



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

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DISTRIBUTION:

Participants in the Session
Members of the Commission
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY

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HALIBUT COMMISSION

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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.