

## COMMERCIAL DIRECTED FISHERY WORKSHOP PLANNING

The Area 2A Non-Indian Commercial Directed Pacific Halibut Fishery structure has been a topic of discussion between the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) since May 2017, when the Council received a letter from the IPHC recommending the Council consider a change in the management of the fishery. The IPHC outlined their concerns and provided a list of potential benefits for such a change. The IPHC did not recommend a particular management structure for the fishery, but supported changes that would reduce the concentration of fishing effort and eliminate a ‘race for fish.’ The IPHC also recognized the challenges in developing a new management structure for this fishery, and that it would take some time to develop and implement across multiple agencies.

The Council has been engaged in discussions regarding this topic since the June 2017 Council meeting. Council discussions have included data analysis, advisory body input, and public comment. The Council acknowledged in 2017 that this topic would require dedicated time and focus to investigate alternative management structures and their implications to the fishery and the participants. The Council also recognized that given the current workload and funding, it was unlikely the Council would be able to provide any recommendations for change during the course of 2018.

At the November 2018 Council meeting, the IPHC provided a copy of a proposal ([Agenda Item F.1.a, Supplemental IPHC Report 1](#)) submitted to IPHC commissioners for consideration. In response, the Council developed a list of issues and concerns regarding changes to the fishery that should be addressed prior to implementing such a change. NMFS suggested holding a workshop in 2019 in order to look at this fishery in a more holistic way. Such a workshop would provide opportunity for stakeholders and management entities to address concerns and explore alternatives in management of this particular fishery.

The Council submitted a [letter](#) for the IPHC interim meeting that lists a number of issues and concerns regarding the effects of a potential change, and suggests that the concerns are addressed prior to implementing change. IPHC responded to the Council’s letter, and the topic was further discussed at the IPHC annual meeting in January 2019.

At the March 2019 meeting, the Council agreed that a halibut workshop would provide a venue to discuss the issues and concerns identified by the Council. The Council directed Council members and staff to develop recommendations for the scope of the workshop (Attachment 1) and report back to the Council in April 2019.

### **Council Action:**

**Review Recommendations for the Scope of, and Provide Direction in the Planning of, an Area 2A Commercial Halibut Fishery Workshop.**

Reference Materials:

1. *Agenda Item H.2, Supplemental Attachment 1: Recommendations for scope of Commercial Halibut Fishery Workshop.*
2. If received, Public Comments are electronic only (see [e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

- H.2 Commercial Directed Fishery Workshop Planning Robin Ehlke
- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
  - b. Public Comment
  - c. **Council Action:** Identify Scope and Provide Direction for Planning a Workshop to Explore Issues and Ideas for Potential Changes to the Area 2A Non-Indian Commercial Directed Halibut Fishery

PFMC  
03/18/2019