



International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum

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July 24, 2013

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Glenn Merrill
National Marine Fisheries Service,
Attn: Ellen Sebastian
P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668
(FAX: 907-586-7557)

Dear Mr. Merrill:

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rulemaking and record keeping. IGFA is governed by a board of trustees and has members and representatives in more than 100 countries.

IGFA does not support sector separation within the Alaska recreational halibut community. Halibut is a public trust resource. IGFA is opposed to the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) as proposed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. The IGFA believes that the CSP is not a conservation measure, but an allocation measure designed for the sole purpose of benefiting commercial halibut interests at the expense of recreational anglers. All regulations and restrictions to the recreational sector should be science based and conservation driven. The proposed CSP demonstrates no resource conservation, as it will not affect harvest levels determined by the International Pacific Halibut Commission. Furthermore, the proposed CSP is punitive as it forces recreational fisherman to purchase additional halibut from quota already assigned to the commercial sector.

The Alaska Halibut fishery should be managed in a manner that offers reasonable access and opportunity to Alaska halibut resources by recreational anglers. No management measure should be adopted that punishes one sector of the fishery by rewarding another.

Thank you for considering IGFA's position on this matter. We sincerely hope that the North Pacific Fishery Management Council will not go forward with the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan.

Sincerely,

Jason Shratwieser
IGFA Conservation Director

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