



Report of the 96th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB096)

Bellevue, WA, USA, 20-21 January 2026

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ACRONYMS

AM	Annual Meeting, of the IPHC
CB	Conference Board
FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
FISS	Fishery-independent setline survey
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
TCEY	Total Constant Exploitation Yield
WPUE	Weight Per Unit Effort

DEFINITIONS

A set of working definitions are provided in the IPHC Glossary of Terms and abbreviations: <https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/glossary-of-terms-and-abbreviations>

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

Level 1: RECOMMENDED; RECOMMENDATION; ADOPTED (formal); **REQUESTED; ENDORSED; ACCEPTED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary (advisory) body of the Commission and/or the IPHC Secretariat.

Level 2: AGREED: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be elevated in the Commission's reporting structure.

Level 3: NOTED/NOTING; CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED: General terms to be used for consistency. Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference. Any other term may be used to highlight to the reader of an IPHC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. Other terms may be used but will be considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 96th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Conference Board (CB096) was held in Bellevue, WA, USA 20-21 January 2026. A total of 57 members (56 in 2025) attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by Ms. Linda Behnken (U.S.A.) and Mr. Jim Lane (Canada) (Co-Chairpersons), who welcomed participants.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the CB096, which are provided at [Appendix IV](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

MSE update

CB096-Rec.01 ([para. 21](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider the following, while also noting that many delegates felt that there were higher priorities for the MSAB, SRB, and the Secretariat related to MSE:

- a) the Secretariat work with the MSAB and SRB to define an objective(s) to conserve spatial population structure. This may use the depleted concept and be developed concurrently with a coastwide depleted limit reference point;
- b) the Commission provide guidance on management procedures to distribute the TCEY in MSE simulations to evaluate against the objective(s) to conserve spatial population structure across Biological Regions. [*Canada (20): In favour=7; against=3; abstain=7; absent=3; USA (37): In favour=31; against=1; abstain=5; absent=0*]

Fishing periods: opening and closing dates

CB096-Rec.02 ([para. 25](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** the following commercial fishing period for 2026:

- a) **Opening:** 26 March [*Canada (20): In favour=19; against=0; abstain=1; absent=0; USA (37): In favour=28; against=3; abstain=6; absent=0*]
- b) **Closing:** 7 December [*Canada (20): In favour=18; against=0; abstain=1; absent=1; USA (37): In favour=26; against=2; abstain=9; absent=0*]

TCEY Recommendations

CB096-Rec.03 ([para. 36](#)) **NOTING** that the CB did not reach agreement on TCEY mortality limits for the 2026 fishing period, the CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission **NOTE** the limits proposed by members from Canada ([para. 28](#)) and the USA ([para. 32](#)).

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)

CB096-Rec.04 ([para. 37](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA1](#), as the annual framework for setting mortality and fishery limits. See Section 5 for a summary of discussions and recommendations for mortality and fishery limits. [*Canada (20): In favour=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)

CB096-Rec.05 ([para. 38](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA2](#), as the annual framework for setting commercial fishing periods. See Section 4 for a summary of CB discussions and recommendations for commercial fishing periods. [*Canada (20): In favour=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: 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 (USA))

CB096-Rec.06 (para. 39) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB1](#), that included 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’s (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. The CB raised no objections on the proposed framework and **NOTED** that the proposal was extensively vetted through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process. [*Canada (20): Abstain=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Area 2A – Season opening dates for recreational fishery subareas within IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (USA)

CB096-Rec.07 (para. 43) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB3](#), that proposed opening the 2026 Regulatory Area 2A recreational fishery in the Convention waters of the Washington Puget Sound and the U.S. Convention waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca subarea and in the Convention Waters off the California subareas on April 2 and on April 1. [*Canada (20): Abstain=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9) – limited retention outside the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (R. Hauknes)

CB096-Rec.08 (para. 46) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC2](#), that proposed a three-year pilot program authorising 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). [*Canada (20): In favour=17; against=0; abstain=1; absent=2; USA (37): In favour=17; against=6; abstain=12; absent=1*]

The full recording of the CB096 is available to the following link: [IPHC-2026-CB096-Audio recordings](#)

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 96th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Conference Board (CB096) was held in Bellevue, WA, USA, from 20-21 January 2026. A total of 57 (56 in 2025) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by Ms Linda Behnken (U.S.A.) and Mr. Jim Lane (Canada) (Co-Chairpersons), who welcomed participants.
2. The CB **RECALLED** its mandate, as detailed in Appendix IV, Sect. I, paras. 1-2 of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2025\)](#), adopted by the Commission on 2 December 2025:
 1. *The Conference Board (CB) is a subsidiary body of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) that represents Pacific halibut harvester organisations and associations from Canada and the United States of America. The CB:*
 - a) *provides a forum for the discussion of management and policy matters relevant to Pacific halibut and advises the Commission on management and policy matters relevant to Pacific halibut;*
 - b) *reviews IPHC Secretariat reports and recommendations, regulatory proposals received by the Commission, and provides its advice concerning these items to the Commission at its Annual Meeting, or on other occasions as requested.*
 2. *The CB Co-Chairpersons shall communicate with the Commission and the other IPHC subsidiary bodies on the CB's behalf. The Commission's Executive Director may facilitate this communication.*
3. The CB **ACKNOWLEDGED** the participation of Andrew Lawler, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries, as an observer

1.1 Accreditation of CB Membership

4. The CB **ENDORSED** the accreditation of 4 new members in accordance with the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2025\)](#), Appendix IV Conference Board (CB) - Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, Section II, paras. 4 and 5, for participation in the 2026 Conference Board proceedings, as detailed in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Accredited new CB members.

Number	CB Member	Member Category	Sub-Category	Representative
USA				
1	Sitka Charter Fleet Association	Association	Guided sport/recreational	Deirdre Creed
2	Puget Sound Anglers - North Olympic Peninsula Chapter	Organisation	Unguided sport/recreational	John L Beath
3	Prince of Wales Charter Association	Association	Guided sport/recreational	Scott Van Valin
4	Juneau Charter Boat Owners Association	Association	Guided sport/recreational	Chris Conder

5. The CB **ENDORSED** the re-accreditation of 53 members (Canada: 20; USA: 33) in accordance with the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2025\)](#), Appendix IV, Section II, paras. 4 and 5, for participation in the 2026 Conference Board proceedings, as detailed in [Appendix I](#).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

6. The CB **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#).
7. The CB **NOTED** that:
 - a) the documents provided to the CB096 are those submitted for the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102): <https://www.iphc.int/meetings/102nd-session-of-the-iphc-annual-meeting-am102/>;

- b) to assist the CB in navigating its meeting, all documents relevant to the agenda were posted as links on the CB webpage 30 days (20 December 2025) or earlier than the meeting commencement: <https://www.iphc.int/meetings/96th-session-of-the-iphc-conference-board-cb096/>;
- c) the voting procedures described by the IPHC Secretariat were developed to aid the CB in recording its recommendations to the Commission.

3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

3.1 *Mortality Limits and TCEY*

8. The CB **NOTED** the presentation and questions and answers session provided by Dr. Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
9. The CB **NOTED**:
- the mortality projection tool developed by Dr. Stewart: <https://www.iphc.int/projection-tool/>;
 - with appreciation, the stock assessment preview presented by Dr. Stewart on 13 January 2026, and **AGREED** that this should continue as an annual process.
10. The CB **NOTED** the clarifications and advice provided on the following topics:
- The use of confidence intervals when reporting stock assessment projections;
 - High and low productivity regimes and likelihood of transitioning between regimes;
 - The likelihood of a PDO regime shifting;
 - The impact of a few years of base block design on understanding stock status;
 - The relative impacts of survey and fishery data on stock assessment results;
 - Maturity schedule and growth variance;
 - Weight-at-age decline in younger fish;
 - Regional differences in terms of Pacific halibut age and weight-at-age
 - Confidence in predicting absolute spawning biomass.
11. The CB **NOTED** the reference to Pacific halibut conceptual movement map (<https://apps.iphc.int/Migration/>), which could be helpful in designing protected areas covering Pacific halibut spawning grounds and habitat.
12. The CB **NOTED** a failed motion from USA recommending that the Commission direct the Secretariat to identify Pacific halibut spawning aggregation and habitat areas in the Alaska areas and their importance both spatially and temporally. [*Canada (20): In favour=3; against=0; abstain=13; absent=4; USA (37): In favour=31; against=1; abstain=3; absent=2*]
13. The CB **REQUESTED** the inclusion in the future of the proportion of snap and fixed-gear catch and effort by Regulatory Area when reporting data sources informing the stock assessment (in dashboards by Regulatory Area).
14. The CB **NOTED** that the USA CB recommended that Secretariat publish survey biological distribution estimates for each IPHC Regulatory Area in annual stock assessment, including harvest rate adjusted values. [*Canada (20): In favour=0; against=16; abstain=0; absent=4; USA (37): In favour=33; against=0; abstain=2; absent=2*]
15. The CB **NOTED** that it is important information and data from Secretariat is available to all stakeholders.
16. The CB **NOTED** that USA CB recommended that IPHC uses 3 decimal places in calculations of TCEYs, FCEYs and sector allocations. The rationale for this change is that rounding may have an impact on the allocations. [*Canada (20): In favour=0; against=1; abstain=16; absent=3; USA (37): In favour=30; against=0; abstain=3; absent=4*]

3.2 *MSE update*

17. The CB **NOTED** the presentation and question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Allan Hicks (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
18. The CB **NOTED** the advice on the following topics that could be examined in the MSE process:
 - a) Determining an appropriate coastwide depleted state;
 - b) Defining details of an objective to conserve spatial population structure across all Biological Regions;
 - c) Evaluating management procedures to determine if they meet an objective to conserve spatial population structure.
19. The CB **NOTED** the usefulness of the MSE in informing the decision-making by the Commission and deriving its own recommendations.
20. The CB **REQUESTED** an informational session on MSE, organized by the Secretariat and provided ahead of the annual CB meeting, similar to the annual Q&A session on stock assessment.
21. The CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider the following, while also noting that many delegates felt that there were higher priorities for the MSAB, SRB, and the Secretariat related to MSE:
 - a) the Secretariat work with the MSAB and SRB to define an objective(s) to conserve spatial population structure. This may use the depleted concept and be developed concurrently with a coastwide depleted limit reference point;
 - b) the Commission provide guidance on management procedures to distribute the TCEY in MSE simulations to evaluate against the objective(s) to conserve spatial population structure across Biological Regions. [*Canada (20): In favour=7; against=3; abstain=7; absent=3; USA (37): In favour=31; against=1; abstain=5; absent=0*]

3.3 *FISS 2026*

22. The CB **NOTED** the question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Ray Webster (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
23. The CB **NOTED** the advice on the following topics:
 - a) Uncertainty estimation and options for reducing uncertainty and mitigating the impacts of sampling a reduced number of stations;
 - b) Options for the use of additional funding pledged by Canada;
 - c) Implications of sampling the stations affected by hypoxia;
 - d) Scientific priorities for sampling under conditions where vessel acquisition is challenging;
 - e) The use of trawl survey data to inform Pacific halibut indices in the Bering Sea;
 - f) Cross-validation studies used to ground-truth the space-time model;
 - g) Concerns regarding heavy sampling in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C, which is driven by economics rather than science.

4. FISHING PERIODS: OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

24. The CB **NOTED** that there were considerations about the timing of the fishing period, and considerations were made regarding economic reasons as well as the day of the week and optimal tides.
25. The CB **RECOMMENDED** the following commercial fishing period for 2026:
 - a) **Opening:** 26 March [*Canada (20): In favour=19; against=0; abstain=1; absent=0; USA (37): In favour=28; against=3; abstain=6; absent=0*]
 - b) **Closing:** 7 December [*Canada (20): In favour=18; against=0; abstain=1; absent=1; USA (37): In favour=26; against=2; abstain=9; absent=0*]

5. MORTALITY LIMITS

5.1 Coastwide perspectives

26. The CB **NOTED** the overall concern about stock productivity throughout the Convention Area.

5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives

27. Nil (covered in TCEY Recommendations)

5.3 TCEY Recommendations

28. The CB **NOTED** the failed motion from Canada on TCEY mortality limits for the 2026 fishing period as provided in [Table 2](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat, [Appendix III](#)), and an SPR of 52%. [*Canada (20): In favour=19; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1; USA (37): In favour=0; against=35; abstain=2; absent=0*]

Table 2. Canada recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2026. See previous paragraphs for voting.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (Mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mt)	% change from 2025
2A	1.57	711	-5.0%
2B	5.18	2,348	-5.0%
2C	4.96	2,249	-5.0%
3A*	16.53	7,498	-5.0%
3B*			
4A*			
4B*			
4CDE*			
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	28.23	12,807	-5.0%

* allocation not specified

29. The CB **NOTED** the following rationale provided by Canadian CB members in support of their motion on TCEYs:

- Both Contracting Parties need to take the same cuts; this will maintain the national shares, and both Parties will share in the costs of conservation. For IPHC Regulatory Area 2B, this means at TCEY of 5.18 million lbs. IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 2C should also take a 5% reduction in the TCEY, to 1.57 and 4.95 million lbs, respectively. Regions 3 and 4 also need to take cuts.
- The Pacific halibut spawning stock biomass is estimated to be near the lowest observed since the 1970s, with a greater than 1 in 4 chance (28%) of being below the IPHC harvest control trigger of SB_{30%}.
- The FISS remains at historically low levels, and the commercial fishery catch rates are at or near the lowest observed in the past 40 years.
- The current spawning stock is heavily reliant on the 2012, 2016, and 2017 year-classes, and we are transitioning to fishing the 2016 and 2017 year classes, which are at best average year classes, and are at best 50% matured.
- There were reductions, and some areas increased, in the FISS in IPHC Regulatory Areas in 2025. A one-year trend in the FISS should not be a rationale for an increase or for not taking a reduction. We also need to look at the overall FISS results. We need to look at the FISS results over time (e.g. 20 years), not just what happened in the last year.
- While Region 2 FISS has been relatively flat over the past 20 years, Regions 3 and 4 have declined significantly since 2005, and a one-year small FISS index increase does not change the reality of the health of the stock out west.

- g) Trends in some regulatory areas have become increasingly subject to potential bias and increased uncertainty due to the continued reduction in annual FISS footprint, particularly outside core stock areas.
 - h) In Region 2, the FISS was down across the board. Further, the directed commercial fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C only caught 85% of its allowable catch limit (incl. GAF, this increases to 94%). Information in the IPHC Fisheries Data Overview (2025) report indicates the tribal commercial fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A struggled to catch its allocation in 2025.
 - i) In Region 3, it is important to remember that the FISS was not a complete FISS, as only a portion of the area was surveyed. Further, the FISS indices remain near historic lows and show a substantial decline from the levels observed 20 years ago. The FISS and commercial WPUE diverge in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A, which raises additional questions and suggests the need for caution.
 - j) The stock remains at a low productivity level due to low average weight-at-age and recruitment.
30. The CB **NOTED** that USA consistently supports FISS stock distribution as a base for national allocations and does not support national shares. The USA CB notes increasing FISS trends to the West of IPHC Regulatory Area 2C.
31. The CB **NOTED** the comment from USA members that maintaining status quo does not change the probability of a good recruitment event since there is no established relationship between spawning biomass size and age-0 recruitment size. The probability of dropping below harvest control rules thresholds is identical between status quo and -5%. Moving from status quo to -5% decreases the probability of smaller spawning biomass from 18 to 14 percent (4 percentage points decrease) while those probabilities are both very unlikely and the economic harm to industry and sectors from additional cuts can be significant. The USA has taken 20% in cuts over the past two years, and it needs to see the full benefits of the cuts
32. The CB **NOTED** the failed motion from USA on TCEY mortality limits for the 2026 fishing period as provided in [Table 3](#), which translates to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat, [Appendix III](#)), and an SPR of 52%. [*Canada (20): In favour=0; against=19; abstain=0; absent=1; USA (37): In favour=37; against=0; abstain=0; absent=0*]

Table 3. USA recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2026. See previous paragraphs for voting.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (Mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mt)	% change from 2025
2A	1.65	748	0.0%
2B	4.74	2,150	-13.0%
2C	5.22	2,368	0.0%
3A	9.08	4,119	0.0%
3B	2.86	1,297	0.0%
4A	1.34	608	0.0%
4B	1.04	472	0.0%
4CDE	3.08	1,397	0.0%
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	29.01	13,159	0.0%

33. The CB **NOTED** the following area-specific rationale provided by USA CB members in support of their motion on TCEYs as follows:
- a) Area 2A: Status quo is appropriate due to U.S. treaty obligations with Indigenous nations, the terminal nature of Pacific halibut migration, and Secretariat confirmation that a 1.65 million lb harvest poses no conservation concern. Also because MSE results established no negative impacts to western areas.
 - b) Area 2B: Reduction is appropriate based on declining survey trend and to better align harvest with the surveyed O32 stock distribution. O32 FISS indicates 11.83% of the stock in Canadian waters in 2025, yet Canada has harvested approximately 18.34%. This imbalance shifts catch away from Alaska areas, where 86% of the stock resides but only 76% of harvest occurs. A full correction would require a 27%

cut; we propose a more moderate 13% reduction, leaving Canada's share above the surveyed O32 estimate.

- c) Area 2C: Despite a FISS decline, Area 2C has the highest absolute FISS biomass—and WPUE that is nearly three times Area 2B. Secretariat analyses indicate that harvest disproportionate to surveyed abundance in Area 2B suppresses catches in Area 2C in particular. An additional cut is not justified; status quo is proposed.
 - d) Area 4B: Stakeholders for 4B noted complexities such as macro-economic factors and regulatory issues as to why commercial harvests are low. Stakeholders note the lack of adequate FISS data for the area highlight the complexity of the stock assessment in the area.
 - e) Area 4CDE: Biological indicators and catch rates in Area 4CDE are stable to improving, with FISS and WPUE trends among the strongest coastwide. Recent under-harvest reflects reduced participation and challenging Bering Sea economics, not stock decline, and further quota cuts in 2026 would unnecessarily harm active Bering Sea fishing communities and quota holders without providing a conservation benefit.
 - f) Remaining Alaskan areas: FISS trends are stable or increasing. No areas are asking for an increase despite increasing trends. Many areas absorbed significant cuts last year and those cuts may not yet be reflected in stock status. Status quo is proposed as a compromise.
 - g) Overall, the proposed U.S.A. harvest is approximately 9 million pounds below harvestable surplus. A further coastwide 5% cut would provide little conservation benefit and should be reconsidered after additional FISS data. It would also result in a 1.2 million pound reduction in USA harvest and only a 270,000 reduction in Canada's harvest.
34. The CB **NOTED** opposition from Canada. Canada noted: as in the USA, cuts to TCEY's have significant impacts in Canada on families, First Nations and coastal communities; Canada has never and does not accept O32 biomass distribution (surveyed stock distribution, apportionment) as the basis for distributing TCEYs, and Canada and the USA have deviated from it in the past when determining TCEY between the parties and within the USA, the USA proposal is ignoring FISS results and trends, and MSE results show that harvesting up to 20% of the CW TCEY in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B would not create a conservation issue.
35. The CB **NOTED** that impacts on the Pacific halibut stock are not limited to decisions made by the IPHC, but also arise from decisions of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), through its management of other stocks, including those on which Pacific halibut prey.
36. **NOTING** that the CB did not reach agreement on TCEY mortality limits for the 2026 fishing period, the CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission **NOTE** the limits proposed by members from Canada ([para. 28](#)) and the USA ([para. 32](#)).

6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2025-26 PROCESS

6.1 *IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals*

6.1.1 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)*

37. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA1](#), as the annual framework for setting mortality and fishery limits. See Section 5 for a summary of discussions and recommendations for mortality and fishery limits. [*Canada (20): In favour=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

6.1.1 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)*

38. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA2](#), as the annual framework for setting commercial fishing periods. See Section 4 for a summary of CB discussions and recommendations for commercial fishing periods. [*Canada (20): In favour=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

6.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals

6.2.1 IPHC Fishery Regulations: 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 (USA))

39. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB1](#), that included 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's (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. The CB raised no objections on the proposed framework and **NOTED** that the proposal was extensively vetted through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process. [Canada (20): Abstain=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous]

6.2.2 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) - Daily bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Canada)

40. The CB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB2](#), that proposed a 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 with an amendment that this provision would be reviewed in 5 years (applicable 2026-2030) and applicable on or after 15 August, but did not reach agreement on its adoption. [Canada (20): In favour=17; against=0; abstain=0; absent=3; USA (37): In favour=4; against=18; abstain=12; absent=0]
41. The CB **NOTED** a failed amendment that proposed adding one year sunset to [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB2](#). [Canada (20): In favour=0; against=18; abstain=0; absent=2; USA (37): In favour=16; against=10; abstain=10; absent=1].
42. The CB **NOTED** clarifications from Canadian CB members and Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding limitations related to implementing size limits and other changes within the domestic regulatory framework.

6.2.3 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Area 2A – Season opening dates for recreational fishery subareas within IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (USA)

43. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB3](#), that proposed opening the 2026 Regulatory Area 2A recreational fishery in the Convention waters of the Washington Puget Sound and the U.S. Convention waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca subarea and in the Convention Waters off the California subareas on April 2 and on April 1. [Canada (20): Abstain=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous]

6.3 Other Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals

6.3.1 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 28) – unguided sector bag limit (P. Odegaard)

44. The CB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC1](#), that proposed an unguided recreational sector Pacific halibut daily bag limit reduction from two (2) fish to one (1) fish for all IPHC Regulatory Areas in Alaska, but did not take any action.
45. The CB **ACKNOWLEDGED** proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC1](#) but believes the correct venue for action is the NPFMC. The CB requests the Commissioners engage with ADF&G and the NPFMC thru the Secretariat emphasizing the present low abundance of the stock and the effect the unguided recreational sector has on the directed fisheries. With the growth of the unguided recreational sector, particularly rental boats, and at the present level of Pacific halibut abundance we are heading towards a conservation concern. [Canada (20): In favour=0; against=0; abstain=17; absent=3; USA (37): In favour=28; against=3; abstain=5; absent=1]

6.3.2 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9) – limited retention outside the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (R. Hauknes)*

46. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC2](#), that proposed a three-year pilot program authorising 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). [*Canada (20): In favour=17; against=0; abstain=1; absent=2; USA (37): In favour=17; against=6; abstain=12; absent=1*]
47. The CB **NOTED** the rationale for proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC2](#), including Secretariat analyses indicating no biological or conservation concern, existing quota, monitoring, and management controls to ensure halibut retention remains incidental and non-directed, and the intent of the three-year pilot to reduce discard mortality and operational hardship for groundfish vessels while allowing for evaluation and adjustment if needed.

6.3.3 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: 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 (C. Miller)*

48. The CB **NOTED** on fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC3](#), that aimed 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 USA, and include analyses developed in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, prior to adoption by the Commission, but did not take any action.

7. INCIDENTAL CATCH (BYCATCH)

49. The CB **NOTED** a later withdrawn motion that the Commission direct MSAB look at different bycatch (O32 and U32) scenarios in Biological Regions 2, 3, 4 and 4B, at 100%, 75%, 50%, 25%, and 0% of recent historical levels.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 *Election of Co-Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons*

50. The CB **NOTED** that in accordance with Appendix IV, Section III of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2025\)](#), the Co-Chairpersons are elected for terms of two (2) years. Jim Lane (Canada) and Linda Behnken (USA) will continue their term for the next year.
51. The CB **NOTED** that in accordance with Appendix IV, Section III of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2025\)](#), the CB Vice-Chairperson is elected for a term of two (2) years. Brian Richie (USA) will continue its term for the next year.
52. The CB **NOTED** the option to nominate a Vice-Chairperson for Canada but refrained.

8.2 *IPHC Discussion paper: IPHC subsidiary body operations – areas for efficiency gains*

53. The CB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2026-AM102-INF05](#) that provided an update on the following action arising from AM101:

*IPHC-2025-AM101-R, para. 113: The Commission **NOTED** and **AGREED** to the following FAC101 request:*

*FAC101-Req.01 (para. 28) The FAC **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat evaluate the following potential options for cost savings that could be considered for the FY2026 or FY2027 budgets, recognizing that the FISS funding shortfall and prudent fiscal management may warrant departures from past IPHC practices:*

b) Options for restructuring the Conference Board and Processor Advisory Board into a single subsidiary body (that could reduce meeting space rental requirements and costs, including associated technology support/rental, secretariat staff support needed, minimum charges by hotels for food and beverage) and engaging a team of members of the CB and PAB to advise the Commission on a potential new structure that would ensure both processor and harvester perspectives are fairly represented and conveyed to the Commission.

54. The CB **NOTED** that the Commission acknowledged the feedback and concerns raised by the CB and PAB members with regard to combining the two IPHC subsidiary bodies, and will not be moving forward with this option at this time. The Commission is appreciative of the general support from the CB and PAB members to consider additional cost-saving measures / possible efficiencies to be had within the two boards, and as such, the Commission will continue to explore these in conjunction with both the CB and PAB at AM102 and into the future.
55. The CB **NOTED** that the selection of meeting venues should prioritize cost-effectiveness.
56. The CB **NOTED** that the Secretariat will be seeking city nominations and venues soon as part of the IPHC pre-AM103 (January 2028) request for tender process.
57. The CB **EXPRESSED** its deep appreciation to the Co-Chairpersons, presenters, and Secretariat staff, including the support team (Dr. Hutniczak and Ms. Thom).

9. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 96TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB096)

58. The CB **ADOPTED** the Report of the 96th Session of the IPHC Conference Board ([IPHC-2026-CB096-R](#)) on 21 January 2026, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from CB096, provided at [Appendix IV](#). [*Canada (20): In favour=unanimous*] [*U.S.A. (37): In favour=unanimous*].

APPENDIX I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 96TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD
(CB096)

Officers

Co-Chairperson	Co-Chairperson
Mr. Jim Lane (Canada)	Ms. Linda Behnken (United States of America)

CB Members

Canada				
	Member		Representative	Email
1	A-Tlegay Fisheries LP	AFLP	Christa Rusel	christarusel@shawcable.com
2	A-Tlegay Fisheries Society	AFS	Daniel Smith	reidpass_1@hotmail.com
3	Active Guiding and Tackle Ltd	AGT	Deryk Krefting	deryk@activetackle.com
4	Council of the Haida Nation	CHN	Shawn Cowpar	shawn.cowpar@haidanation.com
5	Canadian Sablefish Association	CSA	Tom Russel	quatsinostar@gmail.com
6	Finest At Sea Seafoods	FAS	Ben Cameron	ben-cameron@shaw.ca
7	Halibut Advisory Board	HAB	Angus Grout	rommel@telus.net
8	Halibut Longline Fisherman's Association	HLFA	Rob Stanley	rubblefish@shaw.ca
9	Hook and Line Groundfish Association	HLGA	Ken Wing	kenwing101@gmail.com
10	Northern Trollers Association	NTA	Robert Hauknes	robert_hauknes@hotmail.com
11	Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council	NTC	Jim Lane	jim.lane@nuuchahnulth.org
12	Pacific Coast Fishing Vessel Owners Guild	PCFVOG	Zeke Pellegrin	zekepellegrin@telus.net
13	Pacific Halibut Management Association	PHMA	Chris Sporer	chris.sporer@phma.ca
14	Sport Fishing Advisory Board - Main	SFABMB	Martin Paish	martinpaish1@gmail.com
15	Sport Fishing Advisory Board - North	SFABNC	Michael Fowler	midon@protonmail.ch
16	Sport Fishing Advisory Board - South	SFABSC	Gerry Kristianson	gerrykr@telus.net
17	Sechelt Fishing Company	SFC	Kristopher Anderson	kanderson@tsain-ko.com
18	Sport Fishing Institute of BC	SFI	Owen Bird	birdo@sportfishing.bc.ca
19	South Vancouver Island Anglers Coalition	SVIAC	Christopher Bos	chris@anglerscoalition.com
20	United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union	UNIFOR	Russell Cameron	russelljcameron@gmail.com
United States of America				
1	Alaska Charter Association	ACA	Daniel Donich	homerfishing@gmail.com
2	Adak Community Development Corporation	ACDC	Layton Lockett	llockett@adakcdc.org
3	Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association	ALFA	Richard Curran	seaward99835@yahoo.com
4	Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association	APICDA	Angel Drobnica	adrobnica@apicda.com
5	American Sportfishing Association	ASA	Larry Phillips	lphillips@asafishing.org
6	Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association	AWTA	Rebecca Skinner	alaskawhitefish@gmail.com
7	Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation	BBEDC	Steve Ricci	steven@bbedc.com
8	CATCH Association	CATCH	Brian Ritchie	brianandrewritchie@gmail.com
9	Cape Barnabas, Inc	CBI	Duncan Fields	dfields8925@gmail.com
10	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association	CBSFA	Joe Kashevarof	joekashevarof@cbsfa.com
11	Coastal Conservation Association	CCA	Dave Croonquist	dcroonquist@gmail.com
12	Cordova District Fishermen United	CDFU	Marc Carrel	marc.carrel@gmail.com
13	Coastal Villages Region Fund	CVRF	Paul Wilkins	paul_w@coastalvillages.org
14	Deep Sea Fishermen's Union	DSFU	Eric Berggren	elb1962@hotmail.com

15	Freezer Longline Coalition	FLC	Chad See	chadsee@freezerlongline.biz
16	Fishing Vessel Owners' Association	FVOA	Brian Dafforn	briandafforn@gmail.com
17	Humbolt Area Saltwater Anglers	HASA	Tom Marking	tmmarking@gmail.com
18	Halibut Coalition	HC	Jeff Farvour	jefarv@gmail.com
19	Homer Charter Association	HCA	Billy Hayden	homerfishing@gmail.com
20	Juneau Charter Boat Owners Association	JCBOA	Chris Conder	lostinalaskainfo@gmail.com
21	Kodiak Vessel Owners Association	KVOA	Rob Wurm	rob@alaskanleader.com
22	Magic Fish Company	MFC	Michael Laukitis	buck.magicfish@gmail.com
23	Next Generation Fishermen's Association	NGFA	Garrett Elwood	fvwesternfreedom@gmail.com
24	North Pacific Fisheries Association	NPFA	Malcolm Milne	milnemarine@yahoo.com
25	Pacific Fishing Inc	PFI	Patricia Phillips	pelicandragonfly@yahoo.com
26	Puget Sound Anglers - Ocean Chapter	PSA	Dave Johnson	dave@kitsapmarina.com
27	Puget Sound Anglers - North Olympic Peninsula Chapter	PSANOP	John L Beath	jbeath@gmail.com
28	Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association	PVOA	Nels Evans	pvoa@gci.net
29	Prince of Wales Charter Association	PWCA	Scott Van Valin	svvdrone@gmail.com
30	Sitka Charter Fleet Association	SCF	Deirdre Creed	deedee@seadventures.com
31	Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance	SEAFSA	Kathy Hansen	kathy@seafa.org
32	Southeast Alaska Guides Organization	SEAGO	Forrest Braden	forrest@seagoalaska.org
33	Sitka Halibut & Sablefish Marketing Association	SHSMA	Phillip Wyman	philwyman@hotmail.com
34	Seafood Producers Cooperative	SPC	Stephen Rhoads	srhoads@spesales.com
35	St. Paul Fishing Company	SPFC	Jeff Kauffman	jeff@spfishco.com
36	Tribal Government of St. Paul	TGSP	Simeon Swetsof Jr.	swetsof@hotmail.com
37	Yukon Delta Fisheries Association	YDFA	Landry Price	landry.ydfda@gmail.com

IPHC Secretariat – support team

Participant	Title	Email
Dr Barbara Hutniczak	Fisheries Regulations & Data Services Branch Manager	barbara.hutniczak@iphc.int
Ms Monica Thom	Port Operations Coordinator	monica.thom@iphc.int

APPENDIX II
AGENDA FOR THE 96TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB096)

Date: 20-21 January 2026

Location: Bellevue, WA, USA

Venue: Hyatt Regency

Time (PST): 20th: 09:00-17:00; 21st: 09:00-15:00

Co-Chairperson: Mr Jim Lane (Canada); Ms Linda Behnken (United States of America)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Brian Ritchie (USA)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION (Co-Chairpersons)**
 - 1.1 Accreditation of CB Membership (2026-30)
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION (Co-Chairpersons)**
- 3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION**
 - 3.1 Mortality Limits and TCEY (I. Stewart)
 - 3.2 MSE Update (A. Hicks)
 - 3.3 FISS 2026 (R. Webster)
- 4. FISHING PERIODS: OPENING AND CLOSING DATES**
- 5. MORTALITY LIMITS (Co-Chairpersons)**
 - 5.1 Coastwide perspectives
 - 5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives
 - 5.3 Distribution Strategy – discussion/recommendations
 - 5.4 TCEY Recommendations
- 6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2025-26 PROCESS**
 - 6.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals (B. Hutniczak)
 - 6.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals (Contracting Parties)
 - 6.3 Other Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals (Stakeholders)
- 7. INCIDENTAL CATCH (BYCATCH) (Co-Chairpersons)**
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS (Co-Chairpersons)**
 - 8.1 Election of Co-Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons – No action necessary in 2026
 - 8.2 IPHC Discussion paper: IPHC subsidiary body operations – areas for efficiency gains
- 9. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 96th SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB096) (Co-Chairpersons; IPHC Secretariat)**

**APPENDIX III
PACIFIC HALIBUT MORTALITY PROJECTED FOR 2026 BASED ON THE CB RECOMMENDED
TCEY MORTALITY LIMITS**

Note: All values reported in millions of net pounds.

RECOMMENDATION

Canada CB members detailed 2026 projections, by sector, based on the TCEY mortality limits.

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discards	0.06	0.17	NA						
O26 Non-directed discards	0.05	0.23	0.04						
Recreational	NA	0.03	1.36						
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.25						
Total non-FCEY	0.11	0.82	1.66						
Commercial discards	NA	NA	0.09						
Recreational	0.61	0.65	0.60						
Subsistence	0.01	NA	NA						
Commercial landings	0.84	3.70	2.61						
Total FCEY	1.46	4.36	3.30						
							4C FCEY		
							4D FCEY		
							4E FCEY		
TCEY	1.57	5.18	4.96	16.54					28.25
U26 Non-directed discards	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.22	0.12	0.15	0.02	1.18	1.80
Total	1.58	5.28	4.96	18.23					30.05

USA CB members detailed 2026 projections, by sector, based on the TCEY mortality limits.

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discards	0.06	0.15	NA	NA	0.21	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.53
O26 Non-directed discards	0.05	0.23	0.04	0.27	0.16	0.26	0.12	1.38	2.50
Recreational	NA	0.02	1.36	0.90	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	2.30
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.25	0.12	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.81
Total non-FCEY	0.12	0.80	1.66	1.28	0.38	0.33	0.12	1.45	6.14
Commercial discards	NA	NA	0.10	0.36	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.46
Recreational	0.62	0.59	0.65	1.47	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.34
Subsistence	0.01	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.01
Commercial landings	0.90	3.35	2.81	5.96	2.48	1.01	0.92	1.63	19.05
Total FCEY	1.54	3.94	3.56	7.80	2.48	1.01	0.92	1.63	22.87
							4C FCEY	0.76	
							4D FCEY	0.76	
							4E FCEY	0.12	
TCEY	1.65	4.74	5.22	9.08	2.86	1.34	1.04	3.08	29.01
U26 Non-directed discards	0.01	0.10	0.00	0.22	0.12	0.15	0.02	1.18	1.80
Total	1.66	4.84	5.22	9.30	2.98	1.49	1.06	4.26	30.81

APPENDIX IV

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 96TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB096) (20-21 JANUARY 2026)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

MSE update

- CB096-Rec.01 ([para. 21](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission consider the following, while also noting that many delegates felt that there were higher priorities for the MSAB, SRB, and the Secretariat related to MSE:
- a) the Secretariat work with the MSAB and SRB to define an objective(s) to conserve spatial population structure. This may use the depleted concept and be developed concurrently with a coastwide depleted limit reference point;
 - b) the Commission provide guidance on management procedures to distribute the TCEY in MSE simulations to evaluate against the objective(s) to conserve spatial population structure across Biological Regions. [*Canada (20): In favour=7; against=3; abstain=7; absent=3; USA (37): In favour=31; against=1; abstain=5; absent=0*]

Fishing periods: opening and closing dates

- CB096-Rec.02 ([para. 25](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** the following commercial fishing period for 2026:
- a) **Opening:** 26 March [*Canada (20): In favour=19; against=0; abstain=1; absent=0; USA (37): In favour=28; against=3; abstain=6; absent=0*]
 - b) **Closing:** 7 December [*Canada (20): In favour=18; against=0; abstain=1; absent=1; USA (37): In favour=26; against=2; abstain=9; absent=0*]

TCEY Recommendations

- CB096-Rec.03 ([para. 36](#)) **NOTING** that the CB did not reach agreement on TCEY mortality limits for the 2026 fishing period, the CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission **NOTE** the limits proposed by members from Canada ([para. 28](#)) and the USA ([para. 32](#)).

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)

- CB096-Rec.04 ([para. 37](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA1](#), as the annual framework for setting mortality and fishery limits. See Section 5 for a summary of discussions and recommendations for mortality and fishery limits. [*Canada (20): In favour=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)

- CB096-Rec.05 ([para. 38](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA2](#), as the annual framework for setting commercial fishing periods. See Section 4 for a summary of CB discussions and recommendations for commercial fishing periods. [*Canada (20): In favour=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: 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 (USA))

- CB096-Rec.06 ([para. 39](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB1](#), that included 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's

(NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. The CB raised no objections on the proposed framework and **NOTED** that the proposal was extensively vetted through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process. [*Canada (20): Abstain=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Area 2A – Season opening dates for recreational fishery subareas within IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (USA)

CB096-Rec.07 ([para. 43](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB3](#), that proposed opening the 2026 Regulatory Area 2A recreational fishery in the Convention waters of the Washington Puget Sound and the U.S. Convention waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca subarea and in the Convention Waters off the California subareas on April 2 and on April 1. [*Canada (20): Abstain=Unanimous; USA (37): In favour=Unanimous*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9) – limited retention outside the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (R. Hauknes)

CB096-Rec.08 ([para. 46](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC2](#), that proposed a three-year pilot program authorising 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). [*Canada (20): In favour=17; against=0; abstain=1; absent=2; USA (37): In favour=17; against=6; abstain=12; absent=1*]

REQUESTS

Mortality Limits and TCEY

CB096-Req.01 ([para. 13](#)) The CB **REQUESTED** the inclusion in the future of the proportion of snap and fixed-gear catch and effort by Regulatory Area when reporting data sources informing the stock assessment (in dashboards by Regulatory Area).

MSE update

CB096-Req.02 ([para. 20](#)) The CB **REQUESTED** an informational session on MSE, organized by the Secretariat and provided ahead of the annual CB meeting, similar to the annual Q&A session on stock assessment.