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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Halibut Charter One Halibut/Day Rule to be Implemented**

*Halibut Coalition Supports Change to Protect Resource*

**Contact:**  
**Linda Behnken, Chair**  
**Halibut Coalition**  
**(907) 747-0695**

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is set to publish a final rule early this week that will limit halibut charter clients in Area 2C (Southeast Alaska) to one halibut per day. The rule is a response to concerns about the depletion of the halibut resource in the area. The final rule will take effect 30 days after publication.

The charter fleet in Southeast Alaska has exceeded the Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for the fishery for five consecutive years. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) determined the one halibut per day limit is necessary to constrain the halibut charter fleet in Area 2C to their allotted GHL. Without the measure, the halibut resource is in danger of significant depletion by the charter industry.

The commercial setline fleet operates under strict individual fishing quotas (IFQs). The commercial setline quota in Area 2C has been cut 53% over the past three years to buffer halibut stocks against overharvest. This reduction in the commercial quota results in a direct reduction of halibut available to the American public in grocery stores and restaurants.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) is very concerned about the overharvest of halibut in 2C by the charter fleet. This statement came from a press release issued after the IPHC's 2009 Annual Meeting:

*The Commission also considered the proposed NMFS one-fish bag limit for charter fisheries in Area 2C for 2009. The Commission expressed its desire to see implementation of effective management measures for this fishery, in consideration of the Guideline Harvest Level of 788,000 lb defined for this fishery. The Commission will therefore*

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Cordova District Fishermen • Deep Sea Fishermen's Union • Fishing Vessel Owners Association • Halibut Association of North America • Kachemak Bay Fisheries Association • North Pacific Fisheries Association • Petersburg Vessel Owners Association • Sea Food Producers Cooperative • Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance • United Cook Inlet Driftnetters Association • United Fishermen's Marketing Association • United Southeast Alaska Gillnetters Association

*monitor the implementation of the NMFS proposed rule. In the event of conservation concerns, the Commission will be prepared to take extraordinary action at an intercessional meeting in 2009 to pass IPHC regulations commensurate with the intent to conserve the resource, should there be any delay or problem with the implementation schedule for the NMFS regulation.*

<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/newsrel/2009/nr20090120.htm>

The following commercial setline seafood industry members are available to discuss this issue:

1. Linda Behnken, Executive Director and fisherman, Alaska Longline Fisherman's Association (Sitka), (907) 747-0695.
2. Jev Shelton, Halibut Coalition (Juneau) and fisherman, 907-586-2242
3. Peggy Parker, Executive Director, Halibut Association of North America (processing sector), (Deming, WA) (360) 592-3116 or cell (360) 319-6208
4. Kathy Hansen, Executive Director and fisherman, Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (Juneau), (907) 586-6652 (will auto forward).
5. Julianne Curry, Executive Director, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association and fisherman, (907) 772-9323

Background material: [http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current\\_issues/halibut\\_issues/halibut.htm](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/npfmc/current_issues/halibut_issues/halibut.htm)

Halibut Coalition website: <http://halibutcoalition.org/>

Halibut Coalition comments on the one halibut/day rule: [Halibut Coalition Comments on Proposed 2C One Fish Rule \(1/21/09\)](#)