

IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: **One halibut daily bag limit for guided sport anglers in Area 2C**

Year Proposed For: **2009**

Submission Information (Please print or type)

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Signature: _____		

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

Establish one halibut daily limit for guided angler clients in Area 2C to ensure the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) is not exceeded.

The biomass in 2C is at low levels triggering the need for all commercial sectors to conserve. NMFS implemented a one halibut daily limit for 2C guided anglers in 2008 that was suspended by the courts. NMFS is working on new regulatory language to control charter harvest in 2C to the 2009GHL, but the new regulations have not yet been published as a proposed rule and may not be implemented in time for the 2009 season. To prevent resource overharvest, the IPHC should exercise its jurisdiction to reduce the halibut daily bag limit on guided sport vessels in 2C to one fish.

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 benefit from all sectors remaining below catch limits; subsistence and non-guided sport fishermen will benefit from reduced competition for limited resources in near-town areas where local depletion has become a significant problem; setline fishermen will benefit from effective management to domestic targets. Guided anglers and operators will benefit in the long-term from protecting resource health.

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

Guided operators who have developed business plans that depend on unsustainable harvest levels. Guided anglers who do not understand or do not support conservation management during times of low abundance.

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

Halibut retention in the 2C guided sport fishery could be prohibited during one or more months during the 2009 summer season to prevent a GHL overage. The guided sport sector could support this as an alternative to the reduced daily bag limit.

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.*