



INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC
HALIBUT COMMISSION

IPHC-2020-SS08-00

The 8th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08) –
Compendium of meeting documents

17 September 2020, Seattle, WA, USA

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Report of the 8th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08)

Meeting held electronically, 17 September 2020

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Paul Ryall	Chris Oliver
Neil Davis	Robert Alverson
Peter DeGreef	Richard Yamada

Executive Director

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.

DISTRIBUTION:

Participants in the Session
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IPHC Secretariat

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY

IPHC 2020. Report of the 8th Session of the IPHC (SS08).
Electronic meeting, 17 September 2020.
IPHC-2020-SS08-R, 10 pp.



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ACRONYMS

ID	Intersessional Decision
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	Opening of the Session.....	6
2	Adoption of the Agenda and arrangements for the special session.....	6
3	Fishing Period Extension – IPHC Regulatory Area 2b.....	6
4	Recreatioanl fishery limit rollover – IPHC Regulatory Area 2b.....	6
5	Other Business.....	7
6	Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 8 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08).....	7
	Appendix I Agenda for the 8 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08).....	8
	Appendix II List of Documents for the 8 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08)	9
	Appendix III Consolidated set of intersessional decisions from the 8 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08) (17 September 2020)	10

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 8th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS08) was held electronically, on 17 September 2020. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), and Vice-Chairperson Mr Chris Oliver (USA), who outlined the need for a special session.

The following is the intersessional decision from the SS08, which is also provided at [Appendix III](#).

Fishing period extension – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B

IPHC-2020-ID014 ([para. 4](#)) The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1 by consensus, which amends Sect. 9, of the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations, by extending the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B to 7 December 2020. The amended text shall read as follows:

9. Commercial Fishing Periods

- (3) *All commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas shall cease for the year at 1200 local time on 15 November, with the exception of IPHC Regulatory Area 2B which shall cease at 1200 local time on 7 December 2020.*

1 OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 8th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS08) was held electronically, on 17 September 2020. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), and Vice-Chairperson Mr Chris Oliver (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 SS08 are listed in [Appendix II](#). In addition to the 6 Commissioners, the meeting was attended by 69 stakeholders via the interactive meeting platform.

3 FISHING PERIOD EXTENSION – IPHC REGULATORY AREA 2B

3. The Commission **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1 which outlined considerations relating to a regulatory proposal from Canada to extend the 2020 directed commercial fishery fishing period (fishing season) in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B from 15 November 2020, until 20 February 2021. Specifically:

“DFO has received a request from the Halibut Advisory Board (HAB) industry advisor members (commercial vessel owners, seafood processors and union reps), in conjunction with the Pacific Halibut Management Association of BC (PHMA) have proposed to extend the Pacific Region commercial Pacific halibut season to February 20, 2021 (23:59 hours), for the 2020 season only. They have made this request in order to increase market opportunities and alleviate the impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Attached is a copy of their request.”

“We will need to update Quota Management System with the modified commercial Conditions of Licence for all Groundfish H&L fisheries. Additionally, our quota officers will need to process a large volume of amendment requests in order to authorize folks to fish and land Halibut past Nov. 15th, so the more lead time they have for this the better. There’s also some outstanding thoughts on port sampling requirements and perhaps compelling fishermen to land in one versus the other post Nov. 15th. Finally there is the need for fishermen to make business plans for their operation.”

4. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** amended regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1 by consensus, which amends Sect. 9, of the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations, by extending the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B to 7 December 2020. The amended text shall read as follows:

9. Commercial Fishing Periods

- (3) *All commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas shall cease for the year at 1200 local time on 15 November, with the exception of IPHC Regulatory Area 2B which shall cease at 1200 local time on 7 December 2020.*

4 RECREATIONAL FISHERY LIMIT ROLLOVER – IPHC REGULATORY AREA 2B

5. The Commission **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA2 which outlined considerations relating to a future (2021) regulatory proposal from Canada to allow 10% of the Canadian (IPHC Regulatory Area 2B) recreational fishery limit, if uncaught, to be added to the recreational fishery limit in 2021. Specifically:

“Recreational Pacific halibut fishery changes in response to COVID-19 for Area 2B: Recreational fisheries for Pacific halibut have experienced disruptions to fishing opportunities

and markets, and are proposing sector-specific management responses for consideration by DFO and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The recreational fishery is seeking an underage carryover provision that would allow 10% of this year's recreational TAC, if uncaught, to be added to the recreational TAC in 2021."

6. The Commission **NOTED** and **DEFERRED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA2 for further discussion at the 96th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM096; November 2020) and at the 97th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM097; in January 2021).

5 OTHER BUSINESS

7. Nil

6 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 8TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS08)

8. The Commission **AGREED** that the IPHC Secretariat should amend and publish the IPHC *Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2020)*.
9. The Report of the 8th Session of the IPHC (IPHC-2020-SS08-R) was **ADOPTED** via correspondence on 28 September 2020, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from SS08, provided at [Appendix III](#).

APPENDIX I
AGENDA FOR THE 8TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS08)

Date: 17 September 2020

Location and Venue: Electronic: Go-To-Meeting

Time: 13:00-16:00 (PST)

Chairperson: Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Chris Oliver (United States of America)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION** (*Chairperson: P. Ryall*)
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
(*Chairperson: P. Ryall*)
- 3. IPHC FISHERY REGULATION PROPOSALS**
 - 3.1** Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9). The commercial fishery is seeking a season extension, changing the closure from November 15, 2020 to February 21, 2021 (*Canada*)
 - 3.2** Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28). *The recreational fishery is seeking an underage carryover provision that would allow 10% of this year's recreational TAC, if uncaught, to be added to the recreational TAC in 2021 (Canada)*
- 4. OTHER BUSINESS** (*Chairperson: P. Ryall*)

APPENDIX II
LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 8TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS08)

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2020-SS08-01	Agenda for the 8 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08)	✓ 1 Sept 2020
IPHC-2020-SS08-02	List of Documents for the 8 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08)	✓ 2 Sept 2020
IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1	IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9)	✓ 1 Sept 2020
IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA2	IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28)	✓ 2 Sept 2020

APPENDIX III
**CONSOLIDATED SET OF INTERSESSIONAL DECISIONS FROM THE 8TH SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE IPHC (SS08) (17 SEPTEMBER 2020)**

Fishing period extension – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B

IPHC-2020-ID014 ([para. 4](#)) The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1 by consensus, which amends Sect. 9, of the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations, by extending the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B to 7 December 2020. The amended text shall read as follows:

9. Commercial Fishing Periods

- (3) *All commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas shall cease for the year at 1200 local time on 15 November, with the exception of IPHC Regulatory Area 2B which shall cease at 1200 local time on 7 December 2020.*



**AGENDA FOR THE 8th SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC
(SS08)**

Date: 17 September 2020

Location and Venue: Electronic: Go-To-Meeting

Time: 13:00-16:00 (PST)

Chairperson: Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Chris Oliver (United States of America)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (*Chairperson: P. Ryall*)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
(*Chairperson: P. Ryall*)
3. **IPHC FISHERY REGULATION PROPOSALS**
 - 3.1 Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9). The commercial fishery is seeking a season extension, changing the closure from November 15, 2020 to February 21, 2021 (*Canada*)
 - 3.2 Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28). *The recreational fishery is seeking an underage carryover provision that would allow 10% of this year's recreational TAC, if uncaught, to be added to the recreational TAC in 2021* (*Canada*)
4. **OTHER BUSINESS** (*Chairperson: P. Ryall*)



**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 8th SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC
(SS08)**

Last update: 2 September 2020

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2020-SS08-01	Agenda for the 8 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08)	✓ 1 Sept 2020
IPHC-2020-SS08-02	List of Documents for the 8 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS08)	✓ 2 Sept 2020
IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1	IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9)	✓ 1 Sept 2020
IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA2	IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28)	✓ 2 Sept 2020



IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations:

Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (2 SEPTEMBER 2020)

PURPOSE

To outline considerations relating to a future (2021) regulatory proposal from Canada to allow 10% of the Canadian (IPHC Regulatory Area 2B) recreational fishery limit, if uncaught, to be added to the recreational fishery limit in 2021.

“Recreational Pacific halibut fishery changes in response to COVID-19 for Area 2B: Recreational fisheries for Pacific halibut have experienced disruptions to fishing opportunities and markets, and are proposing sector-specific management responses for consideration by DFO and the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The recreational fishery is seeking an underage carryover provision that would allow 10% of this year’s recreational TAC, if uncaught, to be added to the recreational TAC in 2021.”

TOPICS FOR CONSIDERATION – 2021 RECREATIONAL MORTALITY LIMITS

Biological and stock assessment

Currently, harvests that are projected but not completely taken are factored into the following year’s mortality or fishery limits through the annual stock assessment and population dynamics themselves. In that manner, leaving Pacific halibut “in the water” in 2020 would have an impact on the yield available for 2021. A planned increase in quota carried over from the previous year would therefore be **double-counting** the rollover. Mortality that is projected for 2020 and not caught is not a simple 1:1 addition to the assessment, due to natural mortality, Pacific halibut movement, and updating of the stock trend.

Additionally, the biological benefits from one sector leaving allocation unfished would not necessarily flow to just that sector in 2021. Beyond the impact of the unfished Pacific halibut as incorporated into the stock assessment, a more explicit ‘carryover’ of Pacific halibut from the recreational allocation in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B in 2020 into the recreational allocation in 2021 could be expressed by either harvesting at a greater intensity in 2021 (but leaving the catch sharing allocation intact) or through an allocation shift among sectors.

If the carryover constitutes a change in catch sharing allocations, this would be addressed domestically by the Contracting Party. IPHC mortality projections associated with adopted limits would be adjusted accordingly. If the rollover is to be addressed by an increase in overall fishing intensity in 2021, the IPHC would need to consider this during our Annual Meeting. Regardless of the methods used to achieve a carryover, it is presumed that this issue would be addressed after the recreational charter season ends and during the normal process for setting annual Pacific halibut mortality or fishery limits, which would provide a better understanding of the full extent of any unharvested Pacific halibut.

Conclusion: Any recreational fishery carryover approach would not increase the overall yield in 2021 relative to the reference level of fishing intensity; all potential yield will already be included in the assessment and management procedure results. To accommodate any carryover, impacts on sharing agreements would need to be carefully considered by the Contracting Party.

IPHC Regulations

The IPHC has the ability to modify its Fishery Regulations to allow for changes in domestic catch agreements and allocation of the TCEY for an IPHC Regulatory Area. In such a case, the IPHC is able to revise and publish its Fishery Regulations within 24 hours.

Conclusion: To accommodate a change in domestic catch agreements, the IPHC would take less than 24 hours.

SUMMARY

Any fishery yield not harvested in 2020 will be included in 2021 stock assessment projections regardless of a carryover. Changes to recreational management measures in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B are a Contracting Party concern, with the IPHC Regulations currently providing a responsive vehicle for application and adherence to domestic catch sharing arrangements. Mortality limits would remain unchanged and still apply. Any changes to domestic catch sharing arrangements may be considered including carryover options recognizing mortality limits and the resulting level of fishing intensity will be set by the IPHC at the 97th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM097) in January 2021. The IPHC Secretariat is generally not in favour of rolling over unused quota from one fishing period to the next for the reasons detailed above.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA2 which outlines considerations relating to a proposal from Canada to allow 10% of the Canadian (IPHC Regulatory Area 2B) recreational fishery limit, if uncaught, to be added to the recreational fishery limit in 2021.

APPENDICES

Nil.