EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

For IPHC Regulatory Area(s): All AK Regulatory Areas

Require logbook-style record keeping and reporting requirements for certain unguided anglers in Alaska. It is a widespread practice of lodges or other businesses to equip unguided anglers with boats, gear, and local knowledge, so that the unguided angler can fish without the assistance of a licensed guide. There currently is no requirement for unguided anglers to report their sport fishing effort and harvest of halibut, thus it is difficult to assess any trends in effort and harvest.

SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE

Section 3. Definitions

(u) “unguided angler” with respect to a person sport fishing for halibut, means an angler or anglers sport fishing from a vessel provided by a lodge or other business equipping angler(s) with boats, gear, and local knowledge for the angler to sport fish without the assistance of a licensed guide.

Section 28. Sport Fishing for Halibut – Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E

(4) For unguided angler sport fishing from a vessel provided by a sport fishing lodge or other business:

(a) Each unguided angler shall carry a harvest record on his or her person while fishing for halibut. Such harvest record must include:

(b) Name of unguided angler;
(c) State sport fishing license number;
(d) The vessel's license number or registration number;
(e) The date(s) of sport fishing effort;
(f) Location;

(g) Catch per day;

(h) Number of halibut and total estimated weight retained;

(i) Number of halibut released.

(j) The harvest record must be returned to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game within 10 days upon completion of angler fishing effort.

(k) No person shall make a false entry on the harvest record referred to in this section.