



State of the Pacific Halibut Fishery 2016

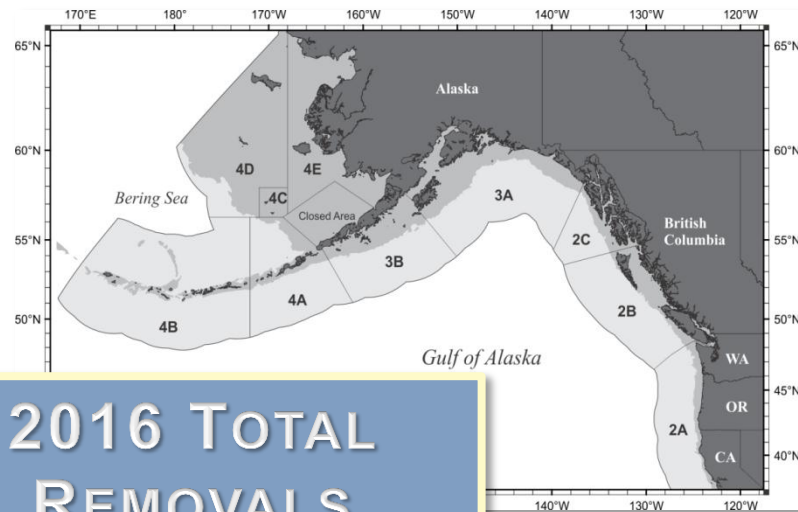
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Agenda Item 4
Paper IPHC-2017-AM093-04

IPHC Annual Meeting, 23-27 January 2017

Overview

- Preliminary estimates
- Net weight
- Full year accounting
- Overall removals fairly static over last 3 years
- Commercial & Sport - landings up slightly
- Bycatch - down slightly



IPHC Regulatory Areas

**2016 TOTAL
REMOVALS**
(including research)

41.8 Mlb
18,960 mt



Total Halibut Removals

	2015			2016		
	MIb	mt	%	MIb	mt	%
Commercial landings	23.9	10,841	57%	24.3	11,022	58%
Commercial incidental mortality (wastage)	1.3	590	3%	1.2	544	3%
Sport landings	6.9	3,130	16%	7.1	3,221	17%
Sport landings leasing	0.1	45	<1%	0.1	45	<1%
Sport incidental mortality	0.2	91	<1%	0.2	91	<1%
Bycatch mortality	7.8	3,538	19%	7.0*	3,175	17%
Personal use (subsistence)	1.2	544	3%	1.2	544	3%
IPHC research landings	0.7	318	2%	0.7	318	2%
Total	42.1	19,096	100%	41.8*	18,960	100%

** January update to 2016 bycatch (post RARA publication)*



Allocation by Government

For detailed information on catch limits and landings by regulatory area and fishery, refer to IPHC-2017-AM093-04 (Table 1) and RARA Ch. 2.



Area 2A (WA, OR, CA)

- Allocation by PPMC's catch sharing plan
- Sport, Commercial, Treaty Indian users
- 1% over catch limit (1.15 Mlb, 522 mt)

Area 2B (BC)

- Allocation by DFO allocation policy
- Sport and Commercial users
- 3% under catch limit (7.14 Mlb, 3,239 mt)

Areas 2C and 3A (AK)

- Allocation by NPFMC's catch sharing plan between sport (guided) and commercial
- Area 2C - 1% under catch limit (4.90 Mlb, 2,223 mt)
- Area 3A - equal to catch limit (9.63 Mlb, 4,368 mt)

Areas 4CDE

- Allocation by NPFMC's catch sharing plan between regulatory areas
- 4C IFQ/CDQ can be fished in 4D;
4D CDQ can be fished in 4E
- 12% under catch limit (1.46 Mlb, 662 mt)



Commercial - Area 2A (WA, OR, CA)

Directed commercial

- Three 10-hr fishing periods (22 Jun, 6 Jul, 20 Jul)
- 2% over catch limit (198,000 lb, 90 mt)

Incidental commercial catch with salmon troll fishery

- Open 1 Apr to 7 Nov
- One in-season action changing landing ratio and trip maximum
 - 1:4 plus 1, max 12 → 1:3 plus 1, max 20
- 24% under catch limit (26,000 lb, 12 mt)

Incidental commercial catch with sablefish fishery

- Open 1 Apr to 31 Oct
- Ratio 110 lb halibut per 1,000 pounds sablefish, plus 2 extra halibut
- 40% under catch limit (30,000 lb, 14 mt)

Treaty Indian commercial

- Several openers from 19 Mar to 7 Nov
 - *39-hr unrestricted fishery*
Open 19-21 Mar, 20-21 Mar, and 21-23 Mar
 - *28-hr restricted fishery* - Open 1-2 Apr
 - *Late season fishery*
Open 1-2 May, 11-12 May, 18 May - 15 Aug, 25 Jul – 2 Aug, 12 Sep – 7 Nov
- 1% under catch limit (361,000 lb, 164 mt)



Commercial – BC & AK *(Quota Share Fisheries)*

Open 19 Mar - 7 Nov

BRITISH COLUMBIA (Area 2B)

- 2% under catch limit (6.05 Mlb, 2,744 mt)

ALASKA

(Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4CDE)

- 3% under catch limit (17.68 Mlb, 8,020 mt)
 - Area 2C - 1% under (3.89 Mlb, 1,764 mt)
 - Area 3A - 1% under (7.26 Mlb, 3,293 mt)
 - Area 3B - 3% under (2.64 Mlb, 1,197 mt)
 - Area 4A - 3% under (1.34 Mlb, 608 mt)
 - Area 4B - 4% under (1.09 Mlb, 494 mt)
 - Area 4CDE - 12% under (1.46 Mlb, 662 mt)



Sport

Area 2A (WA, OR, CA)

- Catch Sharing Plan divides coast in to seven sport subareas
- Southern OR region 52% under allocation
Puget Sound WA region 79% over
- Overall, 9% over allocation in 2A (0.505 Mlb, 229 mt)

Area 2B (BC)

- Open 1 Feb – 31 Dec
- 1-fish daily bag limit, Max length of 133 cm
- Possession limit of 2 halibut, only 1 may be over 83 cm
- Annual limit of 6 halibut
- Experimental lease program of commercial quota
- Approximately 1% under allocation (1.086 Mlb, 493 mt)



Sport – Alaska (Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4CDE)

Open 1 Feb - 31 Dec

Private anglers (unguided) in all areas

- 2 fish daily bag limit
- No size restrictions
- 2.85 Mlb (1,293 mt) - no allocation

Area 2C - charter sector (guided)

- 1 fish daily bag limit
- Reverse slot limit (RSL) – total length ≤ 43 inches or ≥ 80 inches
 - 2015 RSL of ≤ 42 inches or ≥ 80 inches
- 13% under allocation (not including GAF or incidental mortality) (0.79 Mlb, 358 mt)

Area 3A - charter sector (guided)

- 2 fish daily bag limit
- Max size limit (MSL) = 28" for 2nd fish
- Each vessel limited to 1 trip per day
- Closed Wednesdays
- Annual limit (AL) of 4 halibut
 - 2015 – MSL of 29 inches and AL of 5 fish
- 8% over allocation (not including GAF or incidental mortality) (1.96 Mlb, 889 mt)



Subsistence

- Harvest for subsistence or personal use by:
 - Washington Treaty tribes (ceremonial & subsistence (C&S)),
 - British Columbia First Nations (food, social, and ceremonial (FSC)), and
 - Alaska rural residents and federally-recognized native tribes.
- For more detailed information, see RARA Ch. 2.1 (Fishery), 2.4 (Personal Use), 2.5 (U32 in Area 4D/4E CDQ)

Year	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4D/4E	Total
2016	33.9	405	428.2	231.3	18.3	7.2	0.4	4.3	0.6	70.1	5.5	1,204.8

Values in thousands of pounds, net weight

2014 Alaska estimates carried over for 2015 and 2016 catch estimates, with the exception that 4D/4E subsistence harvest in CDQ fishery were updated.

2016 2A allocation is used as a proxy for the catch estimate. The current year's allocation is based on the previous year's catch.

546 mt



Port Highlights

Weights with Lengths

- Weights collected with lengths coastwide as part of the market sample collections.

Sex-marking

- Determine sex of commercial catch → to inform stock assessment
- Area 2B Pilot Study 2016
- Expand coastwide in 2017 (voluntary)

Bigger fish

- Reports of larger fish from Area 3B than in previous years.
- Preliminary average weight one pound greater than in 2015.



Port Highlights



Biggest fish – Area 2C

- Giant halibut caught Aug 2016
- Just under 400 lb round, 90 inches



Thanks IPHC port samplers!



