

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT  
ON PACIFIC HALIBUT STOCK ASSESSMENT

Mr. Chuck Tracy provided a review of the June 27-28<sup>th</sup>, 2007, meeting hosted by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) regarding their new stock assessment and area allocations. The IPHC has an annual meeting in November regarding stock assessment issues and recommendations. The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) requests that the Council discuss with the IPHC the possibility of having the November meeting open to the public. Currently the November meeting is closed to the general public except for agency personnel.

The new IPHC stock assessment proposal tends to shift harvest from the Eastern regulatory areas to the Western regulatory areas. The allowed harvest levels for each individual subarea with the new assessment are not based on the relative biology of the individual subareas. The harvest amounts are proposed to be determined based on a coast wide analysis and subsequent apportionment. The GAP is concerned that this new assessment shorts the harvest potential of Area 2A. Area 2A agency personnel attending the November meeting are requested to help protect area 2A from new and questionable allocation formulas.

PFMC  
09/14/07