IPHC Fishery Regulations: Proposals for the 2026-27 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 or indicated they intend to submit for consideration by the Commission in the 2026-27 process.

BACKGROUND

Recalling the IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals submission and review process instituted in 2017, this paper is intended to provide an early indication of the fishery regulations proposals being submitted to the Commission in the 2026-27 process.

Fishery regulation proposals from the Contracting Parties and other stakeholders are typically received later in the process.

Note DEADLINES: The dates for submission of draft proposals for consideration by the Commission in the 2026-27 process are as follows:

- 102nd Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM102) is 1 November 2026;
- 103rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM103) is 26 December 2026.

DISCUSSION

A list of preliminary titles, subjects, and sponsors for IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals expected to be submitted as part of the 2026-27 process is provided in Appendix I**.**

All submitted proposals will be considered in open session at IM102 (1 December 2026) and decided at AM103 (25–28 January 2027). Under the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2025), regulatory proposals are submitted no less than 30 days before the opening of the Session at which they are to be considered and are made available on the IPHC website within two business days of receipt.

Note on Section 11 – Closed Periods

The IPHC Secretariat notes that Section 11(10) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations includes a provision allowing a person to retain, possess, and land legal-sized Pacific halibut caught incidentally outside the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. This provision is currently set to remain in effect through the end of the 2026/2027 closed period, unless extended by the Commission.

This provision is expected to be addressed at AM103 in January 2027. If the Commission does not indicate that an extension beyond the 2026/2027 closed period is intended, the Secretariat will prepare a regulatory proposal for consideration at the Annual Meeting that would remove this temporary provision from the 2027 IPHC Fishery Regulations. Such a proposal would be an administrative housekeeping action only, intended to remove expired text from the Regulations.

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 2026, unless extended by a vote of the Commission.

This provision is addressed under IPHC-2026-IM102-PropB2. If the Commission does not indicate that an extension beyond 2026 is intended, the Secretariat will prepare a regulatory proposal for consideration at the Annual Meeting that would remove this temporary provision from the 2027 IPHC Fishery Regulations. Such a proposal would be an administrative housekeeping action only, intended to remove expired text from the Regulations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission:

1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2026-IM102-14 Rev_1, which provides the Commission with an overview of the IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals that the IPHC Secretariat, Contracting Parties, and other stakeholders have submitted or indicated they intend to submit for consideration in the 2026-27 process;
2) **NOTE** that listing an expected proposal in this paper does not constitute formal submission for AM103;
3) **NOTE** that Section 11(10) (limited retention outside the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B) is scheduled to remain in effect only through the end of the 2026/2027 closed period, and that Section 27(1)(c) (daily bag limit increase in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B) is scheduled to remain in effect only through 2026, unless extended by the Commission;
4) **NOTE** that further proposals, beyond those identified in Appendix I, may be submitted by Contracting Parties or other stakeholders between now and the Annual Meeting deadline;
5) **NOTE** the submission deadline for AM103 is **26 December 2026**.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Preliminary titles, subjects, and sponsors for IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals submitted or expected to be submitted for consideration in the 2026-27 process.

APPENDIX I

Preliminary titles, subjects, and sponsors for IPHC Fishery Regulations proposals submitted or expected to be submitted for consideration in the 2026-27 process.

Ref. No.	Title	Brief description
IPHC Secretariat		
IPHC-2026-IM102-PropA1	IPHC Fishery Regulations: 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). *Mortality and fishery limits tables will be filled when the Commission adopts TCEYs for the individual IPHC Regulatory Areas.*
IPHC-2026-IM102-PropA2	IPHC Fishery Regulations: 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).
Contracting Parties		
IPHC-2026-IM102-PropB1 *Deferred to AM103*	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	**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-IM102-PropB2	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 27)**:** Daily bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B	**Proponent:** Canada (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) To propose extending the provision allowing 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-IM102-PropB3 *Deferred to AM103*	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect. 19) - Addition of Community-Based Fisheries and Five Nations Rights-Based Fishery Logbooks as permitted logs in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B	**Proponent:** Canada (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) To propose adding Community-Based Fisheries and Five Nations Rights-Based Fishery Logbooks to the list of logbooks accepted for reporting Pacific halibut catch in Canada.
IPHC-2026-IM102-PropB4 *Deferred to AM103*	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Closed Periods (Sect. 11) - Limited retention outside the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B	**Proponent:** Canada (Fisheries and Oceans Canada) To propose extending the 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).

IPHC-2026-IM102-PropB5	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5) - Incorporating Recreational Fishing Quota issued to the guided recreational fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C and 3A into the IPHC Fishery Regulations table containing Contracting Party catch sharing arrangements and respective quantities	**Proponent:** USA (NOAA Fisheries) To propose incorporating Recreational Fishing Quota issued to the guided recreational fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C and 3A into the IPHC Fishery Regulations table containing Contracting Party catch sharing arrangements and respective quantities.
IPHC-2026-IM102-PropB6	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Fishing Gear (Sect. 17) - Allowing for donation of Pacific halibut in the non-directed commercial sector through an Exempted Fishing Permit issued by NOAA Fisheries	**Proponent:** USA (NOAA Fisheries) To propose amending Section 17(11) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations so that, in addition to the NOAA Fisheries Prohibited Species Donation regulations, trawl-caught Pacific halibut may be retained and donated under certain Exempted Fishing Permits issued by NOAA Fisheries.
Stakeholders		
Nil	IPHC Fishery Regulations:	