

Chelsea Haisman

Re: Proposal 7

*These comments expressed below are submitted on behalf of myself and are not submitted on behalf of my employer.*

I am a subsistence user in both state and federal subsistence fisheries and hunts (salmon, halibut, moose, deer), and also participate in sport salmon fisheries and less often, commercial seine and gillnet fisheries.

I am providing the following information regarding federal subsistence halibut regulations and how they relate to the act of guiding and chartering. Though these are not part of state regulations, I would like it on the record that federal subsistence regulations are very clear in prohibiting any commercial use of the subsistence fishery, and set a precedent for establishing similar commercial use restrictions in Copper River state subsistence fisheries as well.

## 14. May I subsistence fish for halibut from a boat registered as a charter vessel?

It depends. You may not hire someone to take you subsistence fishing for halibut. A charter vessel may not be used for subsistence halibut fishing while charter vessel anglers are on board the vessel. However, the owner of a vessel that is registered with the State of Alaska as a charter vessel may use that vessel to harvest subsistence halibut provided the owner has a valid SHARC. Only the vessel owner and members of the vessel owner's immediate family may be on board the vessel while subsistence halibut fishing. Only the vessel owner and members of the vessel owner's immediate family who hold a valid SHARC may fish for subsistence halibut from the charter vessel. ([50 CFR 300.66\(j\)](#))

Source:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/frequently-asked-questions-alaska-subsistence-halibut-program>

Full regulations:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-III/part-300#300.66>

(j) Fish for subsistence halibut from a charter vessel or retain subsistence halibut onboard a charter vessel if anyone other than the owner of record, as indicated on the State of Alaska vessel registration, or the owner's immediate family is aboard the charter vessel and unless each person engaging in subsistence fishing onboard the charter vessel holds a subsistence halibut registration certificate in the person's name pursuant to [§ 300.65\(i\)](#) and complies with the gear and harvest restrictions found at [§ 300.65\(h\)](#). For purposes of this [paragraph \(i\)](#), the term "charter vessel" means a vessel that is registered, or that should be registered, as a sport fishing guide vessel with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Retain or possess subsistence halibut for commercial purposes; cause subsistence halibut to be sold, bartered, or otherwise entered into commerce; or solicit exchange of subsistence halibut for commercial purposes, except that a person who qualified to conduct subsistence fishing for halibut under [§ 300.65\(g\)](#), and who holds a subsistence halibut registration certificate in the person's name under [§ 300.65\(i\)](#), may be reimbursed for the expense of fishing for subsistence halibut under the following conditions:

(1) Persons who qualify as rural residents under [§ 300.65\(g\)\(1\)](#) or [\(g\)\(3\)](#) and hold a SHARC in the person's name under [§ 300.65\(i\)](#) may be reimbursed for actual expenses for ice, bait, food, and fuel directly related to subsistence fishing for halibut, by residents of the same rural community or by rural residents residing within ten statute miles of the rural location listed on the person's SHARC application; or

(2) Persons who qualify as Alaska Native tribal members under [§ 300.65\(g\)\(2\)](#) and hold a SHARC in the person's name under [§ 300.65\(i\)](#) may be reimbursed for actual expenses for ice, bait, food, and fuel directly related to subsistence fishing for halibut, by any Alaska Native tribe, or its members, or residents of the same rural community or by rural residents residing within ten statute miles of the rural location listed on the person's SHARC application.