



**IPHC Fishery Regulation Proposal:**  
**Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 28):**  
**Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A**

SUBMITTED BY: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (NOAA-FISHERIES) (20 DECEMBER 2024)

- Directed Commercial  Recreational  Subsistence  Non-directed commercial  All
- All Regulatory Areas  All Alaska Regulatory Areas  All U.S. Regulatory Areas
- 2A  2B  2C  3A  3B  4A  4B  4C  4D  4E

**PURPOSE**

To propose charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A reflective of mortality limits adopted by the IPHC and resulting allocations under the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan.

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

The NPFMC recommended management measures for guided recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A for application in 2025. The purpose of the management measures is to achieve the Pacific halibut charter allocation under the NPFMC Halibut Catch Sharing Plan. NPFMC selected these management measures at its December 2024 meeting, following a review of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) [Analysis of Management Options for the Area 2C and 3A Charter Halibut Fisheries for 2025](#) (ADF&G analysis) and after receiving input from the NPFMC Charter Halibut Management Committee, which is comprised of stakeholder representatives from both IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A.

The proposed annual management measures for 2025 are as follows:

**IPHC Area 2C**

Management measures for all allocations shown below include a daily bag limit of one Pacific halibut, and a reverse slot size limit where the upper limit is fixed at O80 (*i.e.*, Pacific halibut 80 inches or over in length may be retained), a restriction of one charter vessel fishing trip per day with retention of Pacific halibut, and one charter vessel fishing trip per charter halibut permit (CHP) per day.

- 1) If the allocation falls within the range of 0.897 Mlb and 1.013 Mlb:
  - Begin with a lower size limit of U38 (retained halibut must be less than or equal to 38 inches in length) and increase this limit until the allocation is reached, as indicated in **Table 2C.7.2a** (page 44) of the ADF&G analysis.
- 2) If the allocation is less than 0.897 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.752 Mlb:

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- Begin with a lower size limit of U38 (retained halibut must be less than or equal to 38 inches in length) closing Tuesdays starting September 9 working to May 13 until the allocation is reached, as indicated in **Table 2C.7.2a** (page 44) of the ADF&G analysis.
- 3) If the allocation is less than 0.752 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.715 Mlb:
    - Begin with a lower size limit of U37 (retained halibut must be less than or equal to 37 inches in length) closing Tuesdays from Sept 9 to June 24, and closing additional Tuesdays working to May 13 until the allocation is reached, as indicated in **Table 2C.7.2a** (page 44) of the ADF&G analysis.
  - 4) If the allocation is less than 0.715 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.691 Mlb:
    - Begin with a lower size limit of U36 (retained halibut must be less than or equal to 36 inches in length) closing Tuesdays from Sept 9 to June 24, and closing additional Tuesdays working to May 13 until the allocation is reached, as indicated in **Table 2C.7.2a** (page 44) of the ADF&G analysis.
  - 5) If the allocation is less than 0.691 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.651 Mlb:
    - Begin with a lower size limit of U35 (retained halibut must be less than or equal to 35 inches in length) closing Tuesdays from Sept 9 to July 8, and closing additional Tuesdays working to May 13 until the allocation is reached, as indicated in **Table 2C.7.2a** (page 44) of the ADF&G analysis.
  - 6) If the allocation is less than 0.651 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.627 Mlb:
    - Begin with a lower size limit of U34 (retained halibut must be less than or equal to 34 inches in length) closing Tuesdays from Sept 9 to June 24, and closing additional Tuesdays working to May 13 until the allocation is reached, as indicated in **Table 2C.7.2a** (page 44) of the ADF&G analysis.
  - 7) If the allocation is less than 0.627 Mlb but greater than or equal to 0.608 Mlb:
    - Begin with a lower size limit of U33 (retained halibut must be less than or equal to 33 inches in length) closing Tuesdays from Sept 9 to July 1, and closing additional Tuesdays working to June 10 until the allocation is reached, as indicated in **Table 2C.7.2a** (page 44) of the ADF&G analysis.

### **IPHC Area 3A**

Management measures for all allocations shown below include, unless otherwise specified, a daily bag limit of two halibut; one fish of any size and one fish with a maximum size limit of 28 inches (one retained halibut must be less than or equal to 28 inches in length); one charter vessel fishing trip per charter vessel per day with retention of Pacific halibut; one charter vessel fishing trip per charter halibut permit (CHP) per day.

- 1) If the allocation is less than or equal to 2.079 Mlb, but greater than or equal to 1.762 Mlb:
  - Close Wednesdays as needed to keep charter harvest removals within the Area 3A allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.13** (page 33) of the ADF&G analysis.
- 2) If the allocation is less than 1.762 Mlb, but greater than 1.497 Mlb:

- In addition to closing all Wednesdays, close as many Tuesdays as needed to keep the charter harvest removals within the Area 3A allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.14** (page 34) of the ADF&G analysis.
- 3) If the allocation is below 1.497 Mlb, but greater than 1.425 Mlb:
- In addition to closing all Tuesdays and Wednesdays, lower the maximum size of the second fish to as low as 26 inches (one retained halibut must be as less than or equal to 26 inches in length), until the projected charter harvest removals meet the allocation, as indicated in **Table 3A.16** (page 36) of the ADF&G analysis.

### **Supporting information**

The December 2024 NPFMC final motion for Charter Halibut Management Measures, the minutes of the December 2024 NPFMC Charter Halibut Management Committee, and the ADF&G analysis are available on the NPFMC website at:

- <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/3066> (see Agenda Item C4, 2025 Charter Halibut Management Measures – Final Action).

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** IPHC Fishery Regulation proposal IPHC-2025-AM101-PropB1, that proposes charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A reflective of mortality limits adopted by the IPHC and resulting allocations under the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan.

### **APPENDICES**

[Appendix A](#): Suggested Regulatory Language.

## APPENDIX A

## SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE

**28. Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E**

(1) [...]

[omit “and” at the end of paragraph (1)(g) and add semicolon followed by “and” (rather than a period) at the end of paragraph (1)(h)]

(i) in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A:

(1) a “charter halibut permit” as defined at 50 CFR 300.61 may only be used for one charter vessel fishing trip in which Pacific halibut are caught and retained per calendar day;

(2) a “charter vessel” as defined at 50 CFR 300.61 may only be used for one charter vessel fishing trip in which Pacific halibut are caught and retained per calendar day; and

(3) for purposes of subsections (1) and (2) of this paragraph, a “charter vessel fishing trip” is defined as the time period between: (a) the first time Pacific halibut are caught and retained on a charter vessel by a charter vessel angler (as defined at 50 CFR 300.61); and (b) whichever comes first: 2359 (Alaska local time) on the same calendar day that the charter vessel fishing trip began; when any charter vessel angler is offloaded from the charter vessel; or when Pacific halibut are offloaded from the charter vessel.

(2) For guided recreational (sport) fishing (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C:

(a) no person on board a charter vessel (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) shall catch and retain more than one Pacific halibut per calendar day; and [omit this “and” if paragraph 2(c) is added to this Section as described below]

(b) no person on board a charter vessel (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) shall catch and retain any Pacific halibut that with head on is greater than [x] inches ([x.x cm) and less than 80 inches (203.2 cm) [as described above, the lower size limit may be adjusted to meet the 2025 Area 2C charter harvest allocation] as measured in a straight line, passing over the pectoral fin from the tip of the lower jaw with mouth closed, to the extreme end of the middle of the tail; and [omit this “and” and end this paragraph with a period (rather than a semicolon) if paragraph (2)(c) is not added to this Section as described below]

(c) [as described above, this section may be added according to the progressive management measures described in the NPFMC recommendation] no person on board a charter vessel may catch and retain Pacific halibut on the following Tuesdays in 2025: [a list of dates of 2025 Tuesdays would follow].

(3) For guided recreational (sport) fishing (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A:

(a) no person on board a charter vessel (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) shall catch and retain more than two Pacific halibut per calendar day; and [omit this “and” if paragraph (2)(c) is added to this Section as described below]

(b) at least one of the retained Pacific halibut must have a head-on length of no more than [x] inches (x.x cm) [as described above, the size limit may be adjusted to meet the 2025 harvest allocation in Area 3A] as measured in a straight line, passing over the pectoral fin from the tip of the lower jaw with mouth closed, to the extreme end of the middle of the tail. If a person sport fishing on a charter vessel in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A retains only one Pacific halibut in a calendar day, that Pacific halibut may be of any length; and [omit this “and” and end this paragraph with a period (rather than a semicolon) if paragraph (2)(c) is not added to this Section as described below]

(c) no person on board a charter vessel may catch and retain Pacific halibut on the following Wednesdays, or on the following Tuesdays, in 2025: [as described above, some Wednesday closures and some Tuesday closures may be necessary to meet the 2025 harvest allocation in Area 3A, a list of dates of Wednesday closures and Tuesday closures to Pacific halibut retention would follow].