

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC



HALIBUT COMMISSION

Agenda Item F.1.a
Supplemental IPHC Presentation 1
November 2018

Potential Changes for the Non-Treaty Directed Commercial Pacific Halibut Fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

*Agenda Item J.1
Pacific Fishery Management Council
September 2018*

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Purpose

IPHC seeks PFMC input regarding longer fishing periods and alternative management for the non-treaty directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

Background

- [IPHC letter](#) to PFMC recommending moving away from derby fishery (May 2017)
 - Increase safety
 - Reduce regulatory discards
 - Increase flexibility for fishers and processors



PFMC meetings June 2017 - Sept 2018

- Discussion of various management options in GAP and on Council floor during 2017
- No recommendations made for change in management of the fishery for the 2018 season
- Conversation at Sept 2018 meeting centered on potential IPHC regulatory proposal for longer fishing periods

Currently on the table

- IPHC regulatory proposal for longer fishing periods
 - 5-day or 10-day options
 - Additional fishing periods would remain possible dependent on landings
 - Within IPHC mandate and independent of PFMC Catch Sharing Plan
 - Would require lower individual fishing period limits (vessel limits)
 - Other management measures would remain in place

Survey of IPHC license holders

- Sent to the 171 license holders who held licenses all three years 2016-18
- 47 replies:
 - Clear preference for a longer fishing period (81%)
 - Highest preference for 10-day fishing period among options presented (43%)
 - No consensus on when fishing period should begin, so this will remain a decision for the Commission at AM095

Current points of discussion

- Length and timing of fishing periods
 - Number of days
 - Starting dates / days of the week
- Fishing period limits (vessel limits)
 - Economic viability of lower limits for smaller vessels

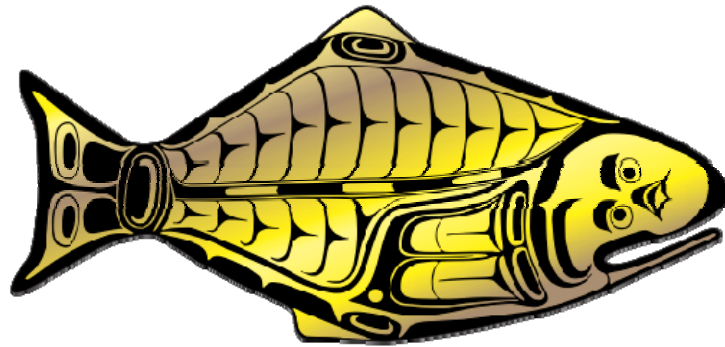


Looking toward 2019

- IPHC desires further input from stakeholders before making a change
- Feedback and recommendations from PFMC welcome
 - IPHC Interim Meeting ([IM094](#)) late Nov 2018
 - IPHC Annual Meeting ([AM095](#)) late Jan 2019



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Back-up slides

Current management of the directed Pacific halibut commercial fishery

- Catch limits
 - Overall limit set by IPHC, allocated by PFMC CSP
- Licenses
 - IPHC licenses vessels to participate in the fishery
- Fishing periods
 - Series of 10-hour periods at two-week intervals
 - Two or three open periods in recent years

Current management of the directed Pacific halibut commercial fishery (cont.)

- Fishing period limits (vessel limits)
 - Set by IPHC by vessel size class, from A (smallest vessels) to H (largest vessels)
 - Set at levels expected to remain within sector allocation
 - Can be revised downward for later fishing periods in order to remain within allocation

Recent fishery performance

- Not all licensees participate in the fishery
 - About half actually fished
- Not all participating vessels achieve their fishing period limits
 - On average, vessels catch 20-40% of their limits
 - A small number come close to or achieve their full limits

Effects of longer fishing periods on fishing period limits

- Longer fishing periods could allow more vessels to participate
- Longer fishing periods could also allow vessels to attain more of their fishing period limits
- Thus fishing period limits must be set more conservatively for longer fishing periods to avoid exceeding allocation

Sample vessel limits

Table 4. Vessel limits options by vessel class and estimated landings (lb, net weight) for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A using 2017 allocation and licenses.

Vessel Class		vessel limit ratio	2017 # Lic (208 total)	status quo		6,000 vessel limit		4,000 vessel limit		2,000 vessel limit	
feet	letter			vessel limit	est. landings	vessel limit	est. landings	vessel limit	est. landings	vessel limit	est. landings
1-25	A	0.084	15	755	11,325	505	7,575	335	5,025	200	3,000
26-30	B	0.105	11	945	10,395	630	6,930	420	4,620	210	2,310
31-35	C	0.168	19	1,510	28,690	1,010	19,190	670	12,730	335	6,365
36-40	D	0.463	39	4,165	162,435	2,780	108,420	1,850	72,150	925	36,075
41-45	E	0.498	43	4,480	192,640	2,990	128,570	1,990	85,570	995	42,785
46-50	F	0.596	36	5,365	193,140	3,575	128,700	2,385	85,860	1,190	42,840
51-55	G	0.665	14	5,985	83,790	3,990	55,860	2,660	37,240	1,330	18,620
56+	H	1	31	9,000	279,000	6,000	186,000	4,000	124,000	2,000	62,000
If 100% of licenses participate & land 100% of vessel limit					961,415	641,245		427,195		213,995	
If 50% of licenses participate & land 100% of vessel limit					480,708	320,623		213,598		106,998	
If 50% of licenses participate & land 50% of vessel limit					240,354	160,311		106,799		53,499	

Source: [IPHC report](#) on sample fishing period limit options for longer fishing periods (Sept 2017)



Other considerations for longer fishing periods

- Expect to see some shift in spatial distribution of fishing effort with more time to fish
- Expect to continue to attain sector allocation