



21 May 2020

**IPHC CIRCULAR 2020-012**

**SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL DECISIONS (18 March – 21 May 2020)**

Dear Commissioners,

In accordance with Rule 11, paragraphs 4-10 ‘*Intersessional decision-making*’ of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2020\)](#), I am pleased to provide you with the following intersessional Commission decisions for your information. All decisions were adopted by consensus (*In favour=6; Against=0; No response=0*). No further action is required by Commissioners at this time:

**Note:** References to paragraphs and appendices refer to the Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Session (SS07) which is available on the IPHC website: <https://www.iphc.int/venues/details/7th-special-session-of-the-iphc-ss07>

**I. Alaska Charter Sector Allocation – IPHC Regulatory Areas 2c And 3a**

IPHC-2020-ID007 ([para. 8](#)) The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS07-PropA1, which amends Sect. 29 of the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E. The amendments (provided at [Appendix III](#)) are to:

- a) Regulatory Area 2C - implement a reverse slot limit with a lower limit of 45 inches (increased from 40 inches) for recreational charter anglers for the remainder of the 2020 season;
- b) Regulatory Area 3A – modify the lower limit from 26 inches to 32 inches; No annual limit and no daily closures, for the remainder of the 2020 season.

**II. Pacific Halibut Bycatch In The Washington Sablefish Fishery**

IPHC-2020-ID008 ([para. 13](#)) The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS07-PropA2, which amended the deadline for when a vessel operating in the incidental catch fishery during the sablefish fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A must have submitted its “Application for Vessel License for the Pacific Halibut Fishery” form. The amendments (provided at [Appendix IV](#)) modify the deadline for submission from 15 March to 29 May 2020. The extension was made based solely on the potential negative impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic may have had on the licences and does not set a precedent for future years.

**III. Intersessional meeting formats**

IPHC-2020-ID09 ([para. 19](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat prepare draft guidelines for intersessional meetings to compliment those already contained with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020), given the potential ongoing COVID-19 impacts.



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**IV. Review of the draft and adoption of the Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the IPHC (SS07)**

IPHC-2020-ID010 ([para. 21](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC *Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2020)* within 24 hours, **NOTING** that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the SS07.

Please consider the date of this IPHC Circular to be the official ‘*date of notification*’ of the decisions detailed above, in accordance with Rule 11, paragraph 10 of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2020\)](#).

Yours sincerely

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**APPENDICES**

Nil.