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**REGULATORY PROPOSAL 2018**  
**Eliminate the requirement for a CHARTER Halibut Permit**

**SUBMITTED BY:**  
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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
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**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**For IPHC Regulatory Area(s): 2C**

Eliminate the requirement for a CHARTER Halibut Permit (CHP) for private crewed vessels not available for CHARTER. 50 CFR 300.67. The language speaks for itself, but in Feb 2011 the CHLAP was put into effect. Charter vessels were required to have CHP's. At that time enforcement officers for NOAA told private vessel owners that a CHP was not required aboard private vessels not available for charter and we could not even apply for a CHP. Fast forward a few years and NOAA and ADF&G got together and decided to write their own version of the American Heritage Dictionary and re-define "for hire". Now, CHP's are required on private vessels not available for charter, and since the 2011 deadline to apply for one is past, we have to pay thousands of dollars per year to lease a permit or tens of thousands of dollars to purchase one. We could have gotten one for free in 2011 when we asked about the CHLAP. Although private vessels not available for charter should not need a CHP, if this regulation is going to stay on the books, at a minimum, we should be given the same opportunity to apply for a free CHP as charter vessels were given in 2011.

**SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE**

Simply change the definition of "compensation" to specifically exclude private documented recreational vessels not available for charter, or give those vessels the opportunity to apply for a CHP for free so that we can spend a few days each summer halibut fishing with our owners without having to spend thousands of dollars to lease or purchase CHP's that are becoming more and more difficult to find.