussion at the IPHC (e.g., establish 2020 catch limits in 2019) to enable longer planning periods for area 2C charter businesses.

Future meetings

The International Pacific Halibut Commission will hold their interim meeting on November 27-28 in Seattle, WA. The Charter Halibut Management Committee suggests Monday, December 3 2018 for their next meeting.