



INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC
HALIBUT COMMISSION

IPHC–2021–SS010–00
Last Update: 22 February 2021

10th Special Session of the IPHC (SS010) – *Compendium of meeting documents*

22 February 2021, Seattle, WA, USA

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Paul Ryall	Glenn Merrill
Neil Davis	Robert Alverson
Peter DeGreef	Richard Yamada

Executive Director

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.



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HALIBUT COMMISSION

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Report of the 10th Special Session of the IPHC (SS010)

Meeting held electronically, 22 February 2021

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Paul Ryall	Glenn Merrill
Neil Davis	Robert Alverson
Peter DeGreef	Richard Yamada

Executive Director

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.

DISTRIBUTION:

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Members of the Commission
IPHC Secretariat

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ACRONYMS

AM	Annual Meeting
cm	Centimetres
DFO	Fisheries and Ocean Canada
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
SS	Special Session

DEFINITIONS

A set of working definitions are provided in the IPHC Glossary of Terms and abbreviations: <https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/glossary-of-terms-and-abbreviations>

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

- Level 1: RECOMMENDED; RECOMMENDATION; ADOPTED** (formal); **REQUESTED; ENDORSED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary (advisory) body of the Commission and/or the IPHC Secretariat.
- Level 2: AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be elevated in the Commission's reporting structure.
- Level 3: NOTED/NOTING; CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED:** General terms to be used for consistency. Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference. Any other term may be used to highlight to the reader of an IPHC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. Other terms may be used but will be considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 10th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS010) was held electronically, on 22 February 2021. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Glenn Merrill (USA), who outlined the need for a Special Session.

The following are the actions arising from the SS010, which are also provided at [Appendix V](#).

IPHC PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS 2021

Contracting Party Fishery Regulation Proposal:

Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28)

([para. 7](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** amendments to Section 28, paragraph (c) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2021) and as provided in [Appendix IV](#):

“(c) the daily bag limit is two (2) Pacific halibut of any size per day, per person, except that between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 only, DFO may implement a daily bag limit of three (3) Pacific halibut per day, per person.”

REQUESTS

SS010-Req.01 ([para. 8](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat make the adopted amendments to Section 28, paragraph (c) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2021), and for these to be submitted to the Contracting Parties after the current amendments (from AM097) are confirmed by both Parties. The expectation is that the amendments to Section 28, paragraph (c) would be in place prior to 1 April 2021.

1 OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 10th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS010) was held electronically, on 22 February 2021. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Glenn Merrill (USA) who outlined the need for a special session.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION

2. The Commission **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix I](#). The documents provided to the SS010 are listed in [Appendix II](#). The list of participants is provided at [Appendix III](#).

3 IPHC FISHEY REGULATIONS (2021)

3.1 Contracting Party Fishery Regulation Proposals

3.1.1 Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28)

3. The Commission **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal IPHC-2021-SS010-PropB1 which proposed amending Section 28 of the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2021) by increasing the Pacific halibut daily limit from two (2) per day to three (3) per day in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B.
4. The Commission **NOTED** that the distributed mortality limit for IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Table 6 of [IPHC-2021-AM097-R](#)) and sector (as provided in Appendix IV of [IPHC-2021-AM097-R](#)) would remain in place, irrespective of the proposed amendment by Canada.
5. The Commission **NOTED** Canada's intention to impose the following licence conditions in 2021:
 - a) No person shall catch and retain more than ten (10) Pacific halibut in the aggregate from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022;
 - b) No person shall retain a Pacific halibut greater than 133 cm head-on length;
 - c) If the Daily Limit is one (1) or two (2), the Possession Limit is EITHER of: one (1) Pacific halibut measuring from 90 cm to 133 cm head-on length - OR - two (2) Pacific halibut measuring under 90 cm head-on length;
 - d) If the Daily Limit is three (3), the Possession Limit is EITHER of: one (1) Pacific halibut measuring from 90 cm to 133 cm head-on length – OR - three (3) Pacific halibut measuring under 90 cm head-on length.
6. **RECALLING** that all Sessions of the Commission are open to the public, the Commission **CONSIDERED** public comments from both Canadian and U.S.A. stakeholders.
7. The Commission **ADOPTED** amendments to Section 28, paragraph (c) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2021) and as provided in [Appendix IV](#):

“(c) the daily bag limit is two (2) Pacific halibut of any size per day, per person, except that between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 only, DFO may implement a daily bag limit of three (3) Pacific halibut per day, per person.”
8. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat make the adopted amendments to Section 28, paragraph (c) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2021), and for these to be submitted to the Contracting Parties after the current amendments (from AM097) are confirmed by both Parties. The expectation is that the amendments to Section 28, paragraph (c) would be in place prior to 1 April 2021.

4 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 10TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS010)

9. The Report of the 10th Session of the IPHC (IPHC-2021-SS010-R) was **ADOPTED** via correspondance on 22 February 2021, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from SS010, provided at [Appendix V](#).

APPENDIX I
AGENDA FOR THE 10TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS010)

Date: 22 February 2021

Location and Venue: Electronic: Adobe Connect

Time: 11:00-12:00 (PST)

Chairperson: Mr Glenn Merrill (United States of America)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (*Chairperson*)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION**
(*Chairperson*)
3. **IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS (2021)**
 - 3.1 *Contracting Party Fishery Regulation Proposals*
 - 3.1.1 *IPHC-2021-SS010-PropB1: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) (Canada)*
4. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 10TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS010)**
(*Chairperson*)

APPENDIX II
LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 10TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS010)

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2021-SS010-01	Agenda for the 10 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS010)	✓ 17 February 2021
IPHC-2021-SS010-02	List of Documents for the 10 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS010)	✓ 17 February 2021
<i>Fishery Regulation proposals for 2021</i>		
<i>Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals for 2021</i>		
IPHC-2021-SS010-PropB1	Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) (Canada)	✓ 17 February 2021

APPENDIX III
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 10TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS010)

Commission Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Glenn Merrill (United States of America)	Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Mr Paul Ryall	Mr Glenn Merrill
Mr Neil Davis	Mr Robert Alverson
Mr Peter DeGreef	Mr Richard Yamada

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APPENDIX IV
SECTION 28. RECREATIONAL (SPORT) FISHING FOR PACIFIC HALIBUT—IPHC
REGULATORY AREA 2B

- (1) In all waters off British Columbia:^{6, 7}
 - (a) the recreational (sport) fishing season will open on 1 February unless more restrictive regulations are in place;
 - (b) the recreational (sport) fishing season will close when the recreational (sport) fishery limit allocated by DFO is taken, or 31 December, whichever is earlier; and
 - (c) the daily bag limit is two (2) Pacific halibut of any size per day, per person, **except that between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 only, DFO may implement a daily bag limit of three (3) Pacific halibut per day, per person.**
- (2) In British Columbia, no person shall fillet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a Pacific halibut in any manner that prevents the determination of minimum size or the number of fish caught, possessed, or landed.
- (3) The possession limit for Pacific halibut in the waters off the coast of British Columbia is three Pacific halibut^{6, 7}.

⁶ DFO could implement more restrictive regulations for the recreational (sport) fishery, therefore anglers are advised to check the current Federal or Provincial regulations prior to fishing.

⁷ For regulations on the experimental recreational fishery implemented by DFO check the current Federal or Provincial regulations.

APPENDIX V
**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS FROM THE 10TH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS010) (8 JANUARY 2021)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nil

REQUESTS

SS010-Req.01 ([para. 8](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat make the adopted amendments to Section 28, paragraph (c) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2021), and for these to be submitted to the Contracting Parties after the current amendments (from AM097) are confirmed by both Parties. The expectation is that the amendments to Section 28, paragraph (c) would be in place prior to 1 April 2021.



**AGENDA FOR THE 10th SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC
(SS010)**

Date: 22 February 2021

Location and Venue: Electronic: Adobe Connect

Time: 11:00-12:00 (PST)

Chairperson: Mr Glenn Merrill (United States of America)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (*Chairperson*)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION**
(*Chairperson*)
3. **IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS (2021)**
 - 3.1 **Contracting Party Fishery Regulation Proposal:**
 - **IPHC-2021-SS010-PropB1:** *Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—
IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) (Canada)*
4. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 10TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC
(SS010)** (*Chairperson*)



**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 10th SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC
(SS010)**

Last update: 17 February 2021

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2021-SS010-01	Agenda for the 10 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS010)	✓ 17 February 2021
IPHC-2021-SS010-02	List of Documents for the 10 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS010)	✓ 17 February 2021
<i>Fishery Regulation proposals for 2021</i>		
<i>Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals for 2021</i>		
IPHC-2021-SS010-PropB1	Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut— IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) (Canada)	✓ 17 February 2021



FISHERY REGULATION PROPOSAL 2021

**TITLE: RECREATIONAL (SPORT) FISHING FOR PACIFIC HALIBUT—IPHC REGULATORY
AREA 2B (SECT. 28)**

SUBMITTED BY:

**AFFILIATION: FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA (DFO)
CANADA**

All Regulatory Areas All Alaska Regulatory Areas All U.S.A. Regulatory Areas

2A 2B 2C 3A 3B 4A 4B 4C 4D 4E

PURPOSE

DFO is requesting that Section 28 of the IPHC Regulations be amended to increase the halibut daily limit from two (2) per day to three (3) per day in Area 2B. The current proposed management regime for the 2021 recreational fishery in 2B includes a daily limit of two halibut. The BC Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) has requested DFO to consider a condition of licence on the 2021-22 BC Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence (BCTWSFL) that would permit a daily and possession limit of up to three halibut if the daily limit (set in-season by Variation Order) is increased from two to three. An increase to the daily limit could be applied in-season if catch data indicates there is a high likelihood that the recreational TAC will not be caught under a daily limit of two. This approach would provide some additional flexibility to adjust harvest rates, given the possibility that Covid-19 restrictions will continue to affect travel and participation in recreational fishing in BC in 2021. Section 28 of the IPHC regulations states a maximum daily limit of two (2) halibut in the BC recreational fishery; therefore a change would be required. This regulatory change is proposed for the 2021 fishing season only, as an accommodation of uncertainties associated with Covid-19.

BACKGROUND

After the IPHC Annual Meeting, DFO meets with the Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) to develop a recreational halibut fishing plan designed to manage the sector within its total allowable catch (TAC), which is derived from the Annual Meeting outcome. In 2020, fishing plans were developed that projected the 877,750 pound TAC would be caught by December 2020. Due primarily to reduced effort and catch resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, the BC recreational sector only caught 518,974 pounds of the TAC in 2020. The ability to increase the daily limit could have provided opportunity to harvest more of the TAC later in the season when there were indications the TAC would likely not be caught. Given the possibility that Covid-19 restrictions will continue to affect travel and participation in recreational fishing in BC in 2021, an increase to the daily limit set in IPHC regulations is proposed as one tool that could provide more flexibility to adjust harvest opportunities in-season based on a review of in-season catch data.

DISCUSSION

The 2021 BC recreational fishery TAC is 914,750 pounds. The SFAB has recommended a fishing plan for 2021 that would increase the probability of harvesting the 2021 recreational TAC., given the result in 2020. Their proposal seeks an increase in the maximum size to 133 cm (from 126 cm in 2020) and starting the season at two (2) per day for halibut under 90 cm (started at one (1) per day in 2020). The 2021 fishing plan also includes an increase to the annual halibut limit from six (6) per year to ten (10) per year. The SFAB is seeking additional regulatory tools to either ramp up or ramp down the harvest rate as in-season catch data becomes available to indicate progress towards the TAC. The SFAB has requested that DFO look at ways to increase the daily and possession limit as a means to achieve this. The Canadian regulatory framework allows DFO fishery managers to set conditions of licence on the BC Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence (BCTWSFL) prior to the beginning of the fishing season (typically used to set size limits and associated size limits) and to use Variation Orders to adjust daily limits in-season. Catch rates for the BC recreational fishery are monitored monthly using available catch monitoring data (creel survey, internet based surveys [iRec], and logbooks). Monthly catch estimates are combined with in-season forecasting models to project catches to the end of the fishing season (Dec 31). The BC recreational halibut fishery also has an overage carry-over provision, whereby if the catch exceeds the TAC in one season, the resulting overage is deducted from the following season's TAC.

BCTWSFL conditions of licence must be finalized by mid-February each year in order for licences to be available in the DFO licencing database for issuance at the beginning of the new recreational fishing season on April 1st. This regulatory request would be in place from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 and a post-season assessment of the regulation change will be undertaken.

Appendices

[Appendix A](#): Suggested IPHC Fishery Regulation Language

[Appendix B](#): Relevant Proposed BC Tidal Water Sport Fishing Licence Conditions of Licence for Halibut

APPENDIX A

Suggested Regulatory Language

28. Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B

- (1) In all waters off British Columbia: ^{6, 7}
- (a) the recreational (sport) fishing season will open on 1 February unless more restrictive regulations are in place;
 - (b) the recreational (sport) fishing season will close when the recreational (sport) fishery limit allocated by DFO is taken, or 31 December, whichever is earlier; and
 - (c) the daily bag limit is **three (3) ~~two~~** Pacific halibut of any size per day per person.
- (2) In British Columbia, no person shall fillet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a Pacific halibut in any manner that prevents the determination of minimum size or the number of fish caught, possessed, or landed.
- (3) The possession limit for Pacific halibut in the waters off the coast of British Columbia is three Pacific halibut ^{6, 7}.

⁶ DFO could implement more restrictive regulations for the recreational (sport) fishery, therefore anglers are advised to check the current Federal or Provincial regulations prior to fishing.

⁷ For regulations on the experimental recreational fishery implemented by DFO check the current Federal or Provincial regulations.

APPENDIX B

Relevant Proposed BC Tidal Water Sport Fishing Licence Conditions of Licence for Halibut

No person shall catch and retain more than ten (10) halibut in the aggregate from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

No person shall retain a halibut greater than 133 cm head-on length.

If the Daily Limit is one (1) or two (2), the Possession Limit is EITHER of: one (1) halibut measuring from 90 cm to 133 cm head-on length - OR - two (2) halibut measuring under 90 cm head-on length.

If the Daily Limit is three (3), the Possession Limit is EITHER of: one (1) halibut measuring from 90 cm to 133 cm head-on length – OR - three (3) halibut measuring under 90 cm head-on length.