

COUNCIL ACTION ON HALIBUT CSP

The Council took final action on the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP). By a vote of 10-1 (Sam Cotton opposed) they adopted Alternative 3 for Area 2C and Alternative 4 for Area 3A. Sam Cotton supported alternative 3 for both areas.

An overview of the alternative allocation percentages is at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/PDFdocuments/halibut/CSPalternativesAug12.pdf>

Compared to the CSP adopted in 2008:

2C lost 0.8 to 1.0% of the combined catch limit (CCL), depending on abundance levels, to charter.

3A lost 3.5% of the combined catch limit to charter at CCL below 20,000,000 pounds.

Compared to the 2003 Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) we gained at current abundance levels in both areas.

Next steps are for the Council to update their analysis and forward to NMFS Juneau. NMFS Juneau will prepare the analysis for Secretarial review in conjunction with the proposed rule making. We will all have to comment on the proposed rule. Due to the Administrative Procedures Act, 2014 is the earliest implementation date for the CSP. Once the CSP is implemented both commercial and charter will be tied to the same abundance index and both sectors will be accountable for their own wastage; we will no longer be tied to the GHL which was to our disadvantage.

LONGER TERM we will have to deal with possible Council action on potential compensated reallocation measures being pushed by the charter sector, and ensuring the Council adopts adequate ANNUAL management measures to keep charter harvest within their allocation.

We will be working with our friends in DC to help ensure the CSP is implemented because of concerns that if it goes back to the Council for any reason, charter advocates will attempt to take another bite at the apple for a bigger allocation.

Without the strong commercial support displayed in both written and oral testimony we could have fared much worse in 2C and 3A (look at alternative 5).

We will keep you updated as this progresses through the bureaucracy and would appreciate continued financial support to keep things moving. Donations are accepted online at <http://halibutcoalition.org/>

As always we need more email addresses to improve our communications and you are invited to join our closed Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/109427439142675/>

Thank you for your support and involvement! ~ Halibut Coalition and ALFA