

# Survey: An Evaluation of the Recreational Quota Entity Program

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Hello Alaskan sport fish angler,

My name is McKenzie Mitchell and I am an Economics master's student conducting a study with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. A new policy has been adopted into Alaska's halibut sport fishery. You are being asked to take part in this study because you purchased an Alaska sport fish license in 2017. The information you provide in this pilot survey will help in the design of the final survey and in evaluating the new management program. This survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

**Survey Reward:** We will be awarding four survey respondents with a \$50 VISA gift card. We will choose the winners randomly and contact them by January 25th, 2019. Providing your email at the end of the survey will enter you into a drawing to win.

**Confidentiality:** All the information you provide will be kept confidential and anonymous. Your responses to the survey will be separated from your consent statement to ensure your anonymity. There will be no personal identifiers attached to the information you provide. Contact information for the drawing will be kept separate from your responses.

**The Voluntary Nature of your Participation in this Study:** You are free to choose whether you take part in this study. If you do choose to take part in this study, you may stop at any time.

**Our Commitment to Sharing the Results of this Study:** If you would like to receive the results of this survey please provide your email address on the last page of this survey. This is not required and is kept separate from your responses.

**Contacts and Questions:** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the individuals listed below.

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Primary Investigator  
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907-474-2711

If you have questions about your rights as a research participant, you can contact the UAF Office of Research Integrity at 907-474-7800 or [uaf-irb@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-irb@alaska.edu).

Statement of Consent: I understand the procedures described above. I am at least 18 years of age and I agree to participate in this study. By indicating YES you are agreeing to participate in this study. If you do not want to complete the survey, select NO.

Yes

No

# **An Evaluation of the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) Program in Support of Alaska's Charter Halibut Sport Fishery**

## **A survey with respect to Alaska fish resource users**

### **Survey Purpose**

This study will evaluate a recently adopted halibut management program by asking Alaskan anglers their general views and willingness to participate in funding the program. The program is intended to improve the halibut fishing opportunity for charter fishermen.

### **Survey Roadmap**

Background Information

RQE Information

Fishing Experience

Valuation of RQE program

General Views and Preferences

Demography and Socioeconomics

### **Background Information**

This section will provide you with an understanding of how Alaska's halibut fishery is managed.

### **RQE Information**

This section will provide you with information you need to know about the RQE program.

### **Fishing Experience**

This section provides us with information about your fishing experiences in Alaska for the purpose of this survey.

### **Valuation of RQE program**

This section helps us understand the strength of your support for the RQE program. A possible funding mechanism for the RQE program could be to require fish resource users to assume additional fishing costs. This survey is intended to evaluate this proposed mechanism as it applies to fish resource users.

### **General Views and Preferences**

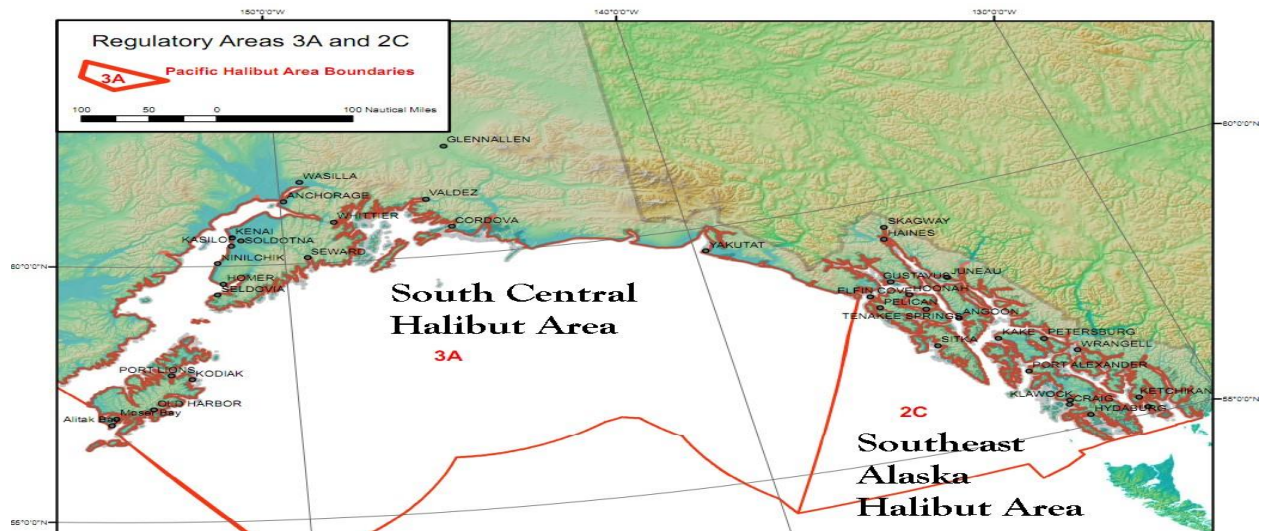
This section helps us understand your preferences about bag and possession limits in the halibut sport fishery.

### **Demography and Socioeconomics**

This section helps us understand who is taking our survey. It helps us determine whether the survey has reached a broad cross-section of society. All responses are confidential and anonymous.

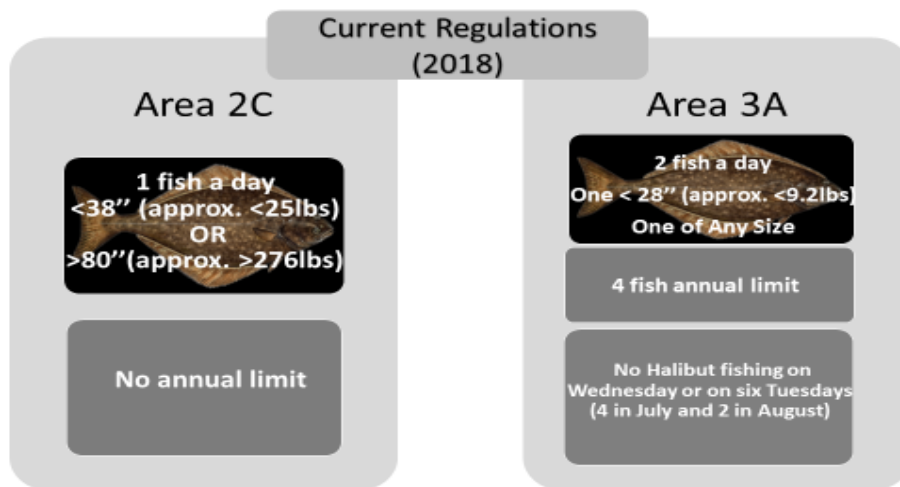
## Section I- Background Information

Halibut fishery regulations including catch limits are developed each year and in each regulatory area in U.S. and Canadian waters from California to Alaska. The catch limits determine the amount of halibut that can be caught by the commercial and charter sector each year and in each area. The two most predominately fished regulatory areas in Alaska by halibut sport fishers (guided /charter) and non-guided) are shown below in the figure.



Halibut abundance has been relatively low in recent years compared to abundance in the 1990's and 2000's.

Regulations for charter anglers are generally more restrictive than regulations for unguided anglers and have become more stringent as halibut abundance has dropped and charter catch limits have been reduced. Current charter halibut regulations are shown below.



## Section II- RQE Information

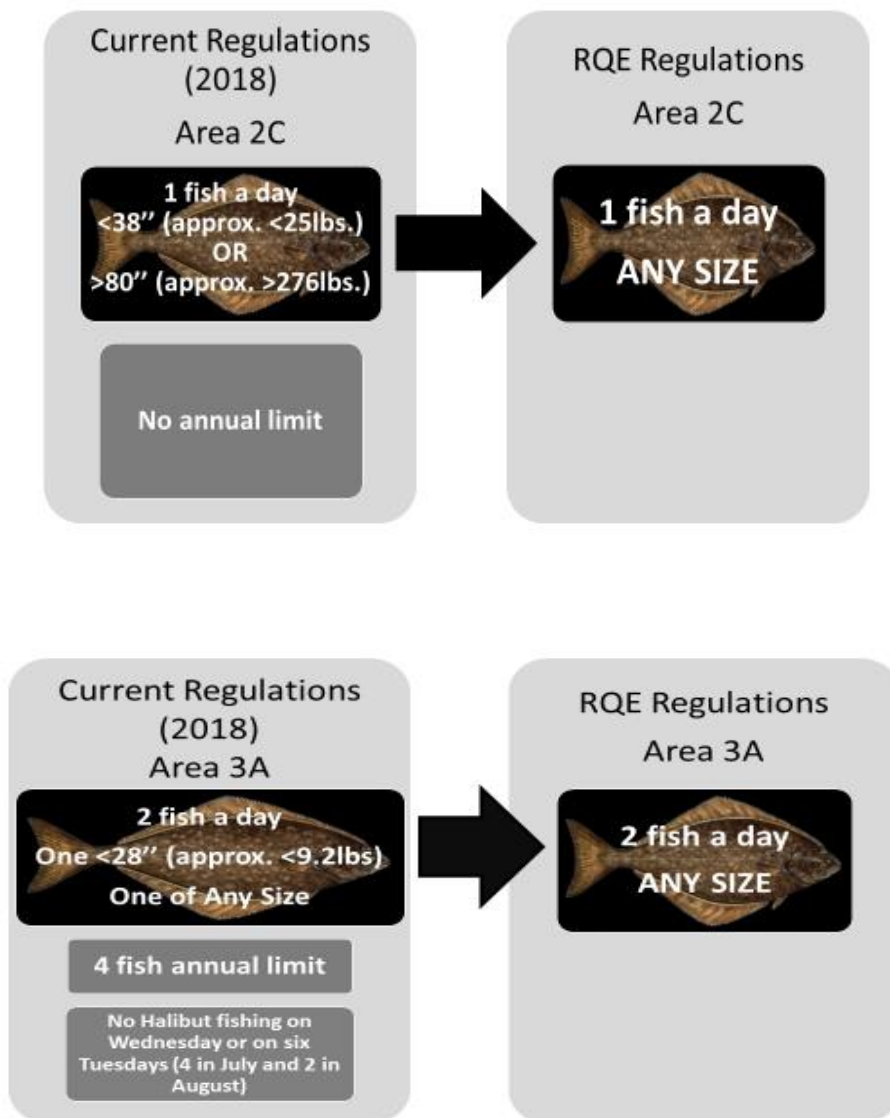
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### The RQE:

The RQE program allows a not for profit organization to purchase commercial halibut quota for use by the charter halibut fishery.

### Why RQE?

The additional halibut quota purchased through the RQE program will supplement the amount of halibut allocated to the charter sector. If the RQE obtains enough quota share, some or all of the halibut size and bag limits could be relaxed up to a point where charter anglers could potentially retain, fish of any size under their daily bag limit. These changes are illustrated below.



The level of regulation change would ultimately be based on the amount of additional quota purchased through the RQE program as well as a number of other factors such as an annual determination of exploitable halibut biomass, angler effort and average weight of halibut.

Funding purchases for the RQE:

It has not yet been determined how the RQE program will be funded. One of the proposed funding mechanisms is to require fishermen to assume an additional fee above and beyond their existing fishing costs. This survey provides a scenario for this funding mechanism and asks your willingness to participate.

Please continue to the next page to take the survey...



### Section III- Fishing Experience

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The information you provide allows us to better understand your participation in Alaska's sport fishery.

In which state do you claim residency?

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Please indicate the number of days you fished in **freshwater or saltwater** in Alaska in each of the years listed below.

If you did not fish in fresh or salt water in Alaska in 2017 or 2018 please leave the question blank or enter 0.

	2017	2018
Days Fished		

*Display This Question:*

*If days fished > 0*

Please indicate the number of days you fished in **saltwater** in Alaska in each of the following years listed below.

	2017	2018
Days fished		

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Display This Question:

If Please indicate the number of days you fished in saltwater in Alaska in each of the following years listed below. Days fished - 2017 Is Greater Than or Equal to 1

Or Please indicate the number of days you fished in saltwater in Alaska in each of the following years listed below. Days fished - 2018 Is Greater Than or Equal to 1

Please indicate the number of days you fished for **halibut** in Alaska in each of the years listed below.

	2017	2018
Days fished		

Display This Question:

If Please indicate the number of days you fished for halibut in Alaska in each of the years listed below. Days fished - 2017 Is Greater Than or Equal to 1

Or Please indicate the number of days you fished for halibut in Alaska in each of the years listed below. Days fished - 2018 Is Greater Than or Equal to 1

If you fished for halibut in Alaska please indicate in which IPHC regulatory areas you fished and the number of days you fished in that area. [Please click here to view a map of the IPHC regulatory areas.](#)

	2017	2018
Area 2C		
Area 3A		
Other		



Display This Question:

*If you fished for halibut in Alaska please indicate in which IPHC regulatory areas you fished and the number of days you fished in that area. Please click here to view a map of the IPHC regula... Area 2C - 2017 Is Greater Than or Equal to 1*

*Or if you fished for halibut in Alaska please indicate in which IPHC regulatory areas you fished and the number of days you fished in that area. Please click here to view a map of the IPHC regula... Area 2C - 2018 Is Greater Than or Equal to 1*

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*Or if you fished for halibut in Alaska please indicate in which IPHC regulatory areas you fished and the number of days you fished in that area. Please click here to view a map of the IPHC regula... Other - 2017 Is Greater Than or Equal to 1*

*Or if you fished for halibut in Alaska please indicate in which IPHC regulatory areas you fished and the number of days you fished in that area. Please click here to view a map of the IPHC regula... Other - 2018 Is Equal to 1*

Please indicate each year that you hired a charter fishing service to take you fishing for halibut in Alaska.

2017

2018

**(Valuation A- administered to 1/2 of respondents)**

#### **Section IV- Valuation of the RQE program**

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We will now ask you questions about possible ways to fund the RQE. The information you provide will help in evaluating a potential funding mechanism for the RQE program.

Please indicate the strength of your agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

I am willing to pay for less restrictive charter halibut fishing regulations in Alaska?

Strongly agree

Somewhat agree

Somewhat disagree

Strongly disagree

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The following series of questions asks you about decisions you would make on your next fishing trip to Alaska.

**All residents age 18 or older and nonresidents age 16 or older must purchase and possess a sport fishing license to participate in Alaska sport and personal use fisheries.**

**Suppose however that an Alaska sport fish license did not allow you to fish for halibut.**

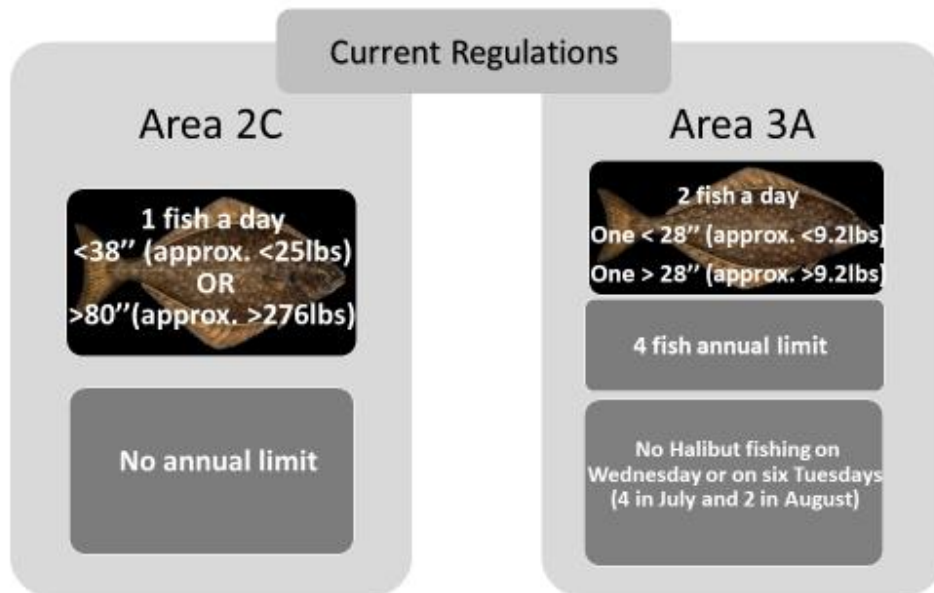
**If you want to fish for halibut you must purchase a state endorsed halibut stamp similar to the existing King salmon stamp.**

**Please check the box indicating the sport fish license you would most likely purchase on your next fishing trip.**

- Resident Annual Sport Fishing License \$29
  - Nonresident 1 Day Sport Fishing License \$25
  - Nonresident 3 Day Sport Fishing License \$45
  - Nonresident 7 Day Sport Fishing License \$70
  - Nonresident 14 Day Sport Fishing License \$105
  - Nonresident Annual Day Sport Fishing License \$145
- 

Please check the box corresponding to the greatest amount you would be willing to pay for an annual halibut stamp so that you would be able to fish for halibut, under the current fishing regulations, on your

next fishing trip to Alaska. Proceeds from the purchase of the halibut stamp would be dedicated to the RQE program.



- I would choose not to halibut fish \$0
- \$10 stamp
- \$20 stamp
- \$30 stamp
- \$40 stamp
- \$50 stamp
- \$60 stamp
- \$70 stamp
- \$80 stamp
- \$90 stamp
- >\$100 stamp

You indicated that you would be willing to pay for a  $\${insert\ selected\ value\ from\ above}$  for halibut fishing. How confident are you that this value reflects the maximum amount you would be willing to pay for a halibut stamp allowing you to fish for halibut under the current regulations?

- Extremely confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident

**(Valuation B- administered to 1/2 of respondents)**

**Section IV- Valuation of the RQE program**

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We will now ask you questions about possible ways to fund the RQE.  
The information you provide will help in evaluating a potential funding mechanism for the RQE program.

Please indicate the strength of your agreement or disagreement with the following statement:

I am willing to pay for less restrictive charter halibut fishing regulations in Alaska?

- Strongly agree
  - Somewhat agree
  - Somewhat disagree
  - Strongly disagree
-

The following series of questions asks you about decisions you would make on your next fishing trip to Alaska.

**All residents age 18 or older and nonresidents age 16 or older must purchase and possess a sport fishing license to participate in Alaska sport and personal use fisheries.**

**Suppose however that an Alaska sport fish license did not allow you to fish for halibut.**

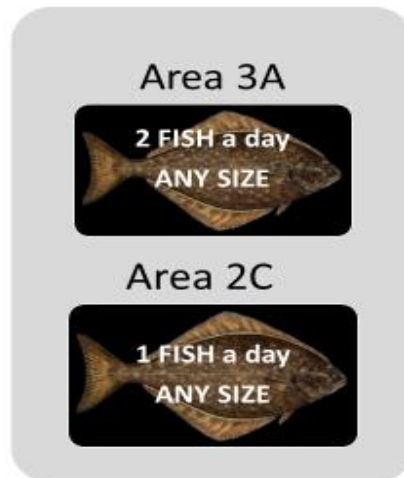
**If you want to fish for halibut you must purchase a state endorsed halibut stamp similar to the existing King salmon stamp.**

Please check the box indicating the sport fish license you would most likely purchase on your next fishing trip.

- Resident Annual Sport Fishing License \$29
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  - Nonresident 3 Day Sport Fishing License \$45
  - Nonresident 7 Day Sport Fishing License \$70
  - Nonresident 14 Day Sport Fishing License \$105
  - Nonresident Annual Day Sport Fishing License \$145
-

Please check the box corresponding to the greatest amount you would be willing to pay for an annual halibut stamp so that you would be able to fish for halibut on your next fishing trip to Alaska. **The halibut that you would be able to catch would be of any size.**

Proceeds from the purchase of the halibut stamp would be dedicated to the RQE program.



- I would choose not to halibut fish \$0
- \$10 stamp
- \$20 stamp
- \$30 stamp
- \$40 stamp
- \$50 stamp
- \$60 stamp
- \$70 stamp
- \$80 stamp
- \$90 stamp
- >\$100 stamp

You indicated that you would be willing to pay for a  $\$$ {insert selected value from above} for halibut fishing. How confident are you that this value reflects the maximum amount you would be willing to pay for a halibut stamp allowing you to fish for and retain your daily bag limit of halibut with fish of any size?

- Extremely confident
- Somewhat confident
- Not very confident
- Not at all confident

### Section V-General Views and Preferences

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Which of the following statements best describes your future halibut fishing decision in Alaska if you were required to purchase a halibut stamp to fish for halibut in Alaska?

The revenue from the stamp would support the RQE program in changing the current charter halibut fishing regulations. The level of regulation change would be determined on a number of factors.

Check all that apply.

- I do not and will not halibut fish.
  - I would start charter halibut fishing.
  - I would continue charter halibut fishing.
  - I would stop charter halibut fishing.
  - I would start halibut fishing (non-guided).
  - I would continue halibut fishing (non-guided).
  - I would stop halibut fishing (non-guided).
  - Other, Please Explain \_\_\_\_\_
-

Of the following catch regulations used to manage the sport fish industry in Alaska, please rank from 1-4, with one being most preferred and 4 being least preferred, how you prefer for your fishing catch to be regulated.

Daily bag limit (restriction on the quantity of fish harvested daily)	▼ 1 ... 4
Annual bag limit (restriction on the quantity of fish harvested annually)	▼ 1 ... 4
Size of fish	▼ 1 ... 4
Days permitted to fish (length of season/ no-fishing days)	▼ 1 ... 4

### Section VI-Demography and Socioeconomics

Your responses to the following questions will remain confidential and will only be used to collect aggregate data.

How old are you? Please enter your age below.

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What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other

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What is your household income? (Please select one of the following options)

- \$0-24,999
  - \$25,000-49,000
  - \$50,000-74,999
  - \$75,000-99,999
  - \$100,000 or more
- 

How many people reside in your household? (Write 1 if you live alone):

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Are you responsible for planning fishing trips in your household?

- Yes
  - No
- 

What is your employment status? (Please select one)

- Unemployed
  - Part-time (20 hours or less)
  - Full-time (21 hours or more)
  - Retired
-

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Some High School
- High School Diploma
- Some College
- Associates Degree
- Bachelors Degree
- Masters Degree
- Professional/ Ph.D.

Thank you for your participation!

Please enter your email address below to be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 VISA gift card. Your email address will only be used to inform you if you have won the drawing and to provide you with the results of this survey if you indicate below that you would like to receive them.

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Would you like to receive the results of this survey?

- Yes
- No

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If you have comments or concerns, they may be written here. Otherwise please continue to the end of survey.

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