

Agenda Item F.3.a
IPHC Report 1
November 2019

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17 October 2019

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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. Philip Anderson
Chair, Pacific Fishery Management Council
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101
Portland, OR 97220-1384

Re: Transition Planning for Transfer of Management Authority of the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Non-Indian Commercial Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery

Dear Mr. Anderson,

Thank you for your letter of 6 September 2019, in which you conveyed the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC) commitment to the full transition of management for the non-Indian directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, from the IPHC to the PFMC. Recalling the IPHC recommendation on this matter from the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (shown below), the IPHC welcomes the PFMC's commitment to make the transition as smoothly and as expeditiously as possible.

*IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Non-Tribal Directed Commercial Fishery
AM095-Rec.08 (para. 78) NOTING the indication made to the PFMC in a letter dated 25 January 2019, that the IPHC Secretariat would welcome the opportunity to further address the safety concerns in the fishery, and to examine other potential management options for the fishery such as an IFQ or limited entry, as well as its management responsibilities, the Commission RECOMMENDED that this workshop take place, given the desire for the IPHC to move full management of the fishery from the IPHC (an international fisheries management body) to the relevant domestic agencies.*

Noting the timeline described in your letter, the IPHC will discuss at the upcoming 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095) how best to continue its current management of the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A fisheries for 2020.

Recognizing that there are a number of domestic agencies involved, ideally we desire to effect the transition of the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A fisheries to domestic management as soon as possible, and in time for the 2021 fishing year. We are willing to support any efforts to expedite the process within our mandate, and under direction of the Commission.

The IPHC looks forward to continuing our strong partnership with the PFMC for the sustainable management of the Pacific halibut resource. IPHC Secretariat staff will attend the November PFMC meeting to provide further clarity and to assist with the transition.

Sincerely,



David T. Wilson, Ph.D.
Executive Director, IPHC

cc: IPHC Commissioners
Chuck Tracy, PFMC