

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION MEETING REPORT

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was held in Victoria, British Columbia, January 28 to February 1, 2019. 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 reached agreement for 2018 Pacific halibut catch limits (Agenda Item H.1.a, IPHC News Release). The Area 2A catch limit for Pacific halibut is 1.50 million pounds (Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1), which is 310,000 pounds greater than the 2018 limit of 1.19 million pounds.

Under this agenda item, Mr. Steve Keith, the Assistant 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 H.1.b, IPHC Representative Report 1). Ms. Michele Culver, the Council's representative to the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB), will update the Council on progress made in developing a long-term plan focused on IPHC's harvest strategy policy (*Agenda Item Supplemental H.1.b, MSAB Representative Report 1*).

The Area 2A Non-Indian Commercial Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery structure has been a topic of recent discussion with IPHC. Since the November 2018 Council meeting, correspondence between IPHC and PFMC are provided in Attachment 2 and Attachment 3. National Marine Fisheries Service and Pacific Fishery Management Council have suggested a potential workshop in 2019 to look at this fishery in a more holistic way. Such a workshop would provide opportunity for stakeholders and management entities to address concerns and explore alternatives in management of this particular fishery.

Council Action:

Discuss information relative to Area 2A Pacific halibut fisheries.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1.
2. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 2.
3. Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 3.
4. Agenda Item H.1.a, IPHC News Release: International Pacific Halibut Commission Completes 95th Annual Meeting.
5. Agenda Item H.1.b, IPHC Representative Report 1: Report on the 2019 International Pacific Halibut Commission Annual Meeting.

6. *Agenda Item H.1.b, Supplemental MSAB Representative Report 1: Update on the Management Strategy Evaluation Process for Pacific Halibut.*

Agenda Order:

- H.1 Report on the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Meeting Robin Ehlke
- a. IPHC Report Steve Keith
 - 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; Provide Guidance as Appropriate

PFMC
02/13/19