

C-5 Charter Halibut Management Measures

Council motion

December 12, 2015

The Council recommends the following management measures for the 2016 charter halibut fishery in Area 2C and Area 3A, based on initial reference (blue line) allocations of 1,771,000 lbs in Area 3A and 847,000 lbs in Area 2C, resulting from the IPHC interim meeting.

Area 3A recommendations:

- Two-fish daily bag limit
- Maximum size of one of the two fish is 28"
- One trip per day (use of each charter halibut permit is limited to one charter halibut fishing trip per vessel per calendar day. Also limit each vessel to one charter halibut fishing trip per calendar day.)
- 4-fish annual limit
- Prohibition on halibut charter fishing on Wednesdays, all year

Include a requirement to record halibut on the back of the license or harvest record card as an enforcement mechanism for the annual limit.

If the final Area 3A FCEY is halfway between the 2015 FCEY and the 2016 blue line, it would equate to a charter allocation of 1.84 mlbs. In this case, increase the annual limit to 5 fish. If the Area 3A charter allocation is the same as 2015 (1.89 mlbs), increase the maximum size of one of the two fish to 29" and increase to a 5 fish annual limit.

Area 2C recommendations:

- One-fish daily bag limit
- Reverse slot limit of U42" – O80" (must be $\leq 42"$ or $\geq 80"$)

If the final charter allocation is sufficiently higher than the "blue line" to accommodate a change in the reverse slot limit, adjust the size of the lower limit upward to meet the allocation. If the final charter allocation is below the "blue line", the first restriction added would be a 5-fish annual limit, and if further restrictions are needed, adjust the size of the lower limit downward to meet the allocation.

The regulations for GAF remain the same.