

## COMMERCIAL-DIRECTED FISHERY REGULATIONS FOR 2023

The Area 2A Non-Indian Commercial-Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery (directed fishery) structure and management has been a topic of discussion between, stakeholders, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) in recent years. At the June 2019 Council meeting, the Council decided to move forward with the transition of management authority from IPHC to the Council for this fishery. At the November 2021 Council meeting, the Council took action to transfer the management from IPHC to the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). It is anticipated that the transfer process will be complete in time for the 2023 season.

The Council decided to utilize the September/November Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) revision process to solicit stakeholder input and consider regulations for the directed fishery within the existing management framework for the upcoming year. The Council and NMFS have also stated that maintaining the general season structure with vessels limits consistent with the protocols developed by IPHC for the directed fishery is the most efficient and stable path forward. This will be especially important in the next few years as NMFS navigates the new process and logistics related to management of this fishery.

Under this agenda item, the Council is scheduled to adopt for public review a proposed season structure for 2023. At the November 2022 Council meeting, the Council is scheduled to adopt a final recommended season structure for 2023, which will be forwarded to NMFS for consideration.

A report from NMFS on the status of the management authority transfer is anticipated under this agenda item. Collaboration with IPHC has been a vital part of the success of the transfer, and their continued support will be essential as the management agencies work their way through the process.

### **Council Action:**

**Adopt Proposed 2023 Regulation Changes for Public Review.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

### **Agenda Order:**

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|-----|---|-------------|
| E.2 | Commercial-Directed Fishery Regulations for 2023                                    | Robin Ehlke |
|     | a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies                  |             |
|     | b. Public Comment   |             |
|     | c. <b>Council Action:</b> Adopt Proposed 2023 Regulations Changes for Public Review |             |