

GUIDED ANGLER FISH
ANNUAL CONVERSION FACTORS
FOR THE 2015 FISHING YEAR
NOAA FISHERIES, ALASKA REGION
JANUARY 2015

Guided Angler Fish (GAF) conversion factors are posted annually. Conversion factors are not subject to change during the fishing year and may not be challenged.

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.

The conversion factors for 2015 estimated from the average length of GAF that were retained in each area, as reported to NMFS via the GAF electronic reporting system, during the previous year are as follows:

Area 2C: 67.3 lbs

Area 3A: 38.4 lbs

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:

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