

## **PROCESSOR ADVISORY GROUP**

**January 25, 1999**

### **Fourth Annual Meeting Report**

Chair: Blake Tipton: S.M. Products

Vice Chair: Bill Kelliher, Kelliher Fish Company

### **HARVEST ALLOCATIONS**

Area 2A	.69
Area 2B	12.50
Area 2C	10.49
Area 3A	24.67
Area 3B	13.37
Area 4A	4.24
Area 4B	Conference Board recommendation provided not below 3.98
Area 4CDE	<u>4.50</u>
TOTAL	74.44

### **FISHING PERIODS**

**Area 2A.** PAG defers to Conference Board

**Other areas:** Because of high tides March 15, 1999, the PAG voted for a March 10 opening this year and March 1 or sooner for the next and following years. NMFS regulations for black cod are now designed to automatically coincide with the halibut openings which formerly was an obstacle to adjusting the halibut openings. The PAG wants a March 1 opening in 2000 and for the IPHC to take a more prudent look at extending the season to eleven or twelve months yearly.

### **INDUSTRY PROPOSALS**

**Live Deliveries:** We support the status quo on round and live deliveries as it is currently implemented in the U.S. and Canada. We recognize that live halibut has significant market potential and we recognize that industry needs to carefully monitor its impacts and implications.

**Area 2A Trial Fishery:** We believe the best scientific information is being used to set quotas in Area 2A and oppose the proposal for a 1.5 million pounds trial fishery

**Crucifiers:** PAG supports continued practice of requiring gentle removals of halibut. We support the careful release as outlined in the agency proposal.

**Clearance Requirements:** Visual check ins should continue to be required inbound, but VHF should be permitted for outbound vessels in Area 4B.

**Norton Sound Test Fishery:** PAG supports extension of the test fishery in 1999 that includes 20,000 pounds of halibut for conducting the experiment.

**Extend Seasons:** The PAG is not qualified to address the biological issues involved with this proposal. However, from a market standpoint, the proposal conceptually makes sense since it would allow the industry to keep fresh halibut in front of the consumer for a longer time. We want the IPHC to study further the impact of fishing year around.

**Chalky halibut:** The PAG strongly endorses continued efforts to understand chalky halibut. There is increasing evidence that the manner in which halibut are killed has a direct relationship to the condition and we urge the IPHC to use their stock assessment survey vessels in 1999 as study platforms for experiments that differentiate between four different ways of handling halibut when brought on board: stunning, bleeding, stunning and bleeding, and doing nothing.

**Catch sharing plan for Area 4CDE:** PAG endorses an extension of the plan which includes a record of the sublegals retained.

**Weighing:** The PAG concurs with the original intent that weights should be scaled and not calculated. The single most important piece of data collected is removal numbers and scaled weights best reflect that. We therefore support the regulatory change.

## **AGENCY PROPOSALS**

**Retention of sub-legal halibut:** Halibut requiring measuring should be allowed on board for that purpose. Otherwise, the PAG concurs with staff recommendations for the three acceptable measures for careful release.

**Collect catch data by ADF&G stat. area:** PAG agrees that it would be ideal to have identical statistical areas but doesn't know whether this is too complicated to accomplish

## **OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **SPORTFISH DATA COLLECTION**

The PAG remains unified in its concern that the sport harvest in Canada is not reported. We strongly urge the IPHC to require Canadian compliance with reporting requirements and to continue their efforts to get accurate sport catch statistics for Area 2B from DFO. AT the same time, we commend the ADF&G for implementing the log book program and look forward to examining their data next year.

### **PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

Proposals submitted past the deadline should not be accepted by the IPHC. Organizations schedule their membership meetings prior to the IPHC Annual Meeting in order to develop the positions they will take when the Commission meets. Late submissions cost them the opportunity

to represent their membership on these late submissions. The IPHC does an excellent job providing ample notice to agencies and the industry regarding procedures and deadlines for submitting proposals. In the interest of fairness to everyone, the IPHC should stand firm on this issue and their own rule.

### **APPOINTMENTS TO IPHC SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Blake Tipton, S.M. Products  
John Woodruff, Icicle Seafoods

These minutes are respectfully submitted to the International Pacific Halibut Commission by the Processors Advisory Group:

#### **MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Atka Pride Seafoods	Sitka Sound Seafoods/North Pacific Processors
Icicle Seafoods	Peter Pan Seafoods
Kelliher Fish Company	S.M. Products Ltd.
Aero Trading Co. Ltd.	Halibut Ass'n of North America (20 companies)
<u>Wards Cove Packing Company</u>	

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Blake Tipton  
Chairman