

## COMMERCIAL DIRECTED FISHERY REGULATIONS FOR 2020

The Area 2A Non-Indian Commercial Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery (directed fishery) structure has been a topic of discussion between the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) over the past few years. At the June 2019 Council meeting, the Council decided to move forward with the transition of management authority from IPHC to the Council for this particular fishery. Recognizing that the transition process would take some time and require collaboration, the Council committed to work closely with IPHC and stakeholders.

As part of the transition plan, the Council agreed to utilize the Council's September/November Catch Sharing Plan revision process to solicit stakeholder input and consider recommendations for 2020 regulations for the directed fishery within the existing season structure. The Council has encouraged participants and stakeholders to provide comment at public meetings hosted by the states, through the Council's public comment e-portal, or at the September and November Council meetings.

At the September 2019 meeting, the Council adopted for public review two preliminary recommendations for the 2020 Area 2A non-Indian directed commercial halibut fishery.

1. Fishing duration
  - Status quo: 10-hour period
  - Alternative 1: Five-day fishing period (with reduced vessel limits anticipated).
2. Season start
  - Status quo: Last Wednesday in June
  - Alternative 1: Last Wednesday in May

For Recommendation #1 (fishing duration), the Council asked that Alternative 1 be accompanied with a table of estimated vessel limits in 2020 for the public to consider when providing comment. This table was developed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for informational purposes only, as IPHC will set the actual vessel limits for 2020. These preliminary recommendations, along with the [potential vessel limits](#), have been publically available on the Council website since September 30, 2019. ODFW has provided a report (Agenda Item F.2.a, ODFW Report 1) which provides some background information on the topic and outlines how the potential vessel limits were developed.

It is anticipated that after the November 2019 Council meeting, the Council-recommended season structure for 2020 will be forwarded to IPHC for consideration during their interim and annual meetings in November and February, respectively.

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt Recommendations for the 2020 Season Structure of the Area 2A Non-Indian Commercial Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery for IPHC Consideration.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.2.a, ODFW Report 1: ODFW Report on the Directed Commercial Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations for 2020.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.2 Commercial Directed Fishery Regulations for 2020 Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Recommendations for the 2020 Season Structure of the Area 2A Non-Indian Commercial Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery for IPHC Consideration

PFMC  
10/17/19