



IPHC Fishery Regulations: Proposals for the 2025-26 process

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PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an overview of the IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals that the IPHC Secretariat, Contracting Parties, and other stakeholders have submitted for consideration by the Commission at the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102).

BACKGROUND

Recalling the IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals submission and review process instituted in 2017, this paper is intended to provide an overview of the fishery regulations proposals submitted to the Commission in the 2025-26 process.

The Commission had an opportunity for a preliminary review of the majority of the proposals during the 101st Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM101). The deadline for submission of regulatory proposals for consideration by the Commission at the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102) is 20 December 2025.

DISCUSSION

A list of titles, subjects, and sponsors for IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals submitted as part of the 2025-26 process is provided in [Appendix I](#).

Note on Section 27 – Recreational (Sport) Fishing - IPHC Regulatory Area 2B

The IPHC Secretariat notes that Section 27(1)(c) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations includes a provision allowing the daily bag limit to increase from two to three Pacific halibut per person on or after 1 August in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. This provision is currently set to remain in effect through 2025, unless extended by a vote of the Commission.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2026-AM102-15, that provides the Commission with an overview of the IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals that the IPHC Secretariat, Contracting Parties, and other stakeholders have submitted for consideration by the Commission at the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102).

APPENDICES

[Appendix I](#): Titles, subjects, and sponsors for IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals submitted for consideration in the 2025-26 process.

APPENDIX I

Titles, subjects, and sponsors for IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals submitted for consideration in the 2025-26 process.

Ref. No.	Title	Brief description
<u>IPHC Secretariat</u>		
IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA1	Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)	To provide clear documentation of mortality and fishery limits within the IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5). <i>Mortality and fishery limits tables will be filled when the Commission adopts TCEYs for the individual IPHC Regulatory Areas.</i>
IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA2	Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9)	To specify fishing periods for the directed commercial Pacific halibut fisheries within the IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9).
<u>Contracting Parties</u>		
IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB1	Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 28): Charter Management Measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A	Proponent: USA (NOAA Fisheries) To propose charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A reflective of mortality limits adopted by the IPHC and resulting allocations under the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan.
IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB2	Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) - Daily bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B	Proponent: Canada (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) To propose the daily bag limit of up to three fish per day per person in the recreational fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B beginning on or after 1 August of each year.
IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB3	Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2A – Season opening dates for recreational fishery subareas within IPHC Regulatory Area 2A	Proponent: USA (NOAA Fisheries) To propose an opening date for the 2026 Area 2A recreational fishery in Washington Puget Sound, the U.S. Convention waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca subarea, and in California.
<u>Stakeholders</u>		
IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC1	Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 28) – unguided sector bag limit	Proponent: Per Odegaard (Fishing Vessel Owner Association) To propose unguided recreational sector Pacific halibut daily bag limit reduction from two (2) fish to one (1) fish for all IPHC Regulatory Areas in Alaska.

IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC2	Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9) – limited retention outside the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B	<p>Proponent: <u>Robert Hauknes (commercial fisher)</u> To propose a three-year pilot program authorizing limited retention of legal-sized Pacific halibut caught incidentally as bycatch outside the Pacific halibut commercial fishing period in year-round hook & line and trap groundfish fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Canada).</p>
IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC3	Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 28) – supporting information for unguided sector bag limit	<p>Proponent: <u>Chance Miller (Seward Charter Boat Association, Homer Charter Boat Association)</u> To ensure that any proposed reduction to the unguided recreational Pacific halibut daily bag limit in Alaska is supported by region-specific biological and socio-economic information provided by the United States, and include analyses developed in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, prior to adoption by the Commission</p>