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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Agenda Item G.1.b
Supplemental IPHC Report
November 2013

October 25, 2013

Ms. Dorothy Lowman, Chair
Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 N.E. Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-7204

Re: PFMC November 2013 meeting, Agenda item G: Pacific halibut management

Dear Chairperson Lowman:

The staff of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) notes the Council's upcoming actions regarding proposed changes to the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. We specifically wish to comment on the proposals for the South of Humbug (SOH) sport fishery subarea.

First, let me say that we appreciate the work of the Council and state agencies in addressing management of the sport fishery off southern Oregon and northern California. The Council has been responsive to the concerns expressed by the Commission and we believe our joint efforts on this issue have been beneficial to all parties. The IPHC has certainly benefitted from these efforts, as we have used this opportunity to learn more about the portion of the stock off northern CA. In addition, the expansion of our survey into northern CA has been useful in learning more about the southern range of the species and this knowledge will help inform our future dialogue with the Council.

The Council will be considering proposals to revise the SOH subarea and possibly respecify the allocation amounts. We realize these changes may, in some cases, entail substantial impacts to what has been the current practice for the area's users and we recognize that the Council may choose to adopt necessary management adjustments incrementally over the next year or two. While we expect the Council to manage these fisheries to their respective allocations, we support the direction in which the Council is proceeding.

A member of the IPHC staff will be attending the meeting and will be available to answer any questions the Council may have.

Sincerely,



Bruce M Leaman
Executive Director

cc: IPHC Commissioners