

IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: Request State of Alaska to develop a harvest tag data collection for all recreation harvest of Halibut in Alaska

Year Proposed For: 2009 and beyond

Submission Information (Please print or type)

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Signature: _____

1. What is the definition and objective of the proposal?

The objective of the proposal is to get a full accounting of all halibut harvested by the recreational sectors (guided & unguided) in Alaska. With the Southeast Stocks showing signs of distress, (fishing intensity; declining CPUE indices; truncation of age distributions) it is important to know with accuracy all removals. IPHC is trying to set appropriate catch limits to reverse declines and rebuild the stock. It is critical in the rebuilding of stocks to have an accurate estimate of all removals from the area. Many believe that the current method of the SWHS is underestimating the harvest of the "assisted un-guided (lodge derived charters with no guide)" and that this category of removals will be increasing as a one fish bag limit in SE and the halibut limited entry program are implemented. Harvest tickets are used throughout the country successfully on both fishery species and game species as a method of collecting information about the harvest.

The IPHC Commissioners would request the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game and/or National Marine Fisheries Service to develop a harvest ticket/tag program for **ALL recreational anglers** (guided & unguided) that provides for the marking of the halibut carcasses as caught, a label that marks fish as it is being shipped with the tag number of the halibut harvested in the container/box and the reporting of the fish through phone, internet, drop box or mail. The harvest ticket/tag would require the whole fish length in inches to be noted. Number of tag would be logged in the logbook on any guided charters.

2. Impacts: Describe who you think this proposed change might affect (include fishers, processors, agencies, and the public).

2a. Who might benefit from the proposed change?

The resource will be the biggest beneficiary of a recreational angler harvest tag/ticket because managers will have an accurate record of all removals. Commercial fishermen already have an accurate electronic reporting system.

2b. Who might suffer hardships or be worse off?

Those who don't like additional paperwork requirements and there will be additional agency cost to develop, implement and run the harvest ticket program.

3. Are there other solutions to the problem described above? If so, why were they rejected?

Current system of estimating recreational harvest while it is all we have, it is not considered by most to be an adequate estimate of recreational harvest, we would like something different implemented. A logbook program for the unguided recreational angler is not a likely scenario.

Please attach any other supporting materials. All items submitted by **October 31, 2008** will be considered at the IPHC Annual Meeting. ***Remember to include contact information and signature.***