



C7 Charter Halibut Management Measures for 2026

December 2025

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan
Other Presenters: Adam St. Saviour (ADF&G)
Action Required:

1. Review ADF&G analysis of proposed measures
2. Consider Charter Halibut Management Committee recommendations
3. Recommend a range of preferred management measures for 2026

BACKGROUND

At this meeting, the Council is scheduled to recommend management measures (e.g., bag limits, size restrictions, day-of-the-week closures, etc.) for the charter halibut fisheries in International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Areas 2C (Southeast) and 3A (Southcentral), for implementation in 2026. The AP and Council will consider analysis presented by Adam St. Saviour (ADF&G Division of Sport Fish) which projects 2026 charter removals under different scenarios of management measures, as well as recommendations from its Charter Halibut Management Committee. The objective is to fit the expected charter removals within the established catch limits. Since the 2026 charter halibut catch limits will not be set until the annual IPHC meeting (Jan 19-22, 2026),¹ the Council's motion should include a range of recommendations that demonstrate how the measures would become more or less restrictive depending on the limits set.

The Council's **Charter Halibut Management Committee will meet on December 3, 2025, 2pm – 6pm** to review the ADF&G analysis and recommend measures to adopt for Area 2C and 3A. Minutes from the Charter Halibut Management Committee meeting will be prepared and posted under C7 on the [eAgenda](#) shortly thereafter.

The Council's **Charter Halibut Management Committee previously met on Oct 23, 2025**. The Committee received an ADF&G report of final estimates for 2024 halibut removals (harvest + release mortality) for Area 2C and 3A and preliminary estimates of removals for 2025. The report from this meeting is attached to the December Council [eAgenda](#). The measures requested for analysis are detailed in the [Committee report](#) from October 23. The Committee discussed a number of alternative managements at this meeting. Although some types of measure were not requested for analysis, the robust discussion on these measures was summarized in the meeting minutes.

Additionally, the Committee unanimously passed a motion requesting a discussion paper on Charter Halibut Permit use, registration and leasing, which is included in the report. The Council may consider this Committee request during this agenda item or staff tasking.

¹ IPHC meeting details: <https://www.iphc.int/meetings/102nd-session-of-the-iphc-annual-meeting-am102/>