

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON
TRANSITION OF AREA 2A FISHERY MANAGEMENT

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the material associated with Agenda Item I.2, Transition of Area 2A Fishery Management. The following are our comments:

Timing (Agenda Item I.2. Attachment 1 para 4.1.): The EC has no preferred alternative with regard to the scheduling process for setting season and initial vessel limits, provided the regulations are announced at least 3 weeks before the first opener. This timing ensures industry and enforcement have time to review and incorporate any changes into our respective planning processes.

The EC has no preferred alternatives for:

Which Area 2A Permits to Issue (Agenda Item I.2. Attachment 1 para 4.2.1.)

Application Deadlines (Agenda Item I.2. Attachment 1 para 4.2.2.)

Development of an Application Process (Agenda Item I.2. Attachment 1 para 4.2.3.)

Notification of Issuance of Permit (Agenda Item I.2. Attachment 1 para 4.2.4.)

Proof of Permit (Agenda Item I.2. Attachment 1 para 4.2.5): In our previous report on this subject associated with the November 2019 Agenda Item F.3, the EC recommended maintaining the requirement for a hard copy permit onboard the vessel. However, in 2020, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) did not send paper permits to participants, so enforcement allowed proof of permit in electronic format as well. Considering that we had no issues with electronic or printed permits this year, we would instead prefer that the requirement be changed to “proof of permit” verses “paper proof of permit” be readily accessible to ease the burden on industry yet enable compliance.

The EC has provided several other reports with our input on the transition of Halibut management from IPHC to the Council (see Nov 2019 Agenda Items F.2 and F.3 and September 2020 Agenda Items I.1 and I.3).

PFMC
09/17/20