

Agenda Item 2 – Brief History of NPFMC/IPHC/NMFS Interactions

Historically, coordination of our respective management and research processes has consisted of the following:

Council involvement in IPHC process

- Council staff regularly attends annual and interim meetings of the IPHC. Some Council members have also attended IPHC meetings, primarily in their personal, stakeholder capacity.
- Council staff provides the IPHC with an ‘annual management letter’ which summarizes issues of mutual interest, progress on Council management initiatives related to halibut fisheries or bycatch, and items which require IPHC complementary regulatory actions.
- Council staff makes presentations to IPHC (or its advisory bodies) as necessary during the course of the IPHC meeting and addresses questions from the IPHC (or its advisory bodies) to assist the IPHC decision-making process.
- Council staff, or Council members, participate in working groups of the IPHC, at the invitation of the IPHC, such as the Halibut Bycatch Working Group and the Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB).

IPHC involvement in Council process

- IPHC staff regularly attend Council meetings to track, and provide recommendations on, Council agenda items related to halibut, typically 5 meetings per year. Some IPHC Commissioners attend Council meetings on a periodic basis, primarily in their personal, stakeholder capacity.
- IPHC staff provide agency reports to the Council summarizing IPHC actions of Council interest, and IPHC annual CEY determinations (particularly at our December and February Council meetings, but at other meetings as necessary), and are available to assist the Council in its decision-making process.
- IPHC staff participate in Council Committee processes related to halibut, such as our Charter Halibut Committee, where annual management measures are developed for recommendation to the Council and to the IPHC, as well as the Council’s IFQ Implementation Committee, and EM Working Group.
- IPHC staff contribute critical sections (data and analysis), on a periodic basis, to Council analyses (environmental impact statements, discussion papers, etc.) of proposed management actions.
- IPHC staff are active members of the Council’s Groundfish Plan Teams, and provide advice relative to annual groundfish specifications and halibut related issues (such as discard mortality rates, etc.). IPHC staff are also important members on Council working groups concerning analyses and modelling of groundfish and crab stocks.
- IPHC staff occupy a seat on the Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee, where they provide scientific advice on numerous biological and economic issues related to both groundfish and halibut fisheries.

Coordination with NMFS

-NMFS staff regularly attend interim and annual meetings of the IPHC, and at the annual meeting provide a detailed annual report to the IPHC on issues related to halibut management. Information included in this annual report includes charter boat fishery catch statistics; bycatch statistics from groundfish (and halibut) fisheries; status of observer program changes; status of other regulatory changes related to halibut (including IFQ fishery regulations); and proposed management measures for charter fisheries in upcoming year (detailing Council recommendations).

- The Commission and NMFS jointly support, with ADF&G, the eLandings database and infrastructure for catch data from the groundfish, halibut, crab, and salmon fisheries in Alaska.

-NMFS staff make presentations to and advise the IPHC (and its advisory bodies) on these issues as necessary, and are available throughout the IPHC meetings as a resource to assist the Commission in its decision making.

-NMFS Alaska Regional Administrator serves as both Council member and one of three U.S. IPHC Commissioners.

-IPHC and NMFS Alaska Fisheries Science Center are partners with the University of Alaska Fairbanks in a three-year NPRB-funded study of halibut size at age.

-Ongoing cooperative research activities include Pacific cod, dogfish and sleeper shark, skate, and other species sampling during the IPHC setline survey to support NMFS stock assessments.

- IPHC and AFSC Observer Program staff jointly conducted and reported a study on the implementation of electronic monitoring for longline vessels.

-IPHC collects sablefish logbook data each year through its port sampling program, on contract to NMFS.

- The IPHC Executive Director chaired the programmatic review panel for the AFSC Stock Assessment Science Program and IPHC staff participated in the programmatic review of the NWFSC Stock Assessment Science Program.

- An AFSC scientist is one of three members of the IPHC Scientific Review Board.

Recent advances in coordination

-Joint meeting of Council and IPHC scheduled for February 5, 2015.

-Ongoing exchange of correspondence between IPHC and Council concerning bycatch.

-IPHC and NMFS staff working-level initiative to establish protocols for reporting catch and bycatch data, and for estimation of in-season bycatch mortality.

-Also note, ADF&G is an active participant in the IPHC process, particularly to provide information on halibut subsistence catch, sport fish catch, and (in recent years) analysis of charter boat fishery management measures for IPHC consideration.