



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
650 Capitol Mall Suite 5-100
Sacramento, California 95814

May 5, 2023

Mr. David T. Wilson
Executive Director
International Pacific Halibut Commission
2320 W. Commodore WY, STE 300
Seattle, Washington 98199-1287

Letter of Acknowledgment for Scientific Research: IPHC Catch Protection Pilot Study
(LOA-35-2023)

Dear Mr. Wilson:

This letter acknowledges that the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) submitted a scientific research plan, dated April 5, 2023. We have determined the activities outlined in this research plan that occur in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) constitute scientific research in accordance with Federal regulations at 50 CFR 600.745 and are excluded from Magnuson-Stevens Act fishing requirements.

Vessel Name: R/V Pacific Surveyor (USCG #947061)

Principal Investigator: Kayla Ualesi

Effective Dates: May 20, 2023 – June 07, 2023

This letter of acknowledgement (LOA) is separate and distinct from any permit required by any other applicable law. In order to facilitate identification of your activities as scientific research, you should carry a copy of your scientific research plan and this LOA on board the research vessel while conducting the research activities. Generally, activities conducted in accordance with a scientific research plan, as acknowledged by an LOA, are presumed to be scientific research. This presumption may be overcome if it can be shown that an activity does not fit the definition of scientific research or is outside the scope of the research plan.

The scientific research vessel(s) fishing under this LOA must operate in accordance with the submitted research plan. All fishing activity must occur under the direct supervision of a research scientist aboard the vessel. Your research in the U.S. EEZ is not anticipated to result in significant total catch of any overfished groundfish species. However, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) requests that you contact Monica Falcon (206-526-6115) if catch of overfished groundfish species is projected to exceed the amounts outlined in your research plan.

During research conducted under this LOA, you should take every precaution to avoid the take of marine mammals. If, regardless of precautionary measures, a marine mammal is taken during

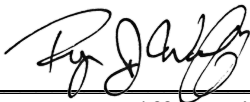


research activities conducted under this LOA, you should stop research activities immediately, prepare an incidental take report, and provide it to NMFS, West Coast Region, Deputy Regional Administrator for consideration. The Deputy Regional Administrator will respond regarding whether the research should proceed, and if so, under what conditions. If an incidental take report is necessary, please include detailed information on the degree of injury to the animal, its species, age (if possible), and sex (if possible), location of the incident, and description of the event, including your recommendation of how to reduce or eliminate such a take in the future.

Should research conducted under this LOA result in any take of seabirds listed under the Endangered Species Act, you must stop all research activities, prepare an incidental take report, and provide it immediately to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). Call Cheryl Strong, Oregon Coast Field Office, USF&WS at 541-786-3648 to report, and email incidental take report to Cheryl_strong@fws.gov.

Upon completion of the research associated with this LOA, please enter total catch data (in metric tons) for all species, including non-groundfish and protected species as soon as it is available the NWFSC's Research Catch App at <https://www.webapps.nwfsc.noaa.gov/gf-research-permits/#/login>. You should submit catch data to NMFS no later than sixty days after the completion of this research or prior to requesting an LOA to continue this research.

For information regarding this LOA, contact Monica Falcon at 206-526-6115 or Monica.Falcon@noaa.gov



Ryan J. Wulff., Assistant Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

CC: IPHC – K. Ualesi ; NMFS WCR – M. Falcon, K. Kent; NOAA OLE – G. Busch, wcd.isupport@noaa.gov; GCNW – R. Stanley; secretariat@iphc.int; wcr.gfresearchpermits@noaa.gov