

COMMERCIAL DIRECTED FISHERY TRANSITION PLANNING

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. During the course of 2019, the Council decided to move forward with the transition of management authority of this fishery from IPCH to the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Recognizing that the transition process would take some time and require collaboration, the Council committed to work closely with IPHC and stakeholders.

In April 2019, the Council received a joint staff report ([Agenda Item H.2, Supplemental Attachment 1, April 2019](#)) from Council members and staff (aka Workgroup) outlining tasks and considerations that may need to be addressed as part of a transition plan. At that meeting, the Council also asked NMFS to provide a report at the November 2019 meeting that would describe the potential process, timeline, and workload associated with a transition process.

In June 2019, the Workgroup provided a second report ([Agenda Item H.1, Attachment 1, June 2019](#)) summarizing several transition-related topics for Council consideration. At that meeting, the Council confirmed its intent to begin the transition process, and approved a list of actions and steps to take in preparation for the transition. As part of the transition process, the Council has begun utilizing the September/November Catch Sharing Plan process to solicit and consider annual regulations for this fishery for recommendation to IPHC.

Development of a transition plan should address the proposed timing of the transition, a description of how issues such as licensing, data collection, and data access would occur in the interim and in the long term, and identify the agency(s) responsible for each task.

Council Action:

- 1. Scope Transition of Management of the Area 2A Non-Indian Commercial Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery.**
- 2. Discuss the Associated Workload and Schedule.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item F.3.a, IPHC Report 1: Letter from IPHC Executive Director Wilson to PFMC Chair Anderson.
2. Agenda Item F.3.a, NMFS Report 1: Process and Workload for Halibut Management Transition.
3. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- F.3 Commercial Directed Fishery Transition Planning Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Scope Transition of Management of the Commercial Directed Fishery and Discuss the Associated Workload and Schedule

PFMC
10/18/19