

C7 CHARTER HALIBUT MANAGEMENT



DECEMBER 2025

Sarah Marrinan, NPMFC Staff



CHARTER MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Oct

Charter Halibut Management Committee

- Recommends management measures for analysis

Dec

Charter Halibut Management Committee Meeting

- Receives ADF&G analysis of projected halibut removals
- Recommends a range of management measures for next year

AP and Council Meeting

- Receives ADF&G analysis of projected halibut removals
- Receives Committee Report
- Recommends a range of management measures for next year

Jan

International Pacific Halibut Commission Annual Meeting

- Management measures recommended along with U.S. regulations
- IPHC sets TCEY and area-specific catch limits
- Management measures chosen from the range identified

Feb

IPHC Regulations and Federal Register Notice for Fed Regs

- Sets annual regulations



ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Charter Halibut Management Committee met virtually **Oct 23, 2025**

- ✓ Received final estimates of charter halibut removals for 2024 and preliminary estimates for 2025
- ✓ Recommended management measures for analysis
- ✓ Other business: motion on Charter Halibut Permit Use



ANNUAL MEETINGS

The Charter Halibut Management Committee met **Dec 3, 2025**

- ✓ Received a GAF report and brief update on RQE – stamp to be implemented in 2026
- ✓ Reviewed the ADF&G analysis on requested management measures
- ✓ Received public testimony
- ✓ Provided recommendations on a preferred range of management measures for 2026



*** Note: 24 written comments on the Committee eAgenda**



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS – AREA 2C

Under all allocations include a daily bag limit of one halibut and a reverse slot size limit where the upper limit is fixed at O80.

Step	If the allocation is between	Additional measures
1	If the allocation is at or above 0.858 Mlb	begin with a lower size limit of U37 and increase this limit until the allocation is reached
2	0.858 Mlb and 0.715 Mlb	begin with a lower size limit of U37 closing Thursday starting September 10 working to May 14 until the allocation is reached
3 - 7	0.715 Mlb and 0.566 Mlb	begin with a lower size limit of U36 closing Thursdays as needed, THEN dropping the size limit and continuing Thursday closures as needed until the allocation is reached



Uses Table 2C.4 (page 19) and 2C.6b (page 22) in the analysis



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - AREA 3A

All allocations include, unless otherwise specified: a daily bag limit of 2 halibut; one fish of any size and one fish with a maximum size limit of 28 inches; 1 trip per charter vessel per day with retention of halibut; and 1 trip per charter halibut permit per day; all Wednesdays to be closed to the retention of halibut.

Step	If the allocation is between	Additional measures
1	≥ 1.772 Mlb	No Tuesday closures, raise the second fish to 28 inches to keep charter harvest removals within the allocation
2	1.771 Mlb and 1.430 Mlb	Lower the size of the second fish to 27 inches, close as many Tuesdays as needed to keep the charter harvest removals within the allocation
3	1.472 Mlb and 1.403 Mlb	Lower the size of the second fish to 26 inches, close all Tuesdays and Wednesdays to keep the charter harvest removals within the allocation



Uses Table 3A.13 (page 33), 3A.14, (page 34) and 3A.17 (page 36) in the analysis



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS - AREA 3A

Step	If the allocation is between	Additional measures
4	1.403 Mlb and 1.327 Mlb	In addition to closed Tuesdays and a 26-inch second fish, adjust the start date to open between May 1 and May 29 as needed to keep charter harvest removals within the allocation
5	1.327 Mlb and 1.243 Mlb	In addition to closed Tuesdays, a 26-inch second fish, and start date of May 29, adjust the season close date between Sept 28- Sept 1 as needed to keep charter harvest removals within the allocation
6	>1.243 Mlb	In addition to closed Tuesdays, start date of May 29, close date of Sept 1, implement a 1-fish of any size bag limit



Uses Table 3A.13 (page 33), 3A.14, (page 34) and 3A.17 (page 36) in the analysis

*** Note: some Committee opposition to motion (see report)**



ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE MOTION

The Charter Halibut Management Committee voted unanimously to recommend initiation of discussion paper on Charter Halibut Permit use.

- Detailed listed in the Oct 23, 2025 Committee Report
- Similar to a motion approved by the Committee and the AP in December 2024 (not adopted by the Council at the time)
- Understanding trends in transferable and non-transferable CHP use may provide greater understanding for latent capacity in the fleet
- This may be of particular use given the 2026 implementation of the charter halibut stamp program to fund the RQE and/or potential other actions the Council may wish to consider in the future.

