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## IPHC Fishery Regulations:

### Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (27 OCTOBER 2023)

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#### PURPOSE

To provide clear documentation of mortality and fishery limits within the IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5).

#### BACKGROUND

The Commission considers new and revised IPHC Fishery Regulations, including proposed changes to mortality and 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 Convention<sup>1</sup>, the Contracting Parties may also implement fishery regulations that are more restrictive than those adopted by the IPHC.

This proposal is to amend IPHC Fishery Regulations Section 5, '*Mortality and Fishery Limits*,' to reflect Total Constant Exploitation Yield (TCEY) values adopted by the Commission and the applicable fishery sector limits resulting from those TCEY values according to existing Contracting Party domestic catch sharing arrangements.

#### DISCUSSION

Changes to IPHC Fishery Regulations Section 5, '*Mortality and Fishery Limits*,' provide clear documentation of the limits for fishery sectors within defined Contracting Party domestic catch sharing arrangements, which are themselves tied to the mortality distribution (TCEY) decisions of the Commission. This section includes 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 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100) in January 2024.

**Benefits/Drawbacks:** The benefit is a 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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. The intention is 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.

[Appendix A](#) provides details on the suggested regulatory language.

#### **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

None

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** regulatory proposal IPHC-2023-IM099-PropA1, which provides the Commission with an opportunity to recall the format of the IPHC Fishery Regulations: *Mortality and Fishery Limits* (Sect. 5), to be populated at the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100) in January 2024.

#### **APPENDICES**

[Appendix A:](#) Suggested regulatory language

**APPENDIX A**  
**SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE**

**5. Mortality and Fishery Limits**

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

IPHC Regulatory Area	Distributed mortality limits (TCEY) (net weight)	
	Tonnes (t)	Million Pounds (Mlb)
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 and western Aleutians)		
Areas 4CDE (Bering Sea)		
<b>Total</b>		

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

IPHC Regulatory Area	Fishery limits (net weight)	
	Tonnes (t)	Million Pounds (Mlb)*
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 and recreational)		
Commercial fishery		
Recreational fishery		
Area 2C (southeastern Alaska) (combined commercial and guided recreational)		

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

\* Allocations resulting from the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Catch Share Plan are listed in *pounds*.