
Hi,

Please submit the following for an RC to the BOF:

Board members,

Please refer to the attached chart provided by ADFG proving that the number of registered saltwater guide vessels in all of SE AK has dropped significantly over the past 15+ years.

In January of 2010, NMFS created a limited access system for charter vessels in the guided sport fishery for halibut in Southeast Alaska and the Central Gulf of Alaska.

The Charter Halibut Program (CHP) limits the number of charter vessels that may participate in the guided sport fishery for halibut in these areas.

The intended effect of CHP's was to curtail growth of fishing capacity in the guided sport fishery for halibut.

Transferable CHPs were issued to established businesses with a minimum history of participation in the charter halibut fishery. Participation was based on the number of fishing trips reported in ADF&G Saltwater Charterfishing Logbooks during two periods: a historic qualification year (2004 or 2005) and a recent qualification year (2008).

Non-transferable permits were issued to businesses that met some, but not all, of the participation requirements. Non-transferable permits were issued to avoid a sudden reduction in the potential harvest capacity of the charter fleet, while still reducing capacity over time. Some businesses that only received non-transferable permits have left the fishery and those permits have been revoked thus the reason for the decline in guided charter vessels.

Nonresident anglers want to catch and retain halibut so if a guide doesn't have a CHP, they will very likely buy a CHP from another guide and the seller will retire or they won't be in business very long.

Today the market value for a 6 angler transferable CHP is between \$100,000 to \$130,000.

CHP owners may move around in their area but the SE AK CHP's have been capped at 534.

374 CHP's are transferrable.

160 CHP's are non transferable.

In 2006 there were 747 registered active saltwater vessels in AK.

In 2019 it dropped to 652.

In 2020 there were only 426.

The narrative that the guided charter fleet is growing is totally inaccurate.

What is growing is the number of unguided saltwater vessels. This growth is driven by the disparity in the halibut regs between guided anglers vs unguided anglers.

Unguided non resident anglers can retain 2 halibut of any size per day.

Guided non resident anglers in SE AK can only retain 1 halibut per day and have a very restrictive size limit. In 2011 that size limit was 29" or less.

Over the years the non residents have found out about this disparity which is why the unguided operations have experienced growth while the guided charter outfits have experienced loss.

Charter operators value one king salmon at or around \$1000 per fish and the multiplier of that new money in our small economies is very significant.

The charter fleet kills fewer fish and brings more money & more jobs into our economies.

Guided fishing and hunting is by far the highest value added tourism industry in Alaska.

Thank you,

Kurt Whitehead
Treasure Hunter Lodge
A year round resident of Klawock, AK

Analysis done by Alaska Department of Fish and Game for SEAGO

ADF&G saltwater logbook summaries, 2006 - 2020.

Data are current as of 12/20/2021

Run by Ben Jevons

^a Region is based on salmon statistical area if present, if salmon area is not present then bottomfish statistical area is used, and if salmon and bottomfish areas are missing port of offload is used.

Table 1. Active saltwater vessels in Southeast Alaska from ADF&G saltwater charter logbook data, 2006 - 2020

Active Vessels															
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Southeast ^a	747	768	757	670	644	610	591	578	599	600	616	629	643	652	426

Table 1.1. Vessels registered with a homeport in Southeast Alaska from ADF&G saltwater charter logbook data, 2006 - 2020

Registered Vessels															
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Southeast	926	918	905	807	778	716	689	678	694	686	718	740	760	784	561

Table 2. Number of saltwater vessels with at least 1 chinook > 28" harvested in Southeast Alaska from ADF&G saltwater charter logbook data, 2006 - 2020

Active Vessels															
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Southeast ^a	656	644	593	556	532	512	504	477	514	531	514	523	519	526	359

Table 3. Number of saltwater vessels with 25 or more trips where at least 1 chinook > 28" was harvested in Southeast Alaska from ADF&G saltwater charter logbook data, 2006 - 2020

Active Vessels															
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Southeast ^a	314	286	119	145	152	189	156	174	233	243	190	218	155	157	98

Table 4. Southeast king salmon harvest for all waters (fresh and saltwater) by residency status from 2006 - 2020 as estimated by the Statewide Harvest Survey
TABLE PROVIDED BY SARAH WEBSTER IN SEPARATE DOCUMENT

Table 5. Chinook salmon > 28" harvested in Southeast Alaska from ADF&G saltwater charter logbook data, 2006 - 2020

Chinook Kept															
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Southeast ^a	56,548	49,835	20,552	25,792	26,758	39,100	26,575	25,595	53,533	50,163	45,287	34,590	16,353	21,016	21,782

Table 6. Active saltwater charter businesses in Southeast Alaska from ADF&G saltwater logbook data, 2006 - 2020

	Businesses														
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Southeast ^a	439	430	429	387	373	341	320	301	302	300	309	308	311	314	222

Table 7. Active saltwater charter guides in Southeast Alaska from ADF&G saltwater logbook data, 2006 - 2020

	Guides														
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Southeast ^a	881	872	860	737	728	668	690	700	689	738	746	731	735	812	471

Table 8. Salmon angler days* in Southeast Alaska from ADF&G saltwater logbook data, 2006 - 2020

* A salmon angler day is defined as a record with salmon effort (stat area or hours), regardless of success, PLUS all other records with at least one King Salmon > 28" harvested.

Includes crew and comp anglers

	Salmon/King Salmon Angler Days														
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Southeast ^a	129,863	133,462	121,197	91,205	89,352	97,016	93,133	101,930	111,224	116,783	113,398	122,668	112,332	115,160	45,641