



**IPHC Fishery Regulation Proposal:
Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5) - TCEY floor in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A**

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Directed Commercial Recreational Subsistence Non-directed commercial All
All Regulatory Areas All Alaska Regulatory Areas All U.S. Regulatory Areas
2A 2B 2C 3A 3B 4A 4B 4C 4D 4E

PURPOSE

To propose a constant TCEY floor in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

From 2019 to 2022, Regulatory Area 2A has received a fixed TCEY allocation of 1.65Mlbs. This allocation, put in place in accordance with the Makah Tribe’s 2019 proposal, has provided a consistent and biologically justified TCEY for an Area which has minimal impact on the larger halibut biomass to the north. Regulatory Area 2A represents a small fraction of the Region 2 allocation, and of the overall Pacific halibut stock. As such, a higher IPHC Regulatory Area 2A TCEY than what may be indicated by the biological distribution of the stock estimate which the IPHC Secretariat generates will not create a biological conservation concern. This has been demonstrated in recent years with the 4-year 1.65Mlbs agreement resulting in high rates of attainment in various sectors and no observed drop in survey WPUE/NPUE outside of expected variability relating to recent FISS design choices. In addition, prior to the 4-year agreement in 2019, the Commission has set TCEYs higher than the levels suggested by the harvest decision table.

Recent experience suggests that a constant TCEY floor in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A can be sustained by the biomass available in Region 2. Historically, variable TCEY allocations and declines below a certain threshold in fishery limits from year to year created significant uncertainty and hardship for 13 halibut tribes and three coastal states (California, Oregon and Washington) dependent on the Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. A stable TCEY of 1.65Mlbs reduces the variability and uncertainty for all fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, and should be used as a floor level in annual TCEY decisions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** fishery regulation proposal IPHC-2022-IM098-PropC2, which proposes a constant TCEY floor in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Suggested Regulatory Language.

APPENDIX A**SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE**

Adopt a TCEY for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A that supports a TCEY no lower than 1.65Mlb. In years when the distribution would indicate a TCEY higher than 1.65Mlb is available, that number would be adopted.