



OUTCOMES OF THE 102ND SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM102)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON, 16 OCTOBER 2026)

PURPOSE

To provide the RAB with the outcomes of the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102), relevant to the mandate of the RAB.

BACKGROUND

The agenda of the Commission's Annual Meeting (AM102) included several agenda items relevant to the RAB.

DISCUSSION

During the course of the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102) the Commission made a number of specific recommendations and requests for action regarding the actions arising from the RAB026, and Fishery Regulations for 2026. Relevant sections from the report of the meeting are provided in [Appendix A](#) for the RAB's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the RAB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2026-RAB027-04 which details the outcomes of the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102), relevant to the mandate of the RAB.

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Excerpts from the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102) Report ([IPHC-2026-AM102-R](#)).

APPENDIX A
Excerpts from the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102) Report
([IPHC-2026-AM102-R](#))

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

REQUESTS

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

AM102–Req.01 ([para. 93](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat send a letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council transmitting copies of regulatory proposals C1 and C3 for the Council's awareness and consideration. The letter should inform the Council that the expansion of the unguided recreational harvest in Alaska prompted considerable feedback from IPHC stakeholders. In 2025 the final unguided harvest and removal estimate in Area 2C was 1.445 Mlb, compared to the preliminary removal estimate of 0.992 Mlb, and the increase is understood to be driven by growing harvest by anglers fishing from unguided rental boats. This poses both management and allocative concerns, particularly in light of the current low abundance of the halibut resource. Given the Council's important role in these matters, the Council may wish to consider measures to improve management and catch data collection for the unguided recreational sector of the Pacific halibut fishery.

OTHER

Report of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB)

(para. 15) The Commission **NOTED** the RAB recommendation ([RAB026-Rec.02](#) (para. 33a)), regarding "*alleged illegal retention and landing of Pacific halibut by non-target sectors for processing into fishmeal (e.g. the Kodiak trawl fleet)*" and that this refers to a recent Alaska Wildlife Troopers investigation involving vessels in the Trawl Electronic Monitoring (EM) program.

(para. 16) The Commission **NOTED** the indication from the USA, that pelagic pollock catcher vessels in the EM program (51 out of 52 vessels in the Gulf of Alaska), 100% of the catch is observed via EM and accounted for at the time of delivery, and the data for any caught Pacific halibut are accurately reported to the IPHC, and that there are no Pacific halibut accounting concerns. The RAB was advised of this during the RAB026 meeting; however, members requested that this recommendation be included in the meeting report.

IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS 2026

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

([para. 81](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA1](#), that provided the mortality and fishery limits framework for population at the AM102 ([Appendix VIII](#)). [Canada/USA: In favour=2; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1; USA: In favour=3; against=0; abstain=0; absent=0]

([para. 82](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** the distributed mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by IPHC Regulatory Area ([Table 5](#)), and sector, as provided for in [Appendix VIII](#). [Canada/USA: In favour=2; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1; USA: In favour=3; against=0; abstain=0; absent=0]

Table 5. Adopted TCEY mortality limits for 2026

Contracting Party IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (metric tonnes)	% change from 2025
Canada Total: 2B	5.06	2,295	-7.2%
USA: 2A	1.65	748	0.0%
USA: 2C	5.22	2,368	0.0%
USA: 3A	9.08	4,119	0.0%
USA: 3B	2.86	1,297	0.0%
USA: 4A	1.34	608	0.0%
USA: 4B	1.04	472	0.0%
USA: 4CDE	3.08	1,397	0.0%
United States of America Total	24.27	11,009	0.0%
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	29.33	13,304	-1.3%

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9)

([para. 87](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropA2](#), that provided the framework for setting fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. [Canada/USA: In favour=2; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1; USA: In favour=3; against=0; abstain=0; absent=0]

Commercial fishing periods

([para. 88](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2026 as provided below, thereby superseding the relevant portions of Section 9 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations ([Appendix IX](#)) by specifying that commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas may begin no earlier than 06:00 hrs local time on 26 March 2026 and must cease at 23:59 hrs local time on 7 December 2026. [Canada/USA: In favour=2; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1; USA: In favour=3; against=0; abstain=0; absent=0]

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))

([para. 89](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** 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 Fisheries Management Council's (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan ([Appendix X](#)). [Canada/USA: In favour=2; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1; USA: In favour=3; against=0; abstain=0; absent=0]

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

([para. 90](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropB2](#), with an amendment to limit the application to one (1) year. PropB2 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. This provision shall remain in effect through 2026, unless extended by a vote of the Commission ([Appendix XI](#)). [Canada/USA: In favour=2; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1; USA: In favour=3; against=0; abstain=0; absent=0]

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)

([para. 91](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** 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.A. Convention waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca subarea and in the Convention Waters off the California subareas on 2 April and on 1 April ([Appendix XII](#)) [*Canada/USA: In favour=2; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1; USA: In favour=3; against=0; abstain=0; absent=0*]

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

([para. 94](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2026-AM102-PropC2](#), with an amendment to limit the application to one (1) year. PropC2 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). As explicit regulatory language was not provided with the proposal, the Secretariat and Fisheries and Oceans Canada will convene in the coming days to develop specific regulatory language prior to the IPHC Fishery Regulations being finalized for implementation and enforcement. This measure will be applicable for a period of one (1) year, unless extended by a vote of the Commission. [*Canada/USA: In favour=2; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1; USA: In favour=3; against=0; abstain=0; absent=0*]