

News Release



P.O. Box 95009, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98145-2009

May 9, 2007

IPHC Stock Assessment Workshop – June 27-28th, 2007

The International Pacific Halibut Commission introduced a modified approach to assessing the Pacific halibut stock at its 2007 Annual Meeting. While employing the same stock assessment model as had been used previously, the assessment used the model to determine a single coastwide estimate of exploitable biomass. This single coastwide estimate was then apportioned into IPHC regulatory area estimates using data from the fishery-independent IPHC setline stock assessment survey and estimates of bottom area from each regulatory area.

At the 2007 Annual Meeting, the IPHC Commissioners deferred adoption of the new approach until IPHC staff had conducted a workshop involving other stock assessment researchers and industry participants, to further explore the basis and implications of the new approach. The general intent of this workshop will be to develop a final assessment approach for the current year during the summer, incorporating necessary changes resulting from the workshop, prior to conducting the current year assessment in the fall of the year. The workshop will be held at the Hotel Nexus, in Seattle, on June 27-28, 2007. A registration form for the workshop with details on the venue is attached to this News Release and is available on the IPHC website (www.iphc.washington.edu). Registration forms must be received by June 15, 2007.

The workshop will cover: detailed description of the assessment data; data compilation and preprocessing; detailed description of the assessment model; fitting the assessment model; alternate model fits involving different parameterizations; methods of apportioning coastwide biomass into regulatory area biomass; development of optimal harvest policy. The workshop is intended be technical, rather than educational, and participants are expected to be familiar with the IPHC assessment process. Relevant documents are IPHC Scientific Report 83, which describes the assessment model and harvest policy:

<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/research/sa/papers/sr83.pdf>

as well as documents describing the 2006 IPHC stock assessment and yield recommendations:

<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/research/sa/papers/sa06.pdf>

<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/research/sa/papers/prospect.pdf>

<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/pubs/rara/2006rara/2k6rara04.pdf>

The IPHC is also conducting an independent peer review of the assessment and the peer reviewers will attend the workshop. The workshop will be chaired by an independent stock assessment scientist. A report of the workshop will be produced for presentation to the Commission in the fall of 2007. Questions on the workshop can be directed to either Tamara Briggie (tamara@iphc.washington.edu) or Bruce Leaman (bruce@iphc.washington.edu), or the IPHC office at (206) 634-1838.

Registration Form
IPHC Stock Assessment Workshop 2007
Seattle, Washington
June 27-28, 2007

Section 1. Personal Details

Name: _____ Title: _____
Organization or Agency (if applicable): _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____ State/Province: _____
Zip code: _____ Country: _____
Telephone: _____ Facsimile: _____
E-mail: _____

Section 2. Location

Hotel Nexus
Cascade Ballroom
2140 N. Northgate Way
Seattle, Washington 98133
Phone: (206) 365-0700 / (800) 435-0754
Facsimile: (206) 365-0750
Website: www.hotelnexusseattle.com

Hotel Nexus will be holding a limited number of rooms at \$105 per night **until June 5th** for those interested in overnight accommodations. You may call the hotel directly and reference booking code "UW IPHC" or visit www.hotelnexusseattle.com/stockassessmentjun2007 to receive this group rate.

Section 3. Preliminary Schedule

June 27th

8:00am-6:00pm

June 28th

8:00am-12:00pm

1:00pm-6:00pm (if required)

Section 4. Submission

Completed forms should be mailed or faxed to the IPHC by June 15, 2007

PO Box 95009
Seattle WA, 98145
Facsimile: (206) 632-2983

Please contact our office via telephone ((206) 638-1838) or e-mail tamara@IPHC.washington.edu for further information