

## ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION MEETING REPORT

The 2020 Annual Meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was held in Anchorage, Alaska, February 3-7, 2020. 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 coastwide yield to regulatory areas. The IPHC reached agreement for 2020 Pacific halibut catch limits (Agenda Item F.1.a, IPHC News Release). The Area 2A Total Catch Exploitable Yield (TCEY) is 1.65 million pounds, which provides for an expected Fishery Catch Exploitable Yield (FCEY) of 1.5 million pounds (Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 1). These values reflect the IPHC unanimous approval in 2019 to maintain fixed harvestable levels in Area 2A for four years (2019-2022) absent a substantive conservation concern.

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 upcoming stock assessment surveys. The IPHC report of the 96 Annual meeting is provided in Agenda Item F.1.a, IPHC Report 1 (*Electronic only*).

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 F.1.b, IPHC Representative Report 1). Ms. Michele Culver, prior to vacating her position as the Council's representative to the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB), provided an update for the Council on progress made in developing a long-term plan focused on IPHC's harvest strategy policy (Agenda Item F.1.b, IPHC Representative Report 2).

### **Council Action:**

#### **Discuss information relative to Area 2A Pacific halibut fisheries.**

#### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.1, Attachment 1. 2020 Area 2A Pacific Halibut Allocation.
2. Agenda Item F.1.a, IPHC News Release: International Pacific Halibut Commission Completes 96th Annual Meeting.
3. Agenda Item F.1.a, IPHC Report 1: Report of the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096); Anchorage, Alaska, USA., 3-7 February 2020 (*Electronic Only*).
4. Agenda Item F.1.b, IPHC Representative Report 1: Report on the 2020 International Pacific Halibut Commission Annual Meeting.
5. Agenda Item F.1.b, IPHC Representative Report 2: Update on the Management Strategy Evaluation Process for Pacific Halibut.
6. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- |     |   |               |
|-----|---|---------------|
| F.1 | Annual International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Meeting Report                 | Robin Ehlke   |
| a.  | IPHC Reports  | Steve Keith   |
| b.  | Council IPHC Representative Report  | Phil Anderson |
| c.  | Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies                       |               |
| d.  | Public Comment  |               |
| e.  | <b>Council Action:</b> Consider IPHC Meeting Reports; Provide Guidance as Appropriate |               |

PFMC  
02/11/20