

State of Alaska

Role in management of the Pacific halibut resource off Alaska

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Authorities

- IPHC, est. 1923, by convention between Canada and United States for preservation of halibut in North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea
- NPFMC has authority under the Halibut Act to develop regulations in addition to - but not in conflict with - IPHC approved regulations
- State of Alaska does not hold management authority for halibut, but has significant investments in biological sampling, licensing, and harvest data collection and analysis programs for the recreational halibut fisheries

Primary state contribution

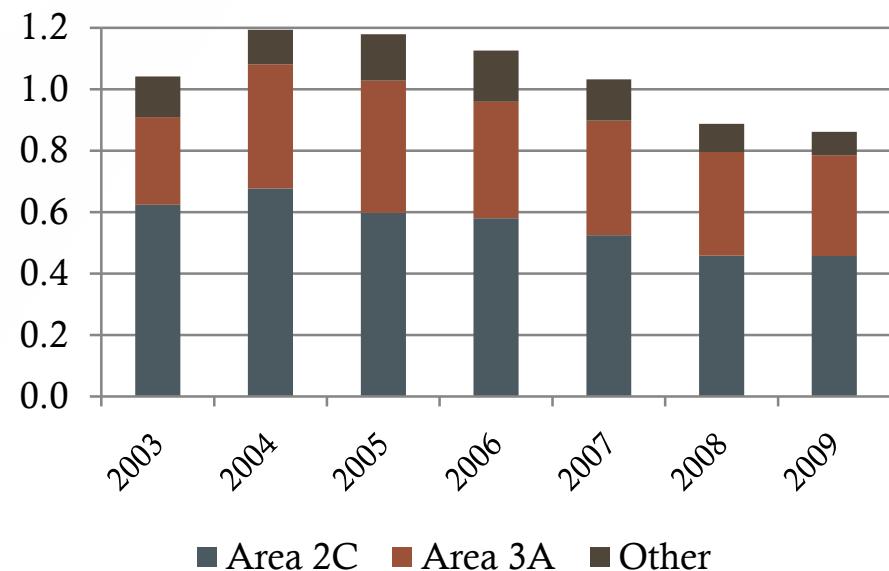
- Data collection, analysis, and harvest estimates for IPHC and NPFMC
 - Subsistence harvest estimates
 - Survey of SHARC holders, follow-up mailings and interviews
 - Recreational fishery harvest estimates
 - Statewide Harvest Survey of licensed anglers
 - Mandatory saltwater charter logbook program
 - Creel surveys at major ports

Additional state contributions

- Commissioner of ADF&G is one of 11 voting seats on the NPFMC
 - Policy input through record building and formal motions
 - Balance interests of various user groups dependent on fishery resources of Alaska
- Provide technical review and supplemental analysis for NPFMC
- Review and comment on proposed federal rules

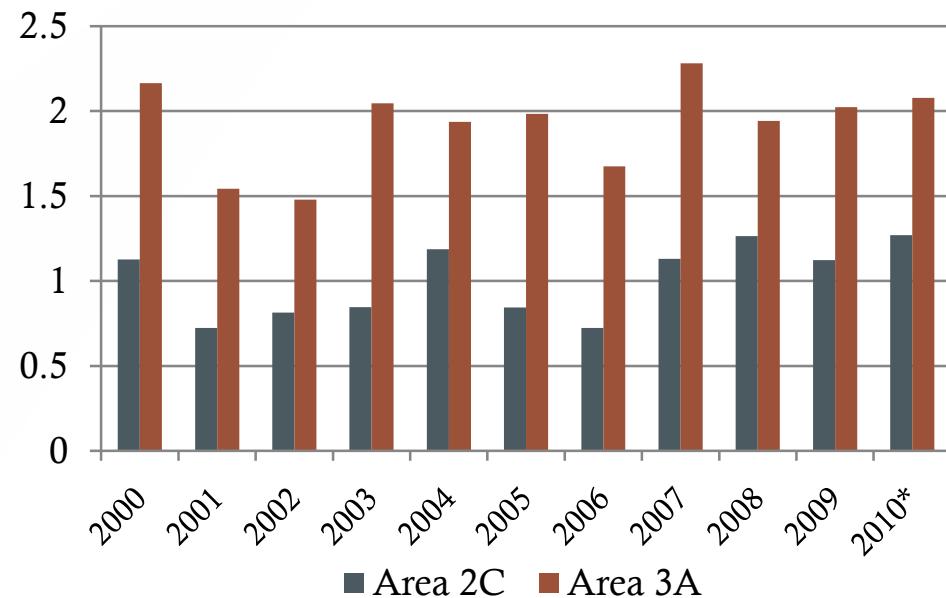
ADF&G harvest estimates, subsistence halibut

- Subsistence harvest estimates
 - Survey and analysis is completed by ADF&G Division of Subsistence, funded by NMFS
 - Response rate typically higher than 60%
 - 2009 estimates:
 - About 45,000 halibut (860,000 usable pounds) were harvested by approximately 5,300 fishermen
 - About 1.2% of the total removals in Alaska



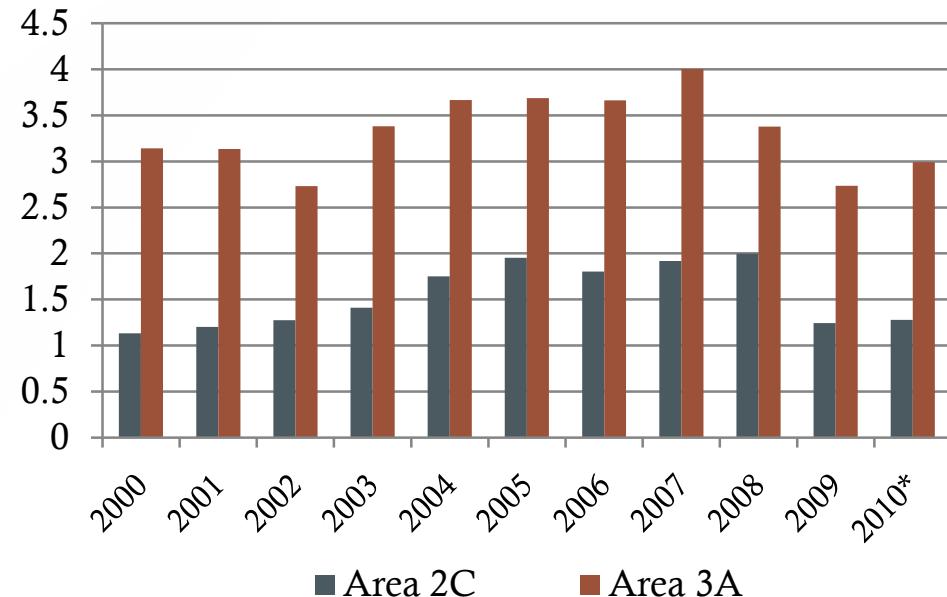
ADF&G harvest estimates, sport unguided halibut

- Unguided angler harvest estimates
 - Statewide harvest survey (SWHS) responses provide data used for estimating the number of retained halibut by area
 - Creel survey data are used to estimate average weight
 - Current year harvest projected from past trend



ADF&G harvest estimates, sport charter halibut

- Sport charter (guided) harvest estimates
 - SWHS responses provide data used for estimating the number of retained halibut by area
 - Creel survey data are used to estimate average weight
 - Current year harvest projected using logbook data



ADF&G harvest estimates, timing for sport estimates

- September
 - Final SWHS harvest estimates released for prior year
 - Final estimate of harvest biomass calculated for previous year
 - Creel data for current year processed, edited
- Oct to early November
 - Logbook data entered through July 30
 - Charter and unguided harvest projections for the current year and final estimates for previous year provided to IPHC for stock assessment

New state obligations under CSP

- Harvest projections and maximum length limit calculations are central to Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) implementation
- Guided Angler Fish (GAF) reporting in ADF&G saltwater logbooks
- Adjust sport charter harvest estimates to remove GAF, accounted for against the commercial fishery catch limit

CSP public comment period

- ADF&G staff are reviewing the proposed rule and preparing comments now
- Comment deadline: September 6, 2011

Hearing agenda

- NPFMC – overview of the Council process and development of the CSP
- NMFS – overview of the CSP
- Industry representatives – effects of proposed action