

News Release



2320 W. COMMODORE WAY, SUITE 300, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98199-1287

March 25, 2013

IPHC NOTIFIES INDUSTRY OF HALIBUT SALES IN 2013 AND SEEKS BUYERS INTERESTED IN IPHC RESEARCH FISH

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) will be conducting research operations off Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska during 2013. Halibut caught on the surveys will be sampled for biological data and then sold to offset costs associated with conducting the survey. Any sampling that may affect the quality of fish for sale will be detailed in the sale announcement. This news release is intended to notify the industry of the IPHC plan to sell fish and seeks offers for fish sales arrangements from interested buyers.

Approximately 12 vessels will be involved in the survey, with landings between early June and early September, 2013. Average trip poundage for halibut will range from 5,000 to 35,000 pounds, plus lesser amounts of rockfish and Pacific cod. All of the fish will be well-iced, and the Commission will attempt to keep all of the fish less than six days old when selling into fresh fish markets. Older fish may be landed when selling into frozen markets or as required by specific projects. The age of fish will always be communicated in the sales announcement. Suggestions from industry on how the IPHC can maximize fish quality or improve fish sales procedures are welcome.

Sales will be awarded based on our objectives of achieving a fair market price and distributing sales among buyers and ports. Sale agreements will be based on prices at the time of the sale. The Commission will not enter into any consignment or profit-sharing arrangements. The Commission plans to contact interested halibut buyers prior to each landing. Preferences will be given to buyers with a history of successfully marketing halibut and following ethical business practices. In awarding sales, the Commission will consider: (1) price; (2) the number of years buyers have been buying and marketing halibut; (3) how fish are graded **at the dock** including the determination of No. 2 halibut and chalky fish; and (4) promptness in settlements following deliveries. Obtaining a fair market price will be a primary consideration in awarding fish sales, but the Commission may award sales to buyers with slightly lower prices in consideration of the factors listed above. The Commission will also attempt to distribute sales among as many qualified buyers as possible, subject to fair market value. For Washington and Oregon, fish from all small offloads may be awarded to a single buyer.

All buyers (including those with past IPHC sales history) interested in purchasing IPHC research fish in 2013 must complete the attached *Interested Buyer Form* and mail, fax, or email to Eric Soderlund (eric@iphc.int) at the Commission **before May 1, 2013**. This will ensure you are kept informed of purchasing opportunities throughout our field season. For further information, please contact Eric Soderlund at (206) 552-7678.

-END-

Bruce M. Leaman
Executive Director
Phone: (206) 634-1838
Fax: (206) 632-2983