



ACA

Alaska Charter Association

P.O.Box 478

Homer, Alaska

"To Preserve and protect the rights and resources of Alaska's Sport Fishermen"

Alaska Charter News

Made Possible by Your Membership Support

December 2021

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CARES Act Relief Funds - Round One

Checks Reported to Mail Out Friday, Dec. 10th

CARES Act relief for charter industry:
We have been getting calls about the status of CARES Act relief for charter industry - here's what we know, from [Pacific States Marine Fisheries](http://Pacific States Marine Fisheries website) website:

"Relief checks for Alaska's Round 1 relief are expected to be mailed on/or before **Friday, December 10th**. Applications for Alaska's Round 2 relief are expected to become available mid-late December, 2021."



ACA Membership Dues for 2022

According to our association's bylaws,



members pay their dues annually in October. The ACA represents charter sportfishing operators statewide, with every imaginable business model included, from full-service lodges to six-pack charter boats.

Thanks to the new and renting members who have already sent in your dues. We're updating our membership list on our website with current listing for your businesses and homepage links.

Full membership benefits include voting rights on board elections, ensuring that ACA's policies and positions accurately represent the wide spectrum of business models in Alaska's charter operations. Annual dues are less than the average price of a seat on a charter trip.

We'll be sending a separate reminder to new and renewing members. We know a lot of people benefit from the news in the newsletter and we're welcoming everyone to support the cause any way they can.

[Pay Your ACA Dues Here](#)

North Council December Meeting Discussing Halibut Regs for 2022; ABM Trawl Bycatch in the Bering Sea;



The North Council is meeting remotely this week, with a decision on what options for guided angler halibut regulations will be forwarded to the IPHC. Abundance Based Management for halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea trawl fishery is up for action.

Hundreds of commenters submitted their arguments for and against reduced levels of halibut mortality in the Amendment 80 trawl sector, and delivered hours of oral testimony

at the meeting of the Council's Advisory Panel last week. and the full Council meets next week.

Future meetings:

- The [Charter Halibut Management Committee](#) is scheduled to meet Dec 6, 2021

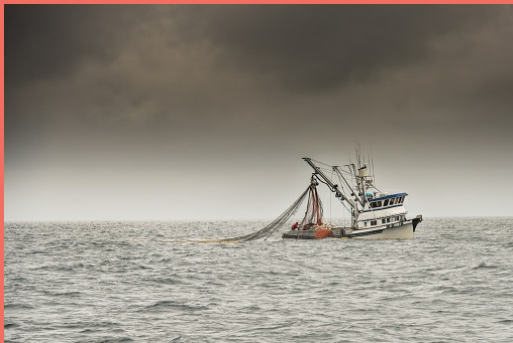
(virtually) to review ADF&G analysis of predicted charter halibut harvest and provide final recommendations of 2022 management measures.

- The [North Council](#) and its Advisory Panel will meet Dec 6-16, 2021 and will receive the Charter Halibut Management Committee report and provide recommendations to the IPHC.
- The [IPHC](#) will hold its Annual Meeting Jan 25-29, 2021
- The Council is tentatively scheduled to review the Final Draft of the RQE funding analysis and the Catch Sharing Plan Allocation Review at the February meeting (Jan 31- Feb 8, 2022).

IPHC Interim meeting Nov 30 – Dec 1:

The Halibut Commission met for its [Interim Meeting this week](#). Dr. Ian Stewart reported some encouraging news about the [status of the stock](#): the promising 2012 year class is entering the directed fisheries and continues to grow at a faster rate (by weight) than other year classes. It is starting to look like the cohorts of halibut that drove the directed fisheries to success in the 90s. It's too early to count these fish as proof of a recovered fishery, Dr. Stewart advised, because ocean conditions can slow things down if they change. Ocean temps in the Bering Sea are exceptionally cool this winter, and the provisional numbers of fish available in 2022 are looking better than last year.

The results from 2021's season registered overages in the guided angler sectors in 2C and 3A. The regulations were built on the high uncertainty of pandemic-era effort levels. The Charter Halibut Committee meets this week to put finishing touches on the range of options delivered to the Halibut Commission early next year.



AK Legislative Hearing on Trawl Bycatch:

Fish & Game Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang, NOAA Fisheries' Glenn Merrill, and North Council Executive Director David Witherell answered questions from Alaska state legislators in a [public hearing about how trawl bycatch is managed in Alaska](#).

2 days after the hearing, [Gov. Dunleavy issued an order to form a Committee to investigate trawl bycatch](#).

[They will be appointing one charter rep to the Committee. Interested? Details here](#). The ACA board of directors discussed a nominee and have written a letter in support of board member Brian Ritchie for this panel. Brian is currently serving as a charter rep on the AP.

"The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is



developing guidance to mitigate potential impacts from offshore wind projects on commercial and recreational fisheries and fishing. The first step in this process is to gain knowledge from the people and organizations that know and use these areas."

BOEM will host a series of workshops to aid in this effort. A workshop focused on marine recreational fisheries will be held on December 7th, - 10am EST - Recreational Fishing Workshop. Follow this link to [Register](#).

BOEM will host a series of workshops during which BOEM will:
Present the purpose and intent of the 2014 document Development of Mitigation Measures to Address Potential Use Conflicts between Commercial Wind Energy Lessees/Grantees and Commercial Fishermen on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf.

Request input from the fishing community and developers that would inform the draft guidance on fisheries mitigation. Topics to consider include project siting, design, navigation, and access; safety; environmental monitoring; and financial compensation.

Provide information on how to submit comments.

For more information about this guidance, fisheries mitigation workshops and how to submit comments visit: [Request for Information on Reducing or Avoiding Impacts of Offshore Wind Energy on Fisheries](#)

Additional meeting information, including the agenda and presentation, can be found at the following the link: <https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/request-information-reducing-or-avoiding-impacts-offshore-wind-energy-fisheries>

General information on fishing industry communication and engagement can be found by following this link:

[https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/fishing-industry-communication-and-engagement.](https://www.boem.gov/renewable-energy/fishing-industry-communication-and-engagement)



**Congressional Watch:
House Subcommittee Hearing on
MSA - proposed changes to federal
fishery laws.**

On Nov. 16 the House Subcommittee took testimony on bills to reauthorize the Magnuson Stevens Act and other bills that affect fisheries. Western Alaska Tribes, suffering a prohibition on chum and reduced chinook salmon retention, seek halt to trawl bycatch. Ms. Mary Peltola, of the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission testified in favor of adding two seats on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for tribal representatives to address the impacts of trawl bycatch, habitat loss and climate change. Rep. Huffman (D-CA) said there “will be no moratorium on bycatch” in response to concerns about changing language from “reduce bycatch to the extent practicable” to “reduce bycatch.” (This language has always applied to all gear types, not just trawl.) Don Young & Dems support adding 2 seats on the North Council specifically for Alaskan Natives.

House Natural Resources Committee met Nov. 17 and voted to pass the legislation for the RQE. Next step is a hearing and vote in the Ways and Means Committee of the House.

Click here to Support:

[Alaska Charter Association 2022 Membership Form](#)

Annual Dues Every October

Member benefits Include:

- NACO membership with Insurance Discounts
- Timely news on regulations
- Web Link promoting your business
- Vote For Your Volunteer Board of Directors
- Support Our Recreational Fishing Opportunity
- Strength in Numbers and Statewide Reach
- Decision-makers hear a consistent voice for our industry
- Quick notice of potential threats to our fisheries

We are able to participate successfully in the management process only with you.

Your Support Makes the Difference.

**Join the
ACA**