



INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC
HALIBUT COMMISSION

IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC16

REGULATORY PROPOSAL 2018
Reduce Daily Bag Limit for all Anglers in Area 2C and 3A in Times of Low Abundance

SUBMITTED BY: MELVIN GROVE
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
23 DECEMBER 2017

Explanatory Memorandum –Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A

The Prince William Sound Charter Boat Association representing charter operators, our clients, and local supporting businesses suggest regulatory changes in 2018. Alaska's recreational fishery was split into guided (charter) and unguided anglers in 2003. With recent declines in halibut stock abundance, the charter sector has bore the burden of conservation for recreational anglers. These have resulted in increasing restrictive harvest measures included days of the week closures, annual limits, and maximum fish sizes in Area 3A to a one fish a day of potentially 35" in 2018 for Area 2C. All this while the unguided sector continues to harvest two fish of any size per day. It is time for all recreational anglers to share the burden of conservation. PWSCBA proposes that the IPHC recommend to the US Secretary of Commerce and NMFS for 2018, along with its recommended guided angler regulations, a one halibut per day of any size bag limit for all anglers in Areas 2C and 3A. Serious consideration should also be given to a one fish per day of any size for all recreational anglers, as this would negate some of the issues that have arisen in the management of a divided recreational fishery.

Suggested Regulatory Language

Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations

Sport Fishing for Halibut—Areas 2C, 3A

(4) For sport fishing in Regulatory Area 2C and 3A.

The daily bag limit shall be one fish of any size per day per person



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