

## REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION MEETING

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was held in Victoria, B.C. January 25-28, 2011. The most significant outcome of the meeting was setting the 2011 harvest levels (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1), which involved discussions of how to apportion the total allowable catch (TAC) among the various catch areas. The Area 2A TAC was up from 0.81 million pounds in 2010 to 0.91 million pounds in 2011 (Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 2). Another significant outcome, from the Area 2A perspective, was the adoption of the Pacific Council's recommendation for a lower halibut bycatch mortality assessment for the newly rationalized groundfish trawl fishery. Historically, recent year estimates were used to assess trawl bycatch mortality; this new method uses a hard cap equivalent to 130,000 pounds (net weight) of legal-sized halibut.

Ms. Michele Culver, Council representative to the IPHC, attended the annual meeting, along with numerous other interested parties from Area 2A. Ms. Culver has provided a brief summary of the results of the meeting (Agenda Item F.1.b, Meeting Summary).

### **Council Task:**

#### **1. Discuss information relative to Area 2A halibut fisheries.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 1: IPHC News Release.
2. Agenda Item F.1.a, Attachment 2: 2011 Area 2A Pacific Halibut Allocations.
3. Agenda Item F.1.b, Meeting Summary: Summary of International Pacific Halibut Commission Meeting.

### **Agenda Order:**

- a. Agenda Item Overview
- b. Meeting Summary
- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Discussion

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