

GROUND FISH ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL  
PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION (IPHC) MEETING REPORT

The Groundfish Advisory Subpanel (GAP) received a report from Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) staff officer, Robin Ehlke, and IPHC member, Mr. Bob Alverson, and offers the following comments.

The GAP appreciates Ms. Ehlke's and Mr. Alverson's presentations and discussion about the IPHC meeting and general stock information.

Several items specific to Area 2A included the report of a survey off Washington and Southern Oregon during 2022. The 2012 year class is becoming a dominant year class for commercial and recreational catches; this year class is now 19 percent recruited to the different regulatory areas and the IPHC Commissioners will be negotiating regarding the Area 2B (British Columbia) harvest rationale and the current 1.65 million pounds total constant exploitation yield (TCEY) in 2A will be part of those discussions.

Several members of the GAP and public commented that the fixed harvest limit for the last four years (TCEY of 1.65 million pounds) has provided better planning for commercial and recreational interests. Members expressed support for this multiple-year harvest strategy.

Furthermore, the GAP heard from the public and supports the IPHC survey being expanded into Northern California for 2023. It is believed there is a substantial increase in abundance in this area from the 2012 year class, as fishermen have seen increases in halibut around Eureka and Trinidad.

The GAP was informed the IPHC is looking at size limits, specifically minimum size limits, for 2023. As part of this analysis, the IPHC should consider both the conservation and economic costs and benefits of establishing size limits and include consideration of maximum size limits in the commercial pot fishery. The GAP urges the IPHC to continue considering size limits in the halibut fishery.

PFMC  
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