

News Release



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CHANGES TO THE IPHC INTERIM AND ANNUAL MEETINGS

The International Pacific Halibut Commission has adopted several changes to the schedule and format for its Interim and Annual Meetings. The Commission developed these changes in response to recommendations from the 2012 Performance Review and using input from stakeholders across the halibut community. They are designed to improve the workings of the Commission by making its meetings and deliberations more open and transparent to the public. The new meeting formats will be used for the 2012 Interim Meeting and the 2013 Annual Meeting, after which they will be re-evaluated with stakeholder input to make further improvements for the next meeting cycle. The primary changes are noted in the following meeting announcements.

2012 IPHC INTERIM MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The International Pacific Halibut Commission's Interim Meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, on **Wednesday and Thursday, November 28 and 29, 2012** at the offices of the IPHC. The meeting will begin at 9:00am PST on Wednesday and run through Thursday afternoon.

The primary change to the Interim Meeting is to make more of its sessions accessible to the public via webcast. In past meetings, only the initial staff presentations were webcast. This year, except for the finance and administration session at the end of the second day, **all sessions will be webcast and the webcast is open to the public. Another important change will be the opportunity for the public to ask questions of the presenters and/or Commissioners during these sessions.**

More time has been added to this year's Interim Meeting schedule to accommodate additional agenda items. The meeting will start with a discussion of the 2012 Performance Review and IPHC planning efforts, and continue in the afternoon of the first day with the customary slate of presentations and discussion.

The draft agenda, registration for the webcasts, and other Interim Meeting information is posted at <http://www.iphc.int/meetings-and-events.html>. This information will be updated as the agenda and other details are finalized. Results from the meeting, including staff assessment of the fishery and harvest advice, will be published in a news release after the Interim Meeting.

Commissioners from each government determine in-person attendance at the Interim Meeting and should be contacted for information and attendance requests. For those attending the Interim Meeting, rooms are available at \$137 per night at the Edgewater Hotel (www.edgewaterhotel.com). Please identify yourself as attending the *IPHC Interim Meeting*. For reservations, please contact Tracy Torre by phone at (206) 269-4568 or via email at torre@edgewaterhotel.com, or call the general reservations number at (800) 624-0670 during regular business hours and ask for "in-house reservations."

Please see Information Bulletin 70 for a discussion of the changes to the IPHC staff harvest advice (<http://www.iphc.int/library/bulletins/300-ib0070.html>).

2013 IPHC ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Eighty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the International Pacific Halibut Commission will be held from **Monday, January 21 through Friday, January 25, 2013** at The Fairmont Empress in Victoria, BC. A block of rooms has been reserved for attendees at the hotel **until December 21, 2012** at a special rate of \$119 CAD for a single (Fairmont type), plus taxes. After the cut-off date, the rate and/or rooms may not be available. The Fairmont Empress is located at 721 Government Street, Victoria, BC. Please identify yourself as attending the *International Pacific Halibut Commission Annual Meeting* to receive the special rate and ensure room availability. For reservations please call (250) 384-8111 or visit the meeting site available at: <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/intl-pacifichalibutcomm>.

The changes to the Annual Meeting are designed to make its proceedings more open and transparent. In contrast to previous Annual Meetings, this year **all public sessions and administrative sessions will be open to the public. These open sessions will also be webcast.**

In addition, more time has been added throughout the schedule to accommodate the open session formats and public discussion. **This year's meeting will begin on Monday afternoon** (January 21, 2013) and run through mid-day on Friday (January 25). Monday afternoon will open with presentations on the fishery, stock assessment, harvest policy, and staff harvest advice, topics which were presented on Tuesday morning at previous Annual Meetings. The 2012 Performance Review will be discussed in public session on Tuesday. The Annual Meeting will conclude with Commission approval of regulations and catch limits on Friday.

The Commission will distribute a brief summary of stock assessment information and staff harvest advice as soon as possible following the Interim Meeting. This information will also be available on the Commission's webpage at <http://www.iphc.int>. **Proposals for 2013 catch limit changes should be submitted to the Commission by December 30, 2012.** A summary of all proposals will be posted on the IPHC website when available.

The Commission also invites the public to submit requests for 2013 regulatory changes (season length, clearances in Area 4, logbook reporting measures, etc.) or management actions for review at the Annual Meeting. The deadline date for submission is November 2, 2012. The Commission will not guarantee consideration of proposals received after this date. The submission form can be downloaded from the IPHC website or can be requested by calling the Commission offices at (206) 634-1838. A summary of all proposals will be posted on the IPHC website when available.

The 2013 IPHC Annual Meeting Schedule of Sessions and the corresponding hotel meeting rooms will be released in December 2012. Current information regarding the Annual Meeting, including regulation and catch limit proposal forms, can be located on the Annual Meeting page of the Commission's website (<http://www.iphc.int/meetings-and-events/annual-meeting.html>) or by calling the IPHC office at (206) 634-1838. The Commission's website will be updated regularly with new information as the meeting date approaches.

Please see Information Bulletin 70 for a discussion of the changes to the IPHC staff harvest advice (<http://www.iphc.int/library/bulletins/300-ib0070.html>).