

# INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

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## QUESTIONNAIRE ON 1977 REGULATIONS

In December, a questionnaire was sent to fishing captains on the IPHC mailing list to obtain proposals for regulations in 1977. Questions also were asked concerning fishing activities in 1976. The questionnaire was similar to the one used last year and will supplement information received from fishermen's unions, vessel owner groups, and other organizations. Over 700 questionnaires were mailed and 176 or 25% were returned. Many of the respondents explained their views on particular topics and made worthwhile comments on subjects other than those requested in the questionnaire. A brief summary of the replies is presented in the following paragraphs.

Proposals for the quota in Area 2 ranged from 8 to 20 million pounds and in Area 3 from 10 to 20 million pounds. Opening dates ranged from April 1 to June 10 and statutory closing dates from August 1 to November 1. There was little difference between the proposals from the Canadian and U.S. fleets and between those from Area 2 and Area 3 fishermen.

The "average recommendations" of Canadian respondents were for a quota of 13 million pounds in Areas 2 and 3, an opening date of May 5, and a statutory closing date of September 15. The average U.S. respondent preferred quotas of 13 million pounds in Areas 2 and 3, an opening date of May 9, and a statutory closing date of September 10. When the information from the two fleets was combined, the average for catch limits in Areas 2 and 3 was 13 million pounds, the opening date was May 7, and the closing date was September 12.

In response to specific questions, 70% reported that they did not catch more undersized fish in 1976 than in 1975, 32% used a longer soak now than they did in earlier years, 60% would accept just a head-off measurement for the minimum size, 48% said undersized fish were adequately protected, 63% favored limited entry for the halibut fishery, and 96% thought IPHC should continue to manage the halibut fishery.