

GUIDED ANGLER FISH
ANNUAL CONVERSION FACTORS
FOR THE 2014 FISHING YEAR
NOAA FISHERIES, ALASKA REGION
JANUARY 2014

Federal regulations at 50 CFR 300.65(c)(5) provide that the net pounds of halibut Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) transferred to/from an IFQ permit holder in IPHC regulatory area 2C or 3A will be equal to the number of GAF transferred to/from the GAF account of a GAF permit holder in the corresponding area, multiplied by the estimated average net weight determined as follows.

For the first calendar year after the effective date of the regulations the average net weight will be estimated for all halibut harvested by charter vessel anglers during the most recent year without a size limit in effect.

After the first calendar year after the effective date of these regulations, the average net weight will be estimated from the average length of GAF retained in that area during the previous year as reported to NMFS via the GAF electronic reporting system. If no GAF were harvested in a year, the conversion factor will be calculated using the same method as for the first calendar year.

NMFS will round up to the nearest whole number (no decimals) when transferring IFQ to GAF and when transferring GAF to IFQ. Expressed algebraically, the conversion formula is:

$$\text{IFQ net pounds} = (\text{number of GAF} \times \text{average net weight})$$

2014 is the first calendar year that GAF regulations will be in effect. Therefore, the conversion factors are based on the average net weight for each area before a size limit was in place. Those conversion factors are as follows:

Area 2C: 26.4 lbs

Note: This is the final 2010 average net weight estimate from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. 2010 was the last year that a size limit was not in effect in area 2C for charter halibut. http://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/halibut/Area2C3A_Final2011_09-14-12.pdf

Area 3A: 12.8 lbs

Note: This is the preliminary 2013 average net weight estimate for sport caught halibut from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. http://www.npfmc.org/wp-content/PDFdocuments/halibut/ADFG_IPHCsportdataLetter1113.pdf

Conversion factors will be posted annually. Conversion factors are not subject to change during the fishing year and may not be challenged.