

REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION
ANNUAL MEETING

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was held in Portland, OR, January 14-18. The most significant outcome of the meeting was setting the 2008 harvest levels (Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1), which involved approval of the new coastwide stock assessment methodology and discussions of how to apportion the total allowable catch (TAC) among the various catch areas. The Area 2A TAC was down slightly from 1.3 million pounds in 2007 to 1.22 million pounds in 2008 (Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 2).

The new stock assessment methodology was accepted for estimating total abundance; however, the IPHC staff-recommended apportionment methods were only partially approved. There was much debate about how to address the apportionment issue, resulting in a proposed workshop in 2008 to further investigate potential solutions. Area 2A participants have requested a working group be appointed to develop and review apportionment strategies prior to the IPHC sponsored workshop. The working group would include state, Federal, and tribal agency staff, Council members and staff.

Mr. Phil Anderson, Council representative to the IPHC, attended the annual meeting, along with numerous other interested parties from Area 2A. Mr. Anderson will provide a brief summary of the results of the meeting (Agenda Item G.1.b, Meeting Summary).

Council Task:

- 1. Discuss information relative to Area 2A halibut fisheries.**
- 2. Appoint representatives to an Area 2A working group, as appropriate.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 1: IPHC News Release.
2. Agenda Item G.1.a, Attachment 2: Area 2A Pacific Halibut Allocations.
3. Agenda Item G.1.b, Meeting Summary: Summary of International Pacific Halibut Commission Meeting.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Summary of Meeting
- c. Agency and Tribal Comments
- d. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies
- e. Public Comment
- f. Council Discussion

Chuck Tracy
Phil Anderson

PFMC
02/15/08