



North Pacific Fishery Management Council Report to the IPHC

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CONTRACTING PARTY: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AGENCY:

North Pacific Fishery Management Council

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FISHERY SECTORS

ALL

IPHC REGULATORY AREAS

IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3, and 4 (USA: Alaska)

DISCUSSION

Appendix I presents recent actions by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) related to Pacific halibut fisheries, including recreational charter management measures recommended by the NPFMC for adoption by the Commission in the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2019-AM095-AR12, which details the recent actions by the NPFMC related to Pacific halibut fisheries;
- 2) **NOTE** the recreational charter management measures described for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Recent Council Actions Related to Halibut Fisheries; A report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission, January 2019



Recent Council Actions Related to Halibut Fisheries

A report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission, January 2019

David Witherell, Executive Director
North Pacific Fishery Management Council



Recommended Pacific Halibut Charter Measures for 2019, Area 2C

- One fish per day with a reverse slot limit U38 -O80 (must be $\leq 38''$ or $\geq 80''$)
- If the allocation is above or below 0.81 million pounds, adjust lower slot limit size up or down to keep within projected harvest within the allocation.

No annual limit

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Lower Limit (in)	Upper Length Limit (in)															
	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80
35	1.410	1.316	1.246	1.167	1.111	1.059	0.986	0.916	0.877	0.845	0.813	0.792	0.763	0.746	0.744	0.731
36	1.440	1.349	1.280	1.203	1.147	1.096	1.024	0.956	0.917	0.885	0.853	0.833	0.804	0.787	0.785	0.772
37	1.456	1.366	1.298	1.222	1.167	1.117	1.046	0.977	0.939	0.908	0.876	0.856	0.828	0.811	0.809	0.796
38	1.482	1.394	1.328	1.254	1.200	1.150	1.080	1.013	0.975	0.944	0.913	0.893	0.865	0.848	0.846	0.833
39	1.500	1.413	1.348	1.275	1.222	1.172	1.103	1.037	0.999	0.969	0.938	0.918	0.890	0.874	0.872	0.859
40	1.512	1.427	1.363	1.291	1.238	1.190	1.121	1.056	1.019	0.989	0.958	0.938	0.911	0.894	0.892	0.880
41	1.529	1.446	1.384	1.312	1.261	1.213	1.145	1.081	1.044	1.014	0.984	0.964	0.937	0.921	0.919	0.906
42	1.537	1.455	1.394	1.324	1.273	1.226	1.159	1.095	1.059	1.029	0.999	0.980	0.953	0.936	0.935	0.922
43	1.547	1.467	1.406	1.337	1.287	1.240	1.174	1.111	1.075	1.046	1.016	0.997	0.970	0.954	0.952	0.940
44	1.563	1.485	1.426	1.358	1.309	1.263	1.198	1.135	1.100	1.071	1.041	1.022	0.996	0.980	0.978	0.966
45	1.582	1.506	1.448	1.381	1.333	1.288	1.223	1.162	1.127	1.098	1.069	1.050	1.024	1.008	1.006	0.994
46	1.592	1.517	1.460	1.394	1.346	1.302	1.238	1.178	1.143	1.115	1.086	1.067	1.041	1.026	1.024	1.012
47	1.608	1.535	1.479	1.414	1.367	1.324	1.261	1.201	1.167	1.139	1.110	1.092	1.066	1.051	1.049	1.037
48	1.616	1.544	1.489	1.426	1.380	1.336	1.274	1.215	1.181	1.154	1.125	1.107	1.081	1.066	1.064	1.052
49	1.636	1.566	1.512	1.450	1.405	1.362	1.301	1.243	1.209	1.182	1.154	1.136	1.111	1.096	1.094	1.082
50	1.646	1.578	1.526	1.464	1.420	1.378	1.318	1.260	1.227	1.200	1.173	1.155	1.130	1.115	1.113	1.101

Note: The projected overage is 23,000 lbs. However, fishing effort is likely to be lower due to fewer advanced bookings and further restriction on king salmon.

Recommended Pacific Halibut Charter Measures for 2019, Area 3A

Two-fish daily bag limit, including one fish of any size and 28" maximum size on one fish. Four-fish annual limit, one trip per Charter Halibut Permit per day, Wednesdays closed all year.

- Adjust Tuesday retention closures according to ADFG Table 15 to bring projected harvest within allocation.
- If the allocation is above 2.023 million pounds, adjust the size of the second fish, up to a maximum of 30" to keep harvest within the allocation.

Number of Closed Tuesdays	Beginning and Ending Dates	Percentage change in harvest relative to status quo	Projected Harvest (no. Fish)	Projected Removals (Mlb)
0		10.4%	141,083	2.023
1	Jul 30	8.8%	138,966	1.994
2	Jul 30 – Aug 6	7.2%	136,950	1.967
3	Jul 23 – Aug 6	5.8%	135,198	1.940
4	Jul 16 – Aug 6	4.1%	132,976	1.907
5	Jul 16 – Aug 13	2.7%	131,223	1.882
6 (status quo)	Jul 9 - Aug 13	0.0%	127,778	1.834
7	Jul 02 - Aug 13	-1.4%	126,004	1.808
8	Jul 02 - Aug 20	-2.5%	124,615	1.787
9	Jun 25 - Aug 20	-3.4%	123,371	1.770
10	Jun 18 - Aug 20	-4.6%	121,956	1.748
11	Jun 18 - Aug 27	-4.8%	121,673	1.744
12	Jun 11 - Aug 27	-5.7%	120,445	1.726
13	Jun 04 - Aug 27	-6.2%	119,814	1.718

Size limit	Number of Tuesday Closures													
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
26	1.956	1.929	1.903	1.877	1.845	1.820	1.773	1.749	1.730	1.712	1.693	1.689	1.672	1.663
27	1.983	1.955	1.928	1.902	1.869	1.845	1.797	1.772	1.753	1.735	1.715	1.712	1.694	1.685
28	2.023	1.994	1.967	1.940	1.907	1.882	1.834	1.808	1.788	1.771	1.750	1.746	1.729	1.719
29	2.049	2.019	1.992	1.965	1.932	1.906	1.857	1.831	1.811	1.793	1.772	1.768	1.750	1.741
30	2.088	2.059	2.031	2.003	1.969	1.943	1.893	1.867	1.846	1.828	1.807	1.803	1.784	1.775

Other Charter Fishery Actions

CHP Renewals

- Council took final action to require annual application process for charter permit renewal.

Mixing of Guided/Unguided Halibut

- Council took final action to limit simultaneous possession of guided and unguided fish on a vessel. Guided regulations on size, bag, possession limits apply to all.

Unguided Rental Boats

- Council initiated an analysis to require registration of non-guided rental vessels, and would apply the charter bag/size limits to recreational anglers on rental boats.

Commercial Fishery Actions

IFQ Medical and Beneficiary Transfers

- Council scheduled to take final action in February to limit medical transfers and change beneficiary provisions.

IFQ CQE Fish Up in 3A

- Council initiated an analysis to allow CQE communities to fish D class quota on C class vessels after Aug 15 or Sept 1.

Halibut Retention in Pot Gear

- Council took final action to allow retention of halibut in single or longline pots in the BSAI. Allows for a directed IFQ and CDQ halibut fishery with pot gear.

BSAI Abundance-Based PSC Limits

October motion: <https://tinyurl.com/HalibutABM-1018>

Alternative 1: No action (3,515 mt; sector apportionments)

Alternative 2: Single index used to set trawl and/or non-trawl halibut PSC limit.

- Option 1: NMFS EBS bottom trawl survey index.
- Option 2: IPHC Area 4 setline survey index.

Alternative 3: Primary and secondary indices are used to set trawl and/or non-trawl PSC limit.

- Option 1: Primary index is EBS trawl survey, secondary index is Area 4 setline survey.
- Option 2: Primary index is Area 4 setline survey, secondary index is EBS trawl survey.

Alternative 4: Use two indices (EBS trawl survey and Area 4 setline survey) to set the non-trawl PSC limit in the form of a look-up table.

- ✓ A range of elements and options exist for each alternative.
- ✓ A **Stakeholder Committee** will recommend specific alternative/element/option combinations for analysis to understand impacts.

Response to IPhC Requests

Observer program coverage

- Coordinated with NMFS to provide a status report on the observer program and coverage rates at the annual meeting.

Deck sorting and halibut avoidance

- Coordinated with BSAI trawl fishing industry representatives to facilitate a report on deck sorting and the efforts of the fleet to avoid halibut.



Questions?



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www.npfmc.org

