

October 5, 2017
C-1 Charter Halibut Permit Registration
Final Council motion

The Council recommends releasing the analysis for public review after revising the purpose and need statement to read:

The charter halibut fishery currently lacks a Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) registration or renewal process. The lack of CHP renewal process limits the information available to the Council for understanding and tracking changes and trends in CHP ownership, participation and latency. A renewal process also would improve enforcement of CHP usage on the water and facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits. It will also ensure that the Council and stakeholders get more complete information about the performance and usage of CHPs and to help assess the degree to which CHP holders are active participants in the fishery. The Council is considering developing an annual renewal for the CHP Program to provide improved information to evaluate whether changes to the CHP Program are necessary as a result of changes in ownership and participation of CHPs, facilitate retirement of non-transferable permits when ownership changes, and improve the ability of enforcement agents to ensure valid permits are being used.

The alternatives are shown below, with the Council's preliminary preferred alternative in **bold**:

Alternative 1. Status Quo

Alternative 2. Implement an annual registration process for transferable and non-transferable charter halibut permits (CHP). A CHP holder must submit the following information to NMFS on an annual basis to register a CHP:

- **CHP number,**
- **CHP holder name (individual or non-individual entity), and**
- **CHP holder address.**
- **CHP holder phone number and/or CHP holder email address.**

If a CHP is not registered with NMFS, the CHP would not be valid for use during the applicable fishing year.

Options for additional requirements could include (options are not mutually exclusive):

Option 1. CHP ownership (e.g., ownership holdings for the CHP by individual(s), partners, or a corporate entity).

Option 2. Natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that will use the permit.

Sub-option: If a non-transferable CHP is used by a natural person(s) and/or vessel(s) that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following fishing year.

Option 3. For non-transferable permits, the CHP holder must notify NMFS where the permit will be used (i.e., the beginning and/or ending port(s) to trips where the CHP is used.

Sub-option: If a non-transferable CHP is used for a trip that begins or ends in a port that was not submitted to NMFS during the annual registration, the CHP would not be valid for use during the following year.

Option 4. CHP use as indicated by answering the following questions:

1) In the last year, was this CHP used by an operator who is not part of the CHP ownership structure?

2) If yes, what were the agreed upon compensation terms for the use of the CHP?

- a. No compensation; operator is an employee of the CHP holder
- b. A flat fee paid to the permit holder
- c. A fee that is a percentage of gross earnings
- d. Combination of flat fee and percentage