



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
605 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 306, Anchorage, AK 99501
Phone 907-271-2809 | www.npfmc.org

May 11, 2020

Dr. David Wilson, Executive Director
International Pacific Halibut Commission
2320 West Commodore Way, Suite 300
Seattle, WA 98199-1287
Via Email: david.wilson@iphc.int, secretariat@iphc.int

Dear Dr. Wilson,

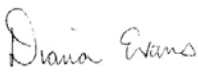
The North Pacific Fishery Management Council is scheduled to meet via webconference on May 15, 2020, for a special session to address emergency rule requests. In particular, the Council has received two requests which, if supported by the Council, would also require coordination with and decision-making by the IPHC to implement. We would welcome any input you or your staff may wish to provide before the Council meeting to inform the Council's deliberations, especially as it relates to understanding the operational and policy implications of these two proposals.

Proposals and associated materials are listed on the Council's electronic agenda for May, available at <https://meetings.npfmc.org/Meeting/Details/1463>. The first proposal that would require IPHC coordination was received from the charter halibut industry operating out of regulatory Areas 2C and 3A (agenda item B2). This proposal requests amendment to the established 2020 charter halibut management measures for 2020 in Areas 2C and 3A, and also the establishment of a mechanism to rollover any unfinished allocation from the 2020 season into 2021.

The second proposal that would require IPHC coordination (agenda item [C4](#)) is a request that the fishing season for the commercial halibut and sablefish fisheries be extended to a year-round fishery.

We would be pleased to receive to any input you may wish to provide at this time. If the Council decides to support these emergency rule requests at the May 15th meeting, please expect to hear from us formally with a request that the IPHC consider these changes intersessionally. In the meantime, we hope you and your staff are keeping well and look forward to continued coordination with the IPHC and your staff.

Sincerely,

p.p. 

David Witherell
Executive Director