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NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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D1 Charter Halibut Permit Use and Angler Effort Data Requests

October 2026

Action Memo

Council Staff: Sarah Marrinan

Action Required:

1. Review discussion paper
2. Review committee minutes
3. Identify next steps if desired

BACKGROUND

At this meeting the Council will review a discussion paper responding to a series of data requests related to guided sport fishing for Pacific halibut (*i.e.*, charter halibut fishing) in regulatory Areas 2C (Southeast Alaska) and 3A (Central Gulf of Alaska).

This discussion paper was tasked in December 2025 and is intended to provide useful context in considering recent trends in the charter halibut fisheries. Understanding recent trends may be informative to the annual process to establish management measures (*i.e.*, bag limits, size restrictions, day of the week closures), in considering the performance of the Charter Halibut Limited Access Program (CHLAP), and in considering the ability of the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) to relax future management measures for charter anglers. It was emphasized that this discussion paper is not intended to be a full program review of the CHLAP, but to provide the requested information as possible to consider any next steps.

The Council highlighted seven specific requests, including trends in charter halibut permit (CHP) registration, retirement, use, transfers, and consolidation through leasing. One request considers use among Community Quota Entities (CQEs) and one request focuses specifically on use among permit holders that hold the up to the cap (*i.e.*, 5 CHPs). Two of the requests consider hypothetical scenarios based on the most recent analysis of projected charter halibut removals under different management measures (ADF&G 2025; Appendix 1). The first set of scenarios looks at the reduction in effort (*i.e.*, angler-days) required to achieve a specific set of more desirable management measures, holding all other factors constant. The second set of scenarios considers what less restrictive management measures may have been possible in 2026 if the RQE held up to the maximum holdings cap for Area 2C and for 3A, holding all other factors constant.

This discussion paper does not direct a specific action moving forward. No action is required; however, input from the Charter Halibut Management Committee, Advisory Panel, and the public may direct if, and how the Council may move forward with any additional work and/or proposed regulatory changes.

The Council's Charter Halibut Management Committee is scheduled to meet virtually September 30, 2026, from 8:30 am- 12:30 pm AKT to review this discussion paper and provide input. Minutes and any recommendations from the Committee will be posted under D1 when available and presented following the staff presentation of the discussion paper.