

Charter Management Implementation Committee Report

October 19, 2012

The meeting of the Charter Management Implementation Committee convened from 10 am to 11:30 am, with the following persons in attendance via teleconference.

Committee: Chair Ed Dersham, Seth Bone, Ken Dole, Tim Evers, Kent Huff, Stan Malcom, Richard Yamada, Gary Ault. Andy Mezirow was absent due to Federal jury duty.

NPFMC Staff: Jane DiCosimo, Chris Oliver

NOAA: Rachel Baker, Julie Scheurer, Ron Antaya, Maura Sullivan

ADF&G: Scott Meyer, Charlie Swanton, Ruth Christiansen, Barbi Failor

IPHC: Gregg Williams

Public: Sean Martin, Gerri Martin, Greg Sutter, Daniel Donich, Linda Behnken, Heath Hilyard

Opening Remarks

Chair Ed Dersham opened the meeting with general remarks on the range of topics on the agenda to address charter halibut management for Area 2C and Area 3A in 2013. Gregg Williams, IPHC, responded to questions posed by committee members on the newly proposed process identified by the IPHC for a broad range of staff recommendations for the IPHC interim meeting. Gregg reported that the proposed process is still being developed, but the staff recommendations for the IPHC Interim Meeting may be very broad. The Commissioners may narrow the range coming out of the IPHC interim meeting. Ed Dersham indicated that he hoped the new IPHC process would not slow down the Council process for identifying its recommendations for IPHC action for annual measures for 2013.

Scott Meyer reported that ADF&G harvest projections under size limits are conservative. Average weights in 2011 were lower than projections. Estimates for 2012 were not yet available. Data were still being edited.

Committee Discussion of 2013 Management for Area 2C

Assuming that Area 2C will still be in the same GHL tier, committee members discussed their preferences for the ADF&G analysis of potential annual management measures for 2013. Several members requested that the analysis of potential harvests expand both the lower and higher limits of a reverse slot limits.

South East Alaska Guides Organization forwarded the following two measures for analysis:

- 1) Liberalized reverse slot-limit, liberalizing only the lower slot.
- 2) 1 fish annual limit with no size restriction in combination with a daily maximum size limit.

Scott responded that, as he explained earlier this year, he is unable to use existing data to predict what the size of the one fish harvested annually would be, or how many people would be successful at taking advantage of the limit. He suggested using the average size of fish before the slot limit to run the analysis. He could pick three different average weights for the annual limit and determine what maximum size limit would needed to be for the other (smaller) fish. He will not be able to determine how many of those size fish there would be, so would have to assume that all anglers will keep one. These proposed measures will be even harder to analyze because of the potential range of halibut CEYs that will be produced for IPHC consideration.

Ron Antaya suggested that party fishing or boat limits present a challenge for enforcing annual limits.

Ultimately, the committee recommended the following measures for the current GHL level if implemented for 2013:

1. Analyze reverse slot limits over a wider range of lower limits.
2. Consult with NMFS to see if annual limits are even a possibility for Area 2C. If so, analyze a 1-fish annual exemption from a maximum size limit. Specifically, under 3 scenarios of assumed weight for the 1-fish exemption, see what maximum size limit would be required to stay within various GHL possibilities for Area 2C. Although Kent Huff also wanted to see this analysis with a reverse slot limit, Ed suggested that there probably wouldn't be time for both analyses.

Rachel Baker reported that the NMFS concerns about how to record the exempted fish have not gone away for 2013. Scott asked if NMFS could allow recording on the back of a state license or harvest card. She noted that implementing an annual trophy limit might require rulemaking, rather than through the IPHC annual management measures. Ron Antaya asked if there were state impediments and noted that "lost" licenses or harvest cards would allow an angler to circumvent regulations by effectively starting the annual limit over. Ed noted that instances of reissued ADF&G licenses was low, suggesting that "losing" a permit was not used by anglers to circumvent annual limits on salmon. Ed requested that ADF&G and NMFS address the feasibility of an annual trophy limit for 2013 before requesting the ADF&G prepare the analysis of that measure.

Ed asked if committee members had recommendations if a lower GHL was implemented in 2013. The committee concluded that the status quo would bring harvests to the lowest GHL tier.

Committee Discussion of 2013 Management for Area 3A

The committee determined that the status quo was adequate for 2013.

Kent Huff noted that his halibut weighed considerably less than official IPHC length to weight relationship. Gregg Williams noted that the ratio is a coastwide annual relationship. It may be different by geographical area and season. He confirmed that there is more variation from the ratio at larger fish sizes. If there is consistent bias, then the IPHC staff would be concerned. There are no plans to recalculate the length/weight relationship.

Timeline for Analysis

1st draft: Nov 20

2nd draft: December 3

Next Meeting

Tuesday, December 4, Time TBA, in-person meeting in Old Federal Building, 506. W. 4th Ave, NPFMC 2nd Floor Conference Room, Anchorage, Alaska.