



NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Action Memo

File Number:HAL 14-001

Agenda Date2/3/2014

Agenda Number:C-3

Eric Olson, Chairman
Chris Oliver, Executive Director

SUBJECT:
Charter Halibut Common Pool Proposal

ESTIMATED TIME:
2 hours

ACTION REQUIRED:
Review report.

BACKGROUND

In October 2012, the Council requested a discussion paper on whether a proposal to create a Recreational Quota Entity to administer a common pool plan as a form of compensated reallocation under the halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) -- which was presented during public testimony at that meeting -- would fit into the current Community Quota Entity Program. The Council requested that the paper include a discussion of legal issues by NOAA General Counsel. Preparation of the discussion paper has been on hold pending the development of a detailed proposal.

Catch Accountability Through Compensated Halibut (CATCH) is a collaboration of the Alaska Charter Association and the South East Alaska Guides Organization to design a pool-based CSP for the charter halibut fisheries in Areas 2C and 3A. The conceptual approach would allow the charter halibut fisheries in each regulatory area to supplement its annual area allocation by purchasing commercial halibut quota shares (QS) and holding it in a common pool for all charter anglers. A holding entity would purchase QS from willing QS holders. Pooled fish would be applied to increase the annual bag and size limits in each area for all charter anglers. Such an approach would amend Federal regulations to replace the guided angler fish (GAF) component under the CSP.

As a prelude to submission of its specific proposal for a regulatory amendment to amend the CSP now scheduled for consideration at the April 2014 Council meeting, CATCH will provide an update on its CATCH report and a background economic study. The executive summary of its CATCH report is attached and the full reports are posted on the Council website. After this meeting, Council staff could work with CATCH staff to streamline the "common pool" approach described in the report to actionable items that the Council could consider and that NMFS could implement in Federal regulations. Staff recommendations could also be included in the previously requested discussion paper.