

MORATORIUM ALTERNATIVE**Problem Statement**

The Pacific halibut resource is fully utilized and harvest by the guided sport sector is demonstrating steady growth. To provide long term stability of the guided sport sector and lessen the need for regulatory adjustments, which destabilize the sector, the Council is embarking on development of a new management framework. In the interim, to address allocation issues between the guided sport and commercial sectors the guided sport sector is operating under a guideline harvest level (GHL). Harvest data indicate that the GHLs in Area 2C have been exceeded and are near levels established for Area 3A. This has resulted in a renewed effort to find a long-term solution. The Council has formed a stakeholder committee of affected user groups to consider management options and formulate recommendations for Council consideration in developing a management plan for the guided sector. Some of the past options under consideration include limiting entry or awarding quota share based on past involvement in the fishery. To address the potential against the rush of new entrants into the guided sport fishery, the Council is considering establishing a moratorium on the guided sport sector.

Issue 1. Areas

Option 1. 2C and 3A

Option 2. For Areas 2C and 3A communities previously identified under Amendment 66:

Suboption a. Exclude some or all of these communities

Suboption b. Provide community eligibility through CQE to purchase moratorium licenses
- between 5 – 25 permits per community

Suboption c. Provide the qualifying CQE an option to request, on behalf of community residents, additional charter halibut moratorium permits from NMFS for use by residents in the community.

- between 5 – 25 permits per community

- permits requested would have limited duration for any one individual
- from 5-15 years

Area 2C**Area 3A**

| <u>Community</u> | <u>Population²</u> | <u>Community</u> | <u>Population</u> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Angoon | 572 | Akhiok | 80 |
| Coffman Cove | 199 | Chenega Bay | 86 |
| Craig | 1,397 | Halibut Cove | 35 |
| Edna Bay | 49 | Karluk | 27 |
| Elfin Cove | 32 | Larsen Bay | 115 |
| Gustavus | 429 | Nanwalek | 177 |
| Hollis | 139 | Old Harbor | 237 |
| Hoonah | 860 | Ouzinkie | 225 |
| Hydaburg | 382 | Port Graham | 171 |
| Kake | 710 | Port Lions | 256 |
| Kassan | 39 | Seldovia | 286 |
| Klawock | 854 | Tatitlek | 107 |
| Metlakatla | 1,375 | Tyonek | 193 |
| Meyers Chuck | 21 | <u>Yakutat</u> | <u>680</u> |
| Pelican | 163 | 14 communities | 2,711 |
| Point Baker | 35 | | |
| Port Alexander | 81 | | |
| Port Protection | 63 | | |
| Tenakee Springs | 104 | | |
| Thorne Bay | 557 | | |
| <u>Whale Pass</u> | <u>58</u> | | |
| 21 communities | 8,119 | | |

Issue 2. Permits would be issued to U.S. citizens or to U.S. companies with 75 percent U.S. ownership.
Grandfather currently licensed vessels.

Issue 3. Qualifying years - State guide business registration for 2004 or 2005 with client activity for bottomfish effort logged in logbook for 2004 or 2005:

- Suboption 1: minimum of (1, 10, 20) active logbook entry (1 trip) for bottomfish
- Suboption 2: medical emergencies as developed recently for the commercial QS program and must have at least 1 year of ADF&G logbook activity from 1998-2005.
- Suboption 3: military exemption, as developed recently for the commercial QS program and Army boats and must have at least 1 year of ADF&G logbook activity from 1998-2005.
- Suboption 4: under construction as of December 9, 2005, as developed recently for the commercial QS Program and must have at least 1 year of ADF&G logbook activity from 1998-2005.
- Suboption 5: constructive losses

and (under all options) participation in the year prior to implementation

Issue 4. Owner v. Vessel

- Option 1. owner/operator or lessee
- Option 2. vessel

Issue 5. Mandatory evidence of participation:

- 1. State guide business registration
- 2. ADF&G logbook submitted in timely fashion, with bottomfish effort

Supplemental evidence of participation:

- 1. Alaska State business license
- 2. insurance for passenger hire
- 3. enrollment in drug testing program (CFR 46)
- 4. Coast Guard license

Issue 6. Annual permit renewal criteria (use it or lose it)

- Option 1. do not require renewal
- Option 2. must renew, minimum activity of 20 halibut charter days
- Option 3. not renewable, if permit holder lets it expire
- Option 4. emergency medical exception

Issue 7. License Designations

- a. uninspected (6-packs) vessels : 6 clients;
- b. inspected vessels: license designation is limited to highest number of clients on any given trip in 2004 or 2005, but not less than 4;
- c. 12-packs : grandfathered in at previous limit
- d. new construction : 6 for uninspected and inspected vessels
- e. constructive loss : previous limit

Issue 8. Use caps, with grandfather¹ provision during the moratorium

inspected vessels (limited to 6 or 12 clients) :

- Option 1. 1
- Option 2. 5
- Option 3. 10

inspected vessels:

- Option 1. 1
- Option 2. 2
- Option 3. 3

¹Grandfather provisions to mirror the commercial halibut IFQ program (transferred vessels lose their grandfathered status; block retains grandfather status)

Issue 9. Transfers would be allowed, permits may be stacked, immediately transferable

Issue 10. No leasing

Issue 11. Duration for review - in effect until subsequent Council action

Issue 12. Definition of bottomfish effort for evidence of participation - any entry with recorded bottomfish statistical area, rods, or boat hours