

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was held in Portland, Oregon, January 22-26, 2018. The meeting involved reports on recent survey results and current stock status, consideration of the probabilities of risks and benefits involved with specific harvest choices, and discussions focused on harvest policy and methods for distributing or apportioning coastwide yield to regulatory areas. The IPHC did not reach agreement for 2018 Pacific halibut catch limits. As a result, the catch limits adopted for 2017 remain in place; however both Canada and the United States intended to work through a domestic regulatory process to develop 2018 catch limits that would be less than those used in 2017 (Agenda Item G.1, Attachment 1).

Although catch limits have not been adopted to date, the IPHC U. S. Commissioners have recommended a 2018 catch limit (Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield [FCEY]) of 1.19 million pounds of Pacific halibut for Area 2A. An Area 2A catch limit of this size is 10.5 percent less than the 2017 limit of 133.0 million pounds.

Under this agenda item, Dr. Dave Wilson, the Executive Director of the IPHC, will provide an overview of the Annual Meeting, stock assessment, and plans for stock assessment surveys expanded the into northern Washington and northern California.

Mr. Phil Anderson, the Council's representative to the IPHC, attended the Annual Meeting, along with numerous other interested parties from Area 2A. Mr. Anderson provided a brief summary of the discussions and results of the meeting for Council consideration (Agenda Item G.1.b, IPHC Representative Report). Additionally, Ms. Michele Culver, the Council's representative to the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB), prepared an update on the MSAB progress and plans for revising the Commission's harvest policy and apportionment methodology (Agenda Item G.1.b, MSAB Representative Report 1).

Council Action:

Discuss information relative to Area 2A Pacific halibut fisheries.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item G.1.a, IPHC News Release: International Pacific Halibut Commission Completes 94th Annual Meeting.
2. Agenda Item G.1.b, IPHC Representative Report 1: Report on the 2018 International Pacific Halibut Commission Annual Meeting.
3. Agenda Item G.1.b, MSAB Representative Report 1: Update on the Management Strategy Evaluation Process for Pacific Halibut.

Agenda Order:

- G.1 Report on the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Meeting Robin Ehlke
a. IPHC Report Dave Wilson
b. Council IPHC Representative Reports Phil Anderson and Michele Culver
c. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
d. Public Comment
e. **Council Action:** Consideration of the IPHC Meeting Reports

PFMC
02/09/18