

**CHARTER HALIBUT STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATIONS TO REVISE COUNCIL'S MORATORIUM ALTERNATIVE  
APRIL 2006**

**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~~

**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:

Option 1: minimum of ~~(1, 10, 20~~ 1, 5, 10, or 20) active logbook entry(ies) (1 trip) for bottomfish

Option 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.

Option 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 or 1 year of holding ADF&G guide license or guide registration from 1998-2005.

Option 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.

Option 5: constructive losses (loss of vessels due to fire or sinking)

and (under all options) participation in the year prior to implementation unless active military service or medical emergency

**Issue 4. Owner v. Vessel**

Option 1. owner/operator or lessee registered guide business owner or registered guide lessee during 2004 or 2005 and year of implementation

~~Option 2. vessel~~

**Issue 5. Mandatory evidence of participation:**

Charter businesses must be able to demonstrate the following requirements for each year of qualification – Use December 9, 2005 control date.

A. Proof of USCG license for years claimed (recipient or hired skipper). For entire history; if can't prove then don't get history for that skipper, as required

B. Proof of commercial charter insurance for each of the qualifying years claimed. For 2005

C. Proof of USCG random drug test program for a business for each of the qualifying years claimed. Started in mid-90s; not redundant to USCG license; need to verify that these records are available; inspected vessels have to verify this; have to have this info at place of business for current and past years

D. Submitted ADF&G logbooks showing groundfish effort for each of the qualifying years claimed.

E. ADF&G Guide Business License for each of the qualifying years claimed  
Or CFEC license for years prior to Guide License Requirement

F. Inspected vessels must show proof Certificate of Inspection was current for years claimed in order to receive more than one block for each 30 days of effort. A vessel that fished without an approved COI would be treated as a 6 pack during the years the COI was not current

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 equal to the preferred alternative selected under Issue 3, Suboption 1

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 inspected vessels > 100 gross tons : grandfathered in at previous limit

d. new construction : 6 for uninspected and inspected vessels

e. constructive loss : previous limit

#### **Issue 8. Use caps, with grandfather<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>1</sup>Grandfather 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