



IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations:

Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (30 DECEMBER 2019)

PURPOSE

To improve clarity and transparency of fishery limits within the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Fishery Limits (Sect. 4).

BACKGROUND

The Commission considers new and revised IPHC Fishery Regulations, including proposed changes to fishery limits, and makes changes as deemed necessary at each Annual Meeting. In the absence of changes being deemed necessary, the existing IPHC Fishery Regulations remain in effect.

In accordance with the IPHC Convention¹, the Contracting Parties may also implement fishery regulations that are more restrictive than those adopted by the IPHC.

This proposal suggests improvements to IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations Section 4, '*Limits*,' to reflect TCEY values adopted by the IPHC and the applicable fishery sector limits resulting from those TCEY values according to existing Contracting Party catch sharing arrangements.

DISCUSSION

IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations Section 4, '*Limits*,' was adopted in 2018 in order to provide clear documentation of the limits for fishery sectors within defined Contracting Party catch sharing arrangements, which are themselves tied to the mortality distribution (TCEY) decisions of the Commission. This proposal retitles the section as '*Mortality and Fishery Limits*' and adds a table of the TCEY values adopted by the Commission, for clarity and to emphasize the role of the TCEY values as the basis for the subsequent setting of sector allocations through the operation of the Contracting Parties' existing catch sharing arrangements. Both the TCEY and the fishery sector allocation table will be populated as TCEY decisions are made for each IPHC Regulatory Area by the Commission during the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) in February 2020.

Benefits/Drawbacks: The benefit is clear identification of fishery limits resulting from Commission decisions on distributed mortality (TCEY) values for each IPHC Regulatory Area. The potential drawback is a misconception that the resulting catch sharing arrangements and associated fishery limits are within the Commission's mandate, when in fact they are the

¹ The Convention between Canada and the United States of America for the Preservation of the [Pacific] Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea

responsibility of the Contracting Parties. This change is intended to reinforce that distinction by clarifying which decisions are made by the Commission.

Sectors Affected: This proposal affects all sectors of the Pacific halibut fishery.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION / REFERENCES

None

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA1, which provides the Commission with an opportunity to consider revisions to improve the clarity and transparency of fishery limits within the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Fishery Limits (Sect. 4).
- 2) **ADOPT** the suggested regulatory language regarding mortality and fishery limits provided in [Appendix A](#).

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Suggested Regulatory Language

APPENDIX A
SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE

4. Mortality and Fishery Limits

(1) The Commission has adopted the following distributed mortality (TCEY) values:

IPHC Regulatory Area	<i>Distributed mortality limits (TCEY) (net weight)</i>	
	Metric tons (t)	Pounds (lb)
Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington)		
Area 2B (British Columbia)		
Area 2C (southeastern Alaska)		
Area 3A (central Gulf of Alaska)		
Area 3B (western Gulf of Alaska)		
Area 4A (eastern Aleutians)		
Area 4B (central/western Aleutians)		
Areas 4CDE (Bering Sea)		

(2) The fishery limits resulting from the IPHC-adopted distributed mortality (TCEY) values and the existing Contracting Party catch sharing arrangements are as follows, recognizing that each Contracting Party may implement more restrictive limits:

IPHC Regulatory Area	<i>Fishery limits (net weight)</i>	
	Metric tons (t)	Pounds (lb)
Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington)		
Non-tribal directed commercial (south of Pt. Chehalis)		
Non-tribal incidental catch in salmon troll fishery		
Non-tribal incidental catch in sablefish fishery (north of Pt. Chehalis)		
Treaty Indian commercial		
Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence (year-round)		
Recreational – Washington		
Recreational – Oregon		
Recreational – California		
Area 2B (British Columbia) (combined commercial/recreational)		
Commercial fishery		
Recreational fishery		
Area 2C (southeastern Alaska) (combined commercial/guided recreational)		
Commercial fishery (catch)		

Commercial fishery (incidental mortality)		
Guided recreational fishery (includes catch and incidental mortality)		
Area 3A (central Gulf of Alaska) (combined commercial/guided recreational)		
Commercial fishery catch)		
Commercial fishery (incidental mortality)		
Guided recreational fishery (includes catch and incidental mortality)		
Area 3B (western Gulf of Alaska)		
Area 4A (eastern Aleutians)		
Area 4B (central/western Aleutians)		
Areas 4CDE (Bering Sea)		
Area 4C (Pribilof Islands)		
Area 4D (northwestern Bering Sea)		
Area 4E (Bering Sea flats)		
Total		