

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL-DIRECTED FISHERY REGULATIONS FOR 2021

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. At the June 2019 Council meeting, the Council decided to move forward with the transition of management authority from IPHC to the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for this fishery.

As part of the transition plan, the Council agreed to utilize the Council's September/November Catch Sharing Plan revision process to solicit stakeholder input and consider regulations for the directed fishery within the existing season structure for the upcoming year.

At the September 2020 meeting, the Council adopted for public review two preliminary recommendations for the 2021 directed fishery.

- 1) 10-hour periods, and
- 2) 58-hour periods (0800 on day 1 to 1800 on day 3) starting on the fourth Monday in June, but could be open either:
 - Suboption 1: Mondays – Wednesdays;
 - Suboption 2: Tuesdays – Thursdays.

It is anticipated that after the November 2020 Council meeting, the Council-recommended season structure for 2021 will be forwarded to IPHC for consideration during their interim and annual meetings in November and January, respectively.

At the September Council meeting the Council also discussed bycatch of yelloweye rockfish in this fishery in 2020. Observation data showed an increase compared to the expected bycatch in the directed fishery. A report from NMFS is provided regarding available information on the incidental catch of yelloweye rockfish in the directed fishery (Agenda Item E.3.a, NMFS Report 1).

Council Action:

Adopt Final Recommendations to the International Pacific Halibut Commission for 2021 Directed Fishery Season Structure.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item E.3.a, NMFS Report 1: National Marine Fisheries Report on the Non-Tribal Directed Commercial Pacific Halibut Fishery Bycatch of Yelloweye Rockfish.
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- E.3 Non-Indian Commercial-Directed Fishery Regulations for 2021 Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
 - b. Public Comment
 - c. **Council Action:** Adopt Final Recommendations for the 2021 Season Structure of the Area 2A Non-Treaty Commercial Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery for IPHC Consideration

PFMC
10/20/20