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Conference Board Report

76th IPHC Annual Meeting

January 10-13, 2000, Lynnwood WA

Attendance:

United States	Canada
Alaska Longline Fishermans' Assoc	Annieville Halibut Association
Alaska Sportfish Council	B.C. Halibut Longliners
Aleut Corporation	Ditidaaht First Nation
Area 313/4A False Pass	Halibut Advisor Board
Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc	Native Brotherhood of BC
Bristol Bay Drift Net Assoc	Northern Halibut Producers' Assoc
Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp	Northern Trollers Assoc
Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc	Nu'Chal' Nuth Tribal Council
Coastal Villages Fishing Cooperative	Pacific Blackcod Fishermen's Assoc
Concerned Area M Fishermen C.A.M.P	Pacific Coast Fishing Vessel owners Guild
Deep Sea Fishermen's Union of the Pacific	Pacific Longline Fisherman's Assoc
False Pass Fisheries Development	Pacific Trollers Assoc
Fishing Vessel Owners Association	Prince Rupert Vessel Owners Assoc
Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition	Sport Fishing Advisory Board
Kachemak Bay Fisheries Assoc	Steveston Halibut Assoc
Kodiak Longliners Assoc	United Fishermen and Allied Workers Assoc
Kodiak Vessel Owners Assoc	
North Pacific Fisheries Assoc	
Norton Sound Economic Development Corp	
Petersburg Vessel Owners Assoc	
St. George Fishermen's Assoc	
St. Paul's Fishermen's Assoc	
Seafood Producers Coop	
Tribal Government of St. Paul	
United Fishermen's Marketing Assoc	
Washington Recreational Fishing Industry Assoc	
Washington Trollers Association	
Westport Charter Boat Assoc	
Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Assoc	

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skates that will have 45 pieces of salmon and 45 pieces of herring per skate. It will only require approximately 15 fish per skate to maintain the high CPUE levels and the 45 pieces of salmon should adequately attract those numbers.

Area 2 C – The staff recommendations were unanimously accepted.

The Conference Board requests that in the future the blue book have the CPUE statistics available by area for each sub area of area 4, in addition to the Gulf and Canadian areas. The information that we were presented did not break out areas such as area 4b from area 4 as a whole. Any IPHC charter CPUE information by individual areas would be helpful as well.

6. AREA 4 MANAGEMENT

No action was taken. See Proposed IPHC regulation changes item 7 below.

7. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2000 SEASON

Live Halibut Landings, Kim Mauriks

The Conference Board heard a presentation from Kim Mauriks on his harvesting and marketing of live halibut during the 1999 season. The Conference Board entertained a motion to allow the pinning of live wild halibut for the sale during the closed season. This proposal failed within the United States section on a vote of 16 opposed, 4 yes, and 6 abstentions. The Canadian section voted 5 in favor, 2 opposed, and 4 abstained. The Conference Board supports the staff in developing regulations that would be directed at maintaining accountability in those situations where live pinning is allowed in the year 2000.

Prohibit Crucifiers, Kodiak Sport Fishing Association and Alaska Sport Council

The Conference Board requests the Commission provide an information package that stresses the importance of careful release of halibut when either longlining for pacific cod, sablefish, or rockfish. The Conference Board suggests that this be done in the Annual Booklet of Regulations. Additionally the Conference Board requests that the National Marine Fisheries Service RAM division include in their 2000 mailings to IFQ fishermen notice of the importance of careful release of halibut.

32" Size Limit for Imports, Ludger Dochtermann

The Conference Board requests the Commission sends a letter to the respective governments expressing a concern of the importation of sublegal Pacific halibut into the North American market. The Conference Board recommends that such imports be prohibited in order to promote the conservation of Pacific halibut.

Change in Area 4 Procedures, Ludger Dochtermann

The Conference Board recommends adoption of this proposal. This proposal would allow a vessel to travel directly to markets out of Area 4 without clearing in the different required clearing ports providing that vessel was carrying a transponder approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service. This could save up to 24 hours in clearing requirements.

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32" Size Limit for all Landings, Wayne Davenport

The Conference Board recommends that no action be taken.

Creation of fishery in Closed Area, Aleutian Pribiloff Island Community Development Association (ACPIDA)

The authors of this proposal were not in attendance to present their brief. The Conference Board had the following concerns 1) if the new area proposed resulted in fish being reapportioned from Areas 4C,D, and E this would result in an allocation and require action by the North Pacific Council. IPHC Staff present during this discussion indicated that this action would result in new fish being added to the quota, however this was contrary to previous staff comments. 2) ACPIDA is a CDQ company and as such has an allocation of halibut in the Bering Sea. It was unclear from the proposal if ACPIDA was suggesting that a portion of their CDQ fish might be harvestable in the current closed area. 3) Several industry representatives in the 3B and 4A districts were concerned about the migration of halibut out of this area into the Gulf and wanted the area to maintain the no fishing policy in the restricted area. 4) The Conference Board did not proceed further without clarification from a representative of APICDA.

Definition of Overall Vessel Length, NMFS - Juneau

National Marine Fisheries Service withdrew this proposal and will submit it in 2001.

Offloading Responsibility, NMFS – Juneau

The Conference Board generally supports this proposal, however, the National Marine Fisheries Service was not present to clarify the proposal. The responsibility of reporting total fish on board should belong to the master of the vessel and not the processor.

Filleting of Personal Use Fish, Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA)

The Conference Board moved to support this recommendation by PVOA. The concerns of the NMFS were not presented to the Conference Board; however, their concerns, as expressed by PVOA to the Conference Board, were unconvincing.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Bycatch

The Conference Board endorses its 1999 request for the IPHC to pursue through the respective governments our request to reduce halibut mortalities wherever possible in other ground fish directed fisheries. Significant regulatory areas of concern are the Bering Sea and the Central Gulf of Alaska. It is encouraged that the Washington, Oregon, California district adopt some form of observer program to quantify bycatch.

Aquaculture

The Conference Board endorses its 1999 opposition to Aquaculture and remains opposed to the introduction of Atlantic halibut brood stock into the Pacific. The Conference Board requests the

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IPHC address these concerns to the respective governments.

Area 4E Recommendations

The Conference Board recommends continuation of the less than 32" personal use regulations in Area 4E.

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**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON CONFERENCE BOARD
DISCUSSION OF CATCH RECOMMENDATIONS**

Area 3A

The organizations that supported the Staff recommendation felt that a precautionary approach to stock assessment was warranted based on the science. The support for staff recommendations was also influenced by the Commission's expressed policies of a "slow up and fast down" concept for management.

Area 3B

The recommendation is conservative, based on the setline CEY.

Area 4A

The staff recommendation was unanimously supported. The staff recommendation represents 33% of the available increase.

Area 4B

With the exception of two US organizations, the staff recommendation was unanimously supported. The staff recommendation represents 33% of the available increase.