Fisheries Data Overview (2026): preliminary

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PURPOSE

To provide a preliminary overview of the 2026 Pacific halibut removals, including the status of mortality reported against mortality and fishery limits adopted by the Commission and outlined in the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2026).

This paper presents current data and a selection of year-end projections available as of 26 October 2026. Year-end projections for directed commercial landings, estimates of directed commercial discard mortality, and non-directed commercial discard mortality will be included in Rev_1 of this paper.

BACKGROUND

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) estimates all Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) removals taken in the IPHC Convention Area and uses this information in its yearly stock assessment (see IPHC-2026-IM102-09) and other analyses. The data are compiled by the IPHC Secretariat and include data from federal and state agencies of each Contracting Party. All 2026 data are in net weight (head-off, dressed, ice and slime deducted) and considered preliminary at this time. The IPHC Regulatory Areas are provided in Figure 1.

The report provides a preliminary summary of removals in Tables 1 and 2. Table 2 provides estimates of mortality reported against the fishery limits (FCEY) resulting from the IPHC-adopted distributed mortality (TCEY) limits and the existing Contracting Party catch sharing arrangements, as well as non-FCEY mortality projections, by IPHC Regulatory Area. Figure 2 provides the cumulative percentage of the directed commercial Pacific halibut limit landed by week.

DEFINITIONS

Directed commercial fisheries include landings and discard mortality from commercial fisheries that can legally retain Pacific halibut. Directed commercial discard mortality includes estimates of sub-legal Pacific halibut (under 81.3 cm or 32 inches, also called U32) that die as a result of being caught and subsequently discarded, fish that die on lost or abandoned fishing gear, and legal-sized fish that die after being discarded for regulatory compliance reasons. Commercial fisheries also include non-targeted catch in other fisheries where retention is allowed (e.g. non-treaty incidental catch in the salmon troll fishery and sablefish fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A).

Recreational fisheries include recreational landings (including landings from commercial leasing) and discard mortality.

Subsistence fisheries are non-commercial, customary, and traditional use of Pacific halibut for direct personal, family, or community consumption or sharing as food, or customary trade. Subsistence fisheries include:

i) ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) removals in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A treaty Indian fishery,
ii) the sanctioned First Nations Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) fishery conducted in British Columbia,
iii) federal subsistence fishery in Alaska that uses Alaska Subsistence [Pacific] Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), and
iv) U32 Pacific halibut retained for personal use by the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4D and 4E.

Non-directed commercial discard mortality includes incidentally caught Pacific halibut by fisheries targeting other species and that cannot legally be retained, e.g. by the trawl fleet. This category refers only to those Pacific halibut that subsequently die due to capture.

IPHC FISS and Research includes Pacific halibut landings and removals as a result of the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) and other IPHC research.

Table 1. 2026 mortality reported against mortality limits (TCEYs) by IPHC Regulatory Area and U26 non-directed discards (year-end projections as of 26 October 2026).

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limits (TCEY) (net weight)		Mortality to date[1] (net weight)		Percent attained
	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	(%)
IPHC Regulatory Area 2A	748	1,650,000	555	1,223,432	74.1
IPHC Regulatory Area 2B	2,295	5,060,000	2,024	4,462,804	88.2
IPHC Regulatory Area 2C	2,368	5,220,000	2,464	5,431,265	104.0
IPHC Regulatory Area 3A	4,119	9,080,000	3,720	8,201,795	90.3
IPHC Regulatory Area 3B	1,297	2,860,000	985	2,170,569	75.9
IPHC Regulatory Area 4A	608	1,340,000	353	777,661	58.0
IPHC Regulatory Area 4B	472	1,040,000	199	438,820	42.2
IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE and Closed Area	1,397	3,080,000	407	897,988	29.2
Subtotal (TCEY)	**13,304**	**29,330,000**	**10,707**	**23,604,334**	**80.5**
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	816	1,800,000	*	*	*
Total[1]	**14,120**	**31,130,000**	**10,707**	**23,604,334**	**75.8**

[1]Totals exclude sectors for which data are confidential or unavailable.

Table 2. 2026 estimates of mortality reported against fishery limits (FCEY) and mortality projections (non-FCEY components of TCEY) by IPHC Regulatory Area (year-end projections as of 26 October 2026).

IPHC Regulatory Area	Fishery limit / projection (net weight)		Mortality to date[1] (net weight)		Percent attained
	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	(%)
Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington)	**748**	**1,650,000**	***555***	***1,223,432***	**74.1**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Non-treaty directed commercial fishery	118	261,211	115	254,133	97.3
Non-treaty incidental catch in salmon troll fishery	21	46,096	*8*	*18,664*	40.5
Non-treaty incidental catch in sablefish fishery[2]	32	70,000	*23*	*51,236*	73.2
Treaty Indian commercial fishery	240	528,200	245	539,570	102.2
Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence (year-round)	5	10,800	*5*	*10,800*	100.0
Recreational – Washington	130	286,356	*102*	*225,807*	78.9
Recreational – Oregon	135	297,297	*50*	*110,000*	37.0
Recreational – California	18	40,040	*5*	*10,500*	26.2
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	27	60,000	*	*	*
Recreational discard mortality	--	--	1	2,722	--
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	23	50,000	*	*	*
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	0	0	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	5	10,000	*	*	*

IPHC Regulatory Area	Fishery limit / projection (net weight)		Mortality to date[1] (net weight)		Percent attained
	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	(%)
Area 2B (British Columbia)	**2,295**	**5,060,000**	***2,024***	***4,462,804***	**88.2**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	1,637	3,610,000	1,484	3,271,202	90.6
Recreational fishery	290	640,000	*282*	*621,967*	97.2
Recreational fishery (XRQ – Experimental Quota)[5]	--	--	0	0	--
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	73	160,000	*	*	*
Recreational discard mortality	14	30,000	*17*	*36,635*	122.1
Subsistence	186	410,000	*184*	*405,000*	98.8
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	104	230,000	*	*	*
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	58	128,000	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	45	100,000	*	*	*
Area 2C (southeastern Alaska)	**2,368**	**5,220,000**	***2,464***	***5,431,265***	**104.0**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	1,275	2,810,000	1,049	2,312,666	82.3
Directed commercial discard mortality	45	100,000	40	87,246	87.2
Metlakatla (Annette Island Reserve)	--	--	29	63,224	--
Guided recreational fishery	295	650,000	305	672,859	103.5
Guided recreational fishery (GAF)[5]	--	--	*95*	*208,500*	--
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Unguided recreational fishery	617	1,360,000	742	1,634,910	120.2
Subsistence	113	250,000	*102*	*225,876*	90.4
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	18	40,000	*	*	*
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	103	225,984	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	0	0	*	*	--
Area 3A (central Gulf of Alaska)	**4,119**	**9,080,000**	***3,720***	***8,201,795***	**90.3**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	2,703	5,960,000	2,424	5,343,789	89.7
Directed commercial discard mortality	163	360,000	150	330,061	91.7
Guided recreational fishery	667	1,470,000	633	1,395,802	95.0
Guided recreational fishery (GAF)[5]	--	--	*24*	*53,750*	--
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Unguided recreational fishery	408	900,000	414	912,268	101.4
Subsistence	54	120,000	*44*	*96,078*	80.1
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	122	270,000	*	*	*
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	32	70,047	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	100	220,000	*	*	*
Area 3B (western Gulf of Alaska)	**1,297**	**2,860,000**	***985***	***2,170,569***	**75.9**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	1,125	2,480,000	973	2,145,350	86.5
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	95	210,000	*	*	*
Recreational fishery	0	0	5	11,856	--
Subsistence	5	10,000	*1*	*1,897*	19.0
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	73	160,000	*	*	*
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	5	11,466	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	54	120,000	*	*	*

IPHC Regulatory Area	Fishery limit / projection (net weight)		Mortality to date[1] (net weight)		Percent attained
	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	(%)
Area 4A (eastern Aleutians)	**608**	**1,340,000**	***353***	***777,661***	**58.0**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	458	1,010,000	337	741,918	73.5
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	23	50,000	*	*	*
Recreational fishery	5	10,000	3	6,801	68.0
Subsistence	0	0	*3*	*6,209*	--
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	118	260,000	*	*	*
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	10	22,733	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	68	150,000	*	*	*
Area 4B (central and western Aleutians)	**472**	**1,040,000**	***199***	***438,820***	**42.2**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	417	920,000	199	438,820	47.7
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	0	0	*	*	--
Recreational fishery	0	0	0	0	--
Subsistence	0	0	*0*	*0*	--
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	54	120,000	*	*	*
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	0	0	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	9	20,000	*	*	*
Areas 4CDE and Closed Area	**1,397**	**3,080,000**	**407**	**897,988**	**29.2**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	739	1,630,000	393	866,287	53.1
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	23	50,000	*	*	*
Recreational fishery	0	0	0	0	--
Subsistence[6]	5	10,000	14	31,701	317.0
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	626	1,380,000	*	*	*
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	0	0	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	535	1,180,000	*	*	*
Total (TCEY)	**13,304**	**29,330,000**	***10,707***	***23,604,334***	**80.5**
Directed commercial fishery	9,215	20,315,507	*7,468*	*16,464,166*	81.0
Recreational fishery	2,578	5,683,693	*2,678*	*5,904,377*	103.9
Subsistence	368	810,800	*353*	*777,561*	95.9
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	1,139	2,510,000	*	*	*
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	208	458,230	--
Total non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	816	1,800,000	*	*	*
Total	**14,120**	**31,130,000**	***10,707***	***23,604,334***	**75.8**

Totals exclude sectors for which data are confidential or unavailable.Values shown in italics represent year-end projections.

[1] Totals by IPHC Regulatory area include all TCEY components, i.e. exclude non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26).
[2] North of Pt. Chehalis; non-treaty incidental to sablefish fishery limit allocated from Washington sport allocation in accordance with the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.
[3] Fishery projection is value used in setting the TCEY for each IPHC Regulatory Area (i.e., non-FCEY components of TCEY).
[4] Includes U32 Pacific halibut landed during FISS; limit not applicable (shown as "--").
[5] XRQ and GAF leased from commercial quota.
[6] Includes U32 CDQ landings retained for personal consumption and not accounted as commercial CDQ landings in IPHC Regulartory Areas 4D and 4E.
* =Data not yet available or confidential, in accordance with Data confidentiality policy and data sharing procedures. Subject to update by 5 November 2026.

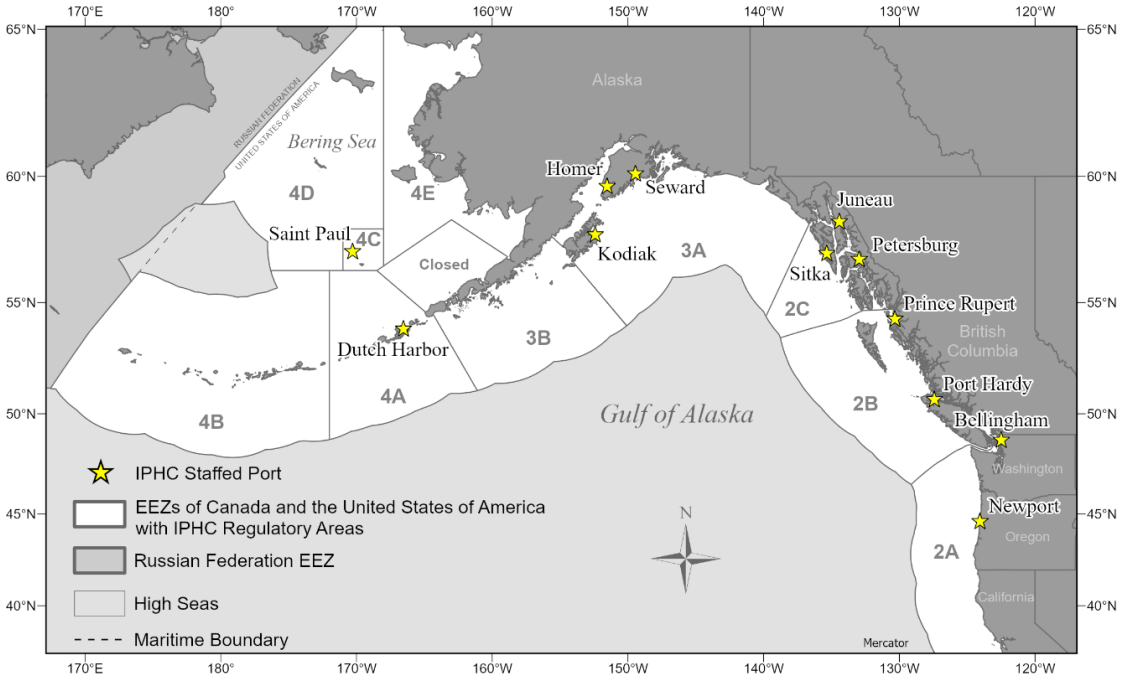


Figure 1. IPHC Convention Area and associated IPHC Regulatory Areas.

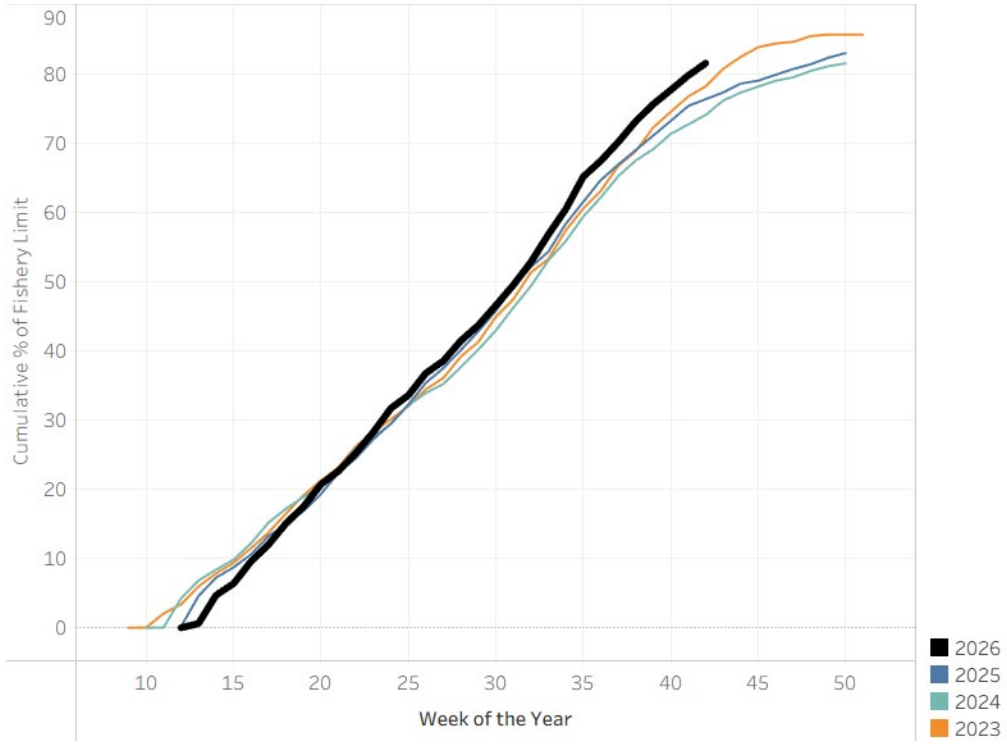


Figure 2. Cumulative percentage of directed commercial Pacific halibut limit landed by week.

REMOVALS OUTSIDE THE IPHC CONVENTION AREA

The latest (2024) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statistics for Pacific halibut capture production outside the IPHC Convention Area indicate catches by Russia amounting to 1,578 tonnes (live weight), or 12% of the global total.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission:

1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2026-IM102-06 that provides the Commission with a preliminary overview of the 2026 Pacific halibut removals, including the status of mortality reported against mortality and fishery limits adopted by the Commission and outlined in the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2026);
2) **NOTE** that percentages shown for combined lines and for the coastwide total understate attainment, because mortality that is confidential or not yet available is excluded from the numerator while the corresponding fishery limit remains in the denominator;
3) **NOTE** that mortality in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C currently stands at 104% of the mortality limit; this figure is not final, will be updated in early November, and may increase; and
4) **NOTE** that all estimates are preliminary. This paper presents current data and a selection of year-end projections available as of 26 October 2026. Year-end projections for directed commercial landings, estimates of directed commercial discard mortality, and non-directed commercial discard mortality will be included in Rev_1 of this paper. The updated data will be used in the 2026 stock assessment.