

Draft Range of Alternatives for the Proposed Transfer of Management Responsibilities for Area 2A Pacific Halibut Fisheries with Focus on the Non-Indian Directed Commercial Fishery

Prepared for:

Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Goals for today



Approve Purpose and Need



Approve Scope of Action



Adopt Range of Alternatives



Discuss the Future Workload and Schedule

Document Highlights

For Council Consideration

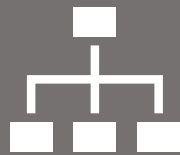
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Purpose and Need

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Purpose: Provide managers and stakeholders a direct role in the management of Area 2A halibut fisheries, including the directed fishery



Need: IPHC requested management of the directed fishery be transferred to Area 2A managers as soon as possible.

Scope of Action



(1) Transfer management of directed fishery from IPHC to the Council and NMFS. This scope includes development of a schedule, process and regulatory language for use preseason and inseason.



(2) Develop a permitting process for halibut fisheries. This scope would include all licenses currently issued by IPHC



(3) Identify lead entities and management responsibilities for management activities.

3.0 Range of Alternatives

Assuming responsibility for managing the directed fishery will require:



3.1 Consideration of how the Council is informed on tasks related to the transfer



3.2 Establishing a process and schedule for preseason and inseason management



3.3 Developing a new permitting process and protocols



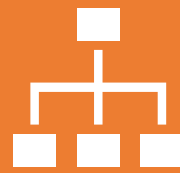
3.4 Identifying management entities and staff responsible for such tasks.



The Council's public process provides an opportunity to solicit stakeholder input

3.1 Council Process to Transfer Management and Associated Tasks

Essentially asking the Council how it would like to be informed on topics related to the halibut management transfer
(page 6)



Alternative 1: status quo which is to maintain the current project team to see the process through



Alternative 2: consider options for establishing an official advisory body now

- a) Ad-hoc – in place until transfer complete and protocol established
- b) Permanent - tasks include transfer and future technical or managerial related topics
- c) Expansion – current members identified , or new members added, in GMT/GAP to advise the Council on halibut related topics

3.2 Fishery Management Process

3.2.1 Preseason process

3.2.2 Inseason activities



Develop schedule and process for determining the season dates, etc



Determine when to set vessel limits



Define agency roles and responsibilities

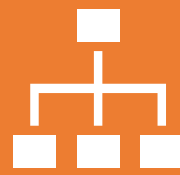


Establish a public notification process

3.2.1 Preseason management process

Establish a framework for the directed fishery to decide how and when to set the open periods, duration, and vessel limits

(Top of page 9)



Alternative 1: No set schedule or process for annual fishery details established at this time



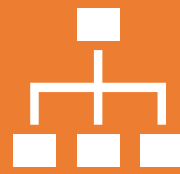
Alternative 2: Identify a Preseason Process

- a) CSP process in Sept/Nov for seasons, March or April for vessel limits– or NMFS set vessel limits
- b) March and April for season and vessel limits
- c) April/June for season and vessel limits
- d) Combination of above

3.2.2 Inseason management process

Establish a process for addressing potential inseason adjustments to needed to manage the fishery

(Bottom of page 9)



Alternative 1: No process established

Details could be outlined in the preseason process



Alternative 2: Establish process where NMFS would implement and announce changes through its regulatory process

- a) NMFS manage inseason
- b) Staff from NMFS, Council, and coastal states manage inseason
- c) Coastal states with stakeholder input recommend change, with Council and NMFS approval

3.3 Permitting Process for Participants



3.3.1 Which Area 2A halibut fisheries would be issued permits



3.3.2 Application deadlines



3.3.3 Development of application process



3.3.4 Notification for issuance of permit



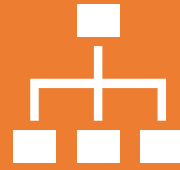
3.3.5 Proof of permit

3.3.1 Which Permits to Issue

In 2019 IPHC issued:

- 195 directed commercial-only licenses
- 19 directed commercial and incidental sablefish
- 16 incidental sablefish-only licenses
- 228 incidental salmon licenses
- 84 charter licenses

(Top of page 11)



Alternative 1: Issue permits only for the directed fishery



Alternative 2: Issue permits for a combination of some, or all Area 2A halibut fisheries

Options could include a combination of commercial directed, incidental salmon troll, incidental sablefish, and recreational charter halibut fisheries

3.3.2 Application Deadlines

Adjust the deadline to align with annual Council meetings

April 30 – directed
March 15 – Incidental
no deadline for charter

(Middle of page 11)



Alternative 1: Status quo: Maintain the IPHC application deadline for the directed fishery of April 30



Alternative 2: Adjust the deadline to an earlier date

- a. February 1 for directed fishery
- b. March 1 for directed fishery
- c. March 15 for directed fishery
- d. within the range listed above
- e. Consider the same deadline for incidental fisheries

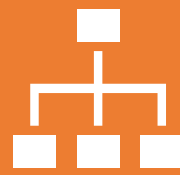


Alternative 3: NMFS determines appropriate application deadlines

3.3.3 Development of an Application Process

- All vessels required to meet registration and safety requirements of the U.S.C.G and state agencies
- NMFS review all applications for completeness and vessel compliance

(Bottom of page 11)



Alternative 1: Allow NMFS to determine the appropriate application platform



Alternative 2: NMFS develops new electronic permit platform

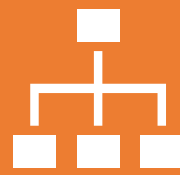
- a. A web-based application. (IPHC status quo) applications are submitted on-line. No postal or email.
- b. Phone based (call-in) application. Application information provided via phone. NMFS staff review call-log and process information.
- c. Web-based application with supplemental requirements. Participant submits application electronically, along with any supplemental info required.

3.3.4 Notification for Issuance of Permit

- Confirmation will need to be relayed to the applicant in a timely manner

- Transmittal could be electronic and / or paper notifications

(Bottom of page 12)



Alternative 1: NMFS to determine the appropriate means of notification

This may include some options listed below



Alternative 2: Formal notification upon application approval or denial

- a. Confirmation code, or unique number, sent via web-based system, text message or email, no permit attached
- b. Confirmation sent via web-based system, text message, or email, no permit attached;
- c. Provide a paper permit via postal mail (current IPHC method);

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3.3.4 Notification for Issuance of Permit

continued



Alternative 2: Formal notification upon application approval or denial (continued)

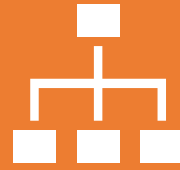
- d. Provide an electronic permit via a web-based system for participant to access;
- e. Provide an electronic permit via text message or email for participant to access and/or print;
- f. Provide a combination of both electronic and paper notifications;
- g. Combination of any of the above

3.3.5 Proof of Permit

Currently, participants are required to have proof of permit onboard the vessel and made available upon request.

The Council may consider if there will be a requirement to show proof of permit

(Middle of page 13)



Alternative 1: No requirement for proof of permit to be onboard fishing vessel.

Master log used to verify permit



Alternative 2: Require proof of permit to be onboard fishing vessel

- a. Physical (paper or sticker) permit made available for inspection upon request (IPHC status quo);
- b. Electronic/digital permit made available for inspection upon request;
- c. Electronic/digital notice of issuance of permit, sent via web-based system or email;
- d. Any combination of, or all formats acceptable.

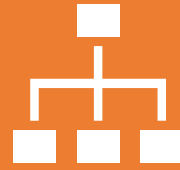
3.4 Roles and Responsibilities

Who will be responsible for preseason, inseason and postseason tasks related to management of the fishery?

Roles and responsibilities may need to change with time.

See Appendix B Tables 2 & 3

(Bottom of page 13, pages 16-17)



Alternative 1: Nothing assigned other than those identified within this document.

Council could wait until transfer is complete



Alternative 2: Assign roles and responsibilities

- a. NMFS staff responsible for permits and management (comparable to IPHC process)
- b. Management responsibilities assigned to state entities
- c. Management responsibilities shared between state entities and NMFS

2020 Trajectory



November 2019 - Project Team assigned to develop range of alternatives for March 2020



March 2020 – Council approves purpose & need, scope, and range of alternatives



May-August 2020 – analytical document prepared



September 2020 – Council considers preliminary preferred alternatives with analysis, adopts for public review



November 2020 – Council adopts final preferred alternatives for recommendation to NMFS



Time is short – efficiency is crucial

Appendix A Workload and Timeline

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4.2 Timeline for Approval and Implementation

Timeline hinges on Council transmittal and that the Council takes final action in November 2020:

- March 2020 – range of alternatives approved
- May-August 2020 – preliminary draft NEPA document and PPAs
- September 2020 – Council considers PPAs
- November 2020 – Council adopts FPAs
- November 2020- January 2021 : NMFS start PRA process and drafting proposed rule
- February 2021: NMFS publishes proposed rule
- February -March 2021: NMFS begins programming for new permitting system
- April 2021: NMFS public comment period ends
- May -August 2021: NMFS reviews comments, drafts final rule
- September 2021: NMFS submits final rule, concludes PRA
- November 2021: NMFS completes programming for new permitting system
- December 2021: NMFS tests new permit system
- January 2022: NMFS initiates new permit process

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