



NOAA FISHERIES

Alaska Region

New 2020 Charter Halibut Permit Annual Registration Requirement

NMFS announces new regulations for the charter halibut fishery requiring all Charter Halibut Permits (CHPs) to be registered each year before use.

- The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is implementing regulations requiring CHPs to be annually registered. This will become effective for the 2020 fishing season, and will be required each calendar year a CHP is used.
- To complete the annual registration process, the owner of the CHP must submit an annual registration application to NMFS. The CHP annual registration application includes contact information, a yes-or-no question asking if the CHP was leased in the previous year, and ownership and affiliation information for the CHP.
- Once a CHP annual registration is approved by NMFS, a new version of the CHP will be mailed to the owner. This permit will be valid until December 31 of the current year. For example, a CHP that is registered anytime in 2020 would be valid until December 31, 2020.
- Previous versions of the CHP are not valid. A valid CHP must be onboard a charter vessel that is catching and retaining halibut, copies or electronic versions of the CHP are not valid.
- Annual registration of CHPs will better track the retirement of non-transferable CHPs, improve the enforcement of CHP ownership caps, and provide information to NMFS and the Council about changes in CHP ownership, participation, and leasing.

This guide summarizes regulations for charter halibut fisheries in Alaska. If you are required to comply with the regulations, you should consult and rely on the actual regulatory text. Please refer to the regulations under [50 CFR 300](#) or contact NMFS at 907-586-7228 or 907-586-7225. Other information is available on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/sport-halibut>.

CHP Annual Registration Frequently Asked Questions

- ***What do I need to do to register my CHP?*** - Before using your CHP, you must submit a CHP annual registration application to NMFS. Once the application is approved, NMFS will mail you a new version of the permit that is valid for the rest of the calendar year. The annual registration application will be available in 2020 at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/alaska-sport-charter-halibut-applications-and-reporting-forms>.
- ***Can I register my CHP online?*** – Not yet. For 2020, registration applications must be mailed or faxed to NMFS Restricted Access Management. However, for 2021 we expect that CHP registration applications may be completed online through the NMFS eFish online web service pages.
- ***Why do I need to register my CHP?*** – The CHP annual registration requirement will improve transparency in the charter halibut fishery by verifying that all permits being used are valid, and provide improved information to the Council and NMFS about how the Charter Halibut Limited Access Program is working.
- ***Is there a deadline to register my CHP?*** – No, a CHP can be registered at any time.
- ***Will there be a fee to register my CHP?*** – No, there will not be a fee to register a CHP.
- ***What happens if I don't register my CHP?*** – The CHP cannot be used by you or anyone else until it has been successfully registered. You will continue to own the permit and can register it at any time as long as it is in compliance with all other CHP regulations.
- ***I own multiple CHPs, can I register them using one registration form?*** – Yes, CHPs with the same ownership and affiliation information can be registered on one form. Separate registration applications must be submitted for each CHP with unique ownership or affiliation information.
- ***I just bought or received a CHP through official transfer, do I also need to register it?*** – Yes, if you intend to use the CHP, you must complete the annual registration process even if the previous owner had registered the CHP in the same year. A CHP annual registration application can be submitted with a CHP transfer application.
- ***Can I still lease my CHP?*** – Yes, this annual registration requirement does not change rules about transferring or leasing of CHPs.
- ***Can I transfer Guided Angler Fish (GAF) to my CHP before annual registration?*** – No, the CHP annual registration process must be completed before a CHP can receive a GAF transfer.
- ***I use a Military CHP from a Morale Program or a Community CHP from a Community Quota Entity, do I need to register my permit?*** - No, Military and Community CHPs do not need to be annually registered.
- ***I have other questions about the CHP annual registration process.*** - Please contact RAM Staff with questions regarding this or any other programmatic requirements at (800) 304-4846 option 2