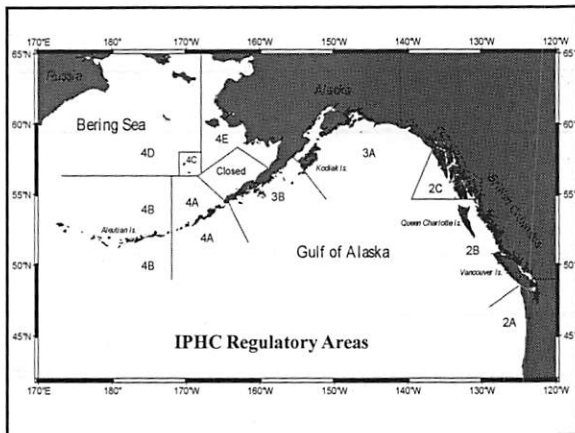


**2010 IPHC Catch Limit
and Regulatory
Changes**



Stock Condition Indicators

- ❖ Survey WPUE
- ❖ Commercial WPUE
- ❖ Biological characteristics
- ❖ Analytic stock assessment
- ❖ Independent estimates of absolute abundance

10/9/10

2010 IPHC Annual Meeting

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Catch Limit Concerns

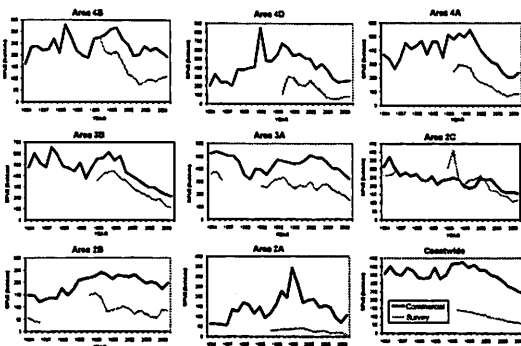
- ❖ Higher than target harvest rates in Area 2
- ❖ Catch composition
- ❖ Agency catch limit targets exceeded in some sport fisheries
- ❖ Extended impacts of bycatch mortality beyond areas of occurrence

10/9/10

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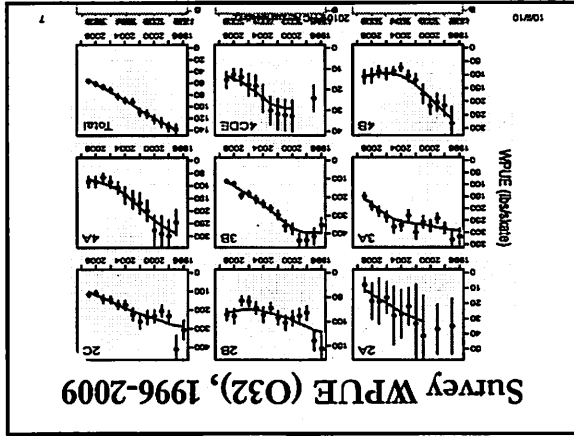
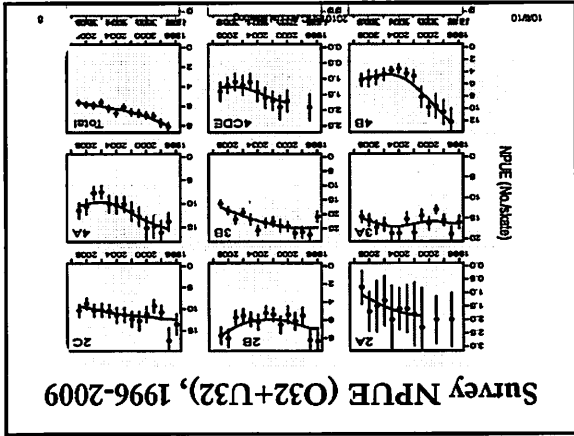
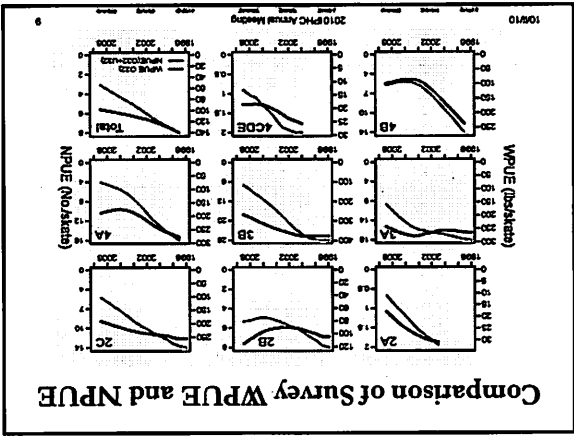
Recent changes in WPUE



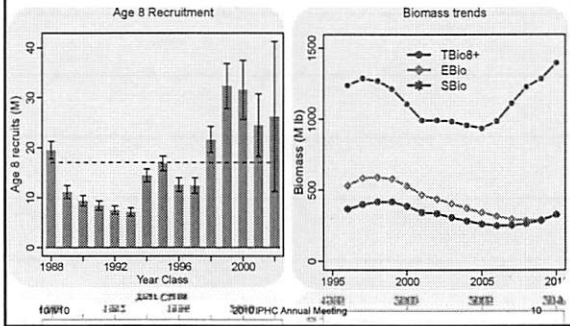
10/9/10

2010 IPHC Annual Meeting

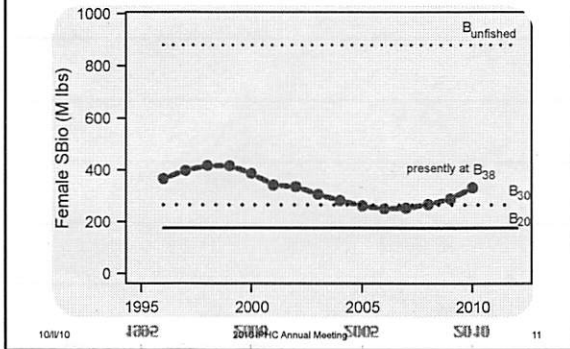
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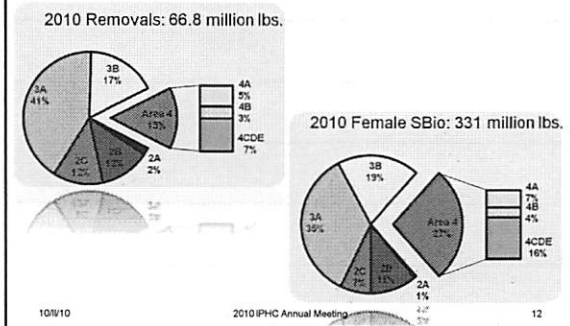
Recruitment and Biomass



Status of female spawning biomass



Distribution of SBio and Removals



Apportionment and Adjustments

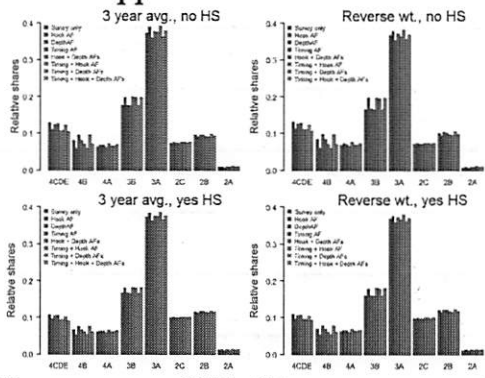
Adjustment Factors	Time weighting	Data Combinations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hook competition ❖ Survey timing ❖ Depth stratification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Three-year simple average (1:1:1) ❖ Three-year reverse weighted (2:2:1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Survey data alone ❖ Survey data:15-yr removal share (2:1 ratio)

10/1/10

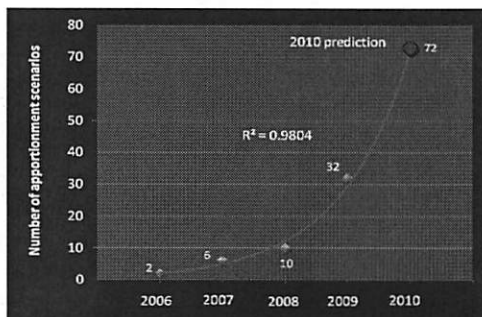
2010 IPHC Annual Meeting

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Apportionment shares



Trend in Apportionment Scenarios



Apportionment Adjustment Evaluation I

- ◆ Hook competition
 - ◆ Reflects availability of baits to halibut
 - ◆ Data available
 - ◆ Only one of many potential correlates possible
- ◆ Survey timing
 - ◆ Reasonable premise
 - ◆ Data available
 - ◆ Staff developed method to estimate timing effect
- ◆ Depth stratification
 - ◆ Post-stratification undesirable
 - ◆ Sensitive to data and strata definition
 - ◆ No areas have AF significantly different from 1.0

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Apportionment Adjustment Evaluation II

- ◆ Time weighting : Simple average (1:1:1)
 - ◆ Index inherently variable, needs averaging
 - ◆ Reverse weighting places too much emphasis on the most recent data
 - ◆ Inter-annual variability may be unrelated to abundance
 - ◆ Can result in overly aggressive harvesting
 - ◆ Will be evaluated formally during 2010
- ◆ Data combinations : Survey data alone
 - ◆ Surveys highly standardized and consistent
 - ◆ Historical shares will not respond to stock abundance

10/9/10

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2010 Projected Other Removals

	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Sport catch	0.401	1.095	2.032	5.616	0.025	0.039	0.000	0.000	8.208
O32 bycatch	0.245	0.105	0.128	1.918	0.562	1.063	0.218	1.550	6.089
Personal use	0.029	0.405	0.458	0.337	0.042	0.020	0.005	0.048	1.342
O32 wastage	0.001	0.012	0.012	0.042	0.021	0.009	0.006	0.014	0.117
Total	0.676	1.617	2.630	7.913	0.650	1.131	0.229	1.610	16.756
Total, excludes sport catch in Areas 2A and 2B and personal use in 2A	0.246	0.522	2.630	7.913	0.650	1.131	0.229	1.610	15.231
GHL value in 2010			0.788	3.650					
Guided - actual 2009			1.302	2.564					
Unguided - actual 2009			1.244	1.966					
Total - actual 2009			2.546	4.530					

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Regulation Changes

IPHC Staff Changes

- ❖ **Area 2A License Requirement:** Change the regulations to reflect that Area 2A IPHC license requirements are not for persons fishing in Subarea 2A-1 as members of U.S. treaty Indian tribes.
- ❖ **License Numbers and State Fish Tickets:** Change regulation so that the vessel number required on State fish tickets is the state, federal, or tribal vessel number (not IPHC vessel number). Add to regulations that Washington tribal tickets can be used for landings; IPHC regulations that apply to State tickets would apply to tribal tickets.
- ❖ **Cape Spencer Light:** Update coordinates for this light to 58°11'56"N, 136°38'26"W.

10/2/10

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Other Issues I

GHL Management:

- ❖ The Commission relies on the contracting parties to achieve their domestic allocation goals and requests that the Council undertake all necessary measures to monitor and constrain charter halibut catch in Areas 2C and 3A to within GHL targets. Consistent overruns of the GHL in Area 2C impairs the Commission's ability to achieve its management goals.
- ❖ The IPHC supports the timely implementation of a Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for the commercial and guided fisheries. In the event CSP is not ready for 2011 implementation, the Staff was directed to develop alternative IPHC charter fishery regulations, for consideration at the IPHC 2011 Annual Meeting.
- ❖ To this end the IPHC supports timely and accurate accounting for recreational harvests and, in concept, a charter harvest ticket.

10/2/10

2010 IPHC Annual Meeting

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Other Issues II

On-board filleting:

- ❖ The IPHC did not change its regulations on possession of halibut fillets aboard vessels. However, staff was directed to continue working with other agencies and stakeholders to determine if procedures can be developed to accommodate some segments of the user community, e.g. live-aboards, multi-day charters, etc..

Stock assessment survey review

- ❖ Commission directed staff to incorporate consideration of changes to survey of Areas 2A, 2B, and northern 4D and 4E into its planned general review of the stock assessment survey.

10/2/10

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Other Issues III

Bycatch mortality

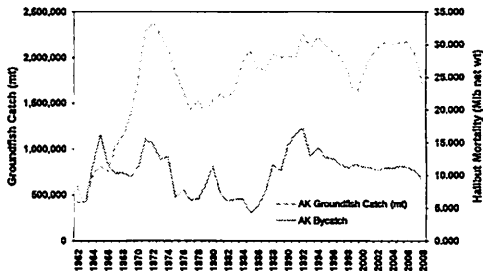
- ❖ Recent Commission research on halibut movements indicates greater extended impacts of bycatch mortality than currently estimated. Research on this issue continues but the IPHC is concerned about the adequacy of monitoring and estimation of bycatch mortality in the Gulf of Alaska. The Commission continues to believe that bycatch should and can be reduced in these fisheries, while preserving groundfish fishing opportunities.

10/9/10

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Alaska Groundfish Catch and Halibut Bycatch 1962-2008



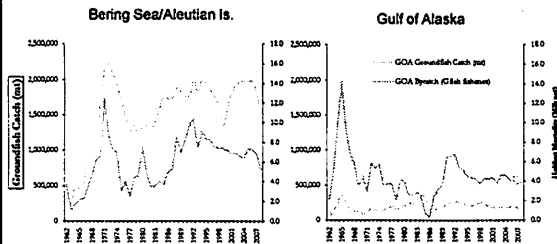
- 1971 - Peak of Bering Sea Foreign Trawl Fishery
- 1977 - 200 Mile Limit and EEZ
- 1980 - Beginning of buildup in JV fishing
- 1990 - Full "Americanization" of fishery

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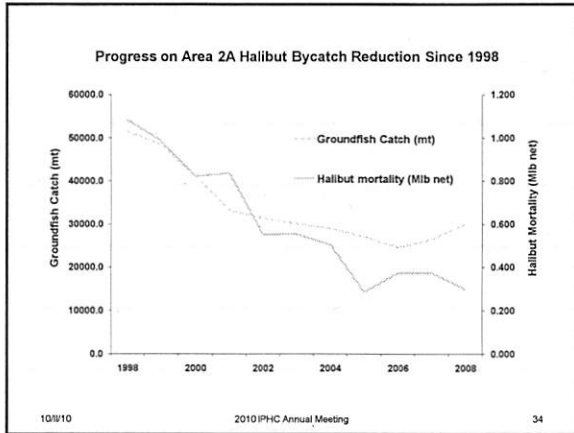
Groundfish Catch vs. Halibut Mortality

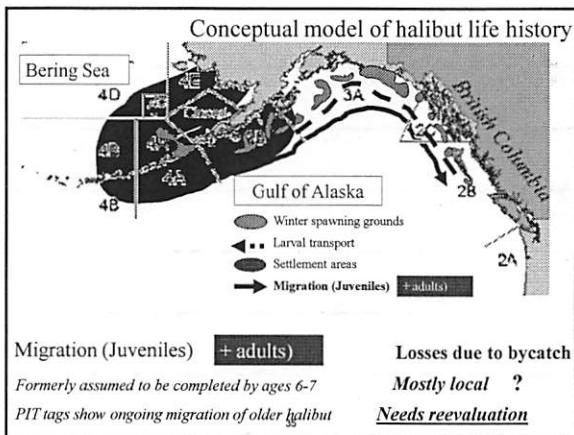


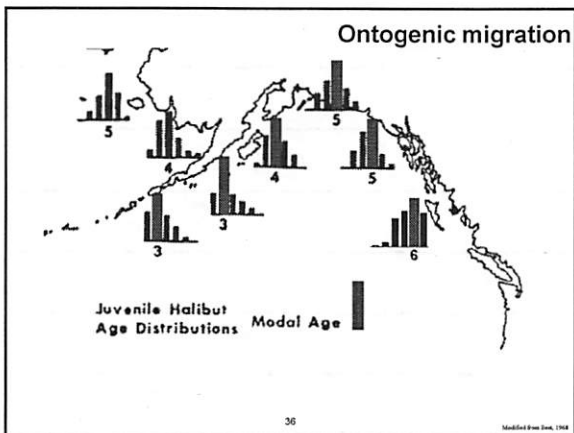
10/9/10

2010 IPHC Annual Meeting

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Halibut bycatch and migration

Migration (Juveniles) + adults Losses due to bycatch

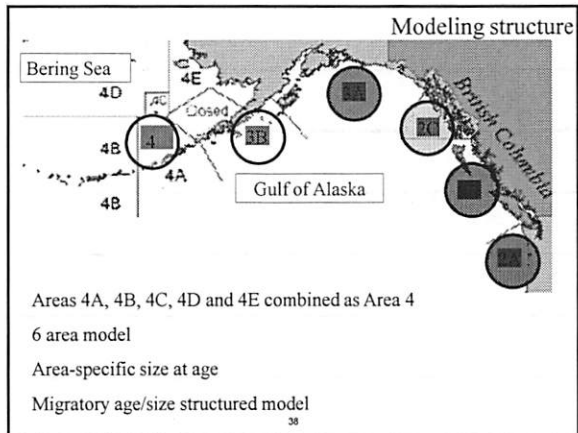
Formerly assumed to be completed by age 8 *Mostly local ?*

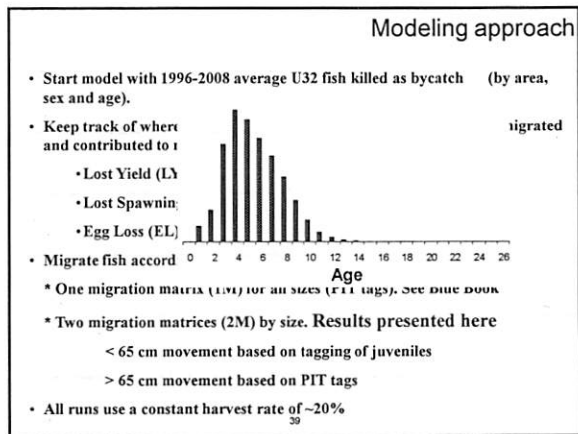
PIT tags show ongoing migration of older halibut *Needs reevaluation*

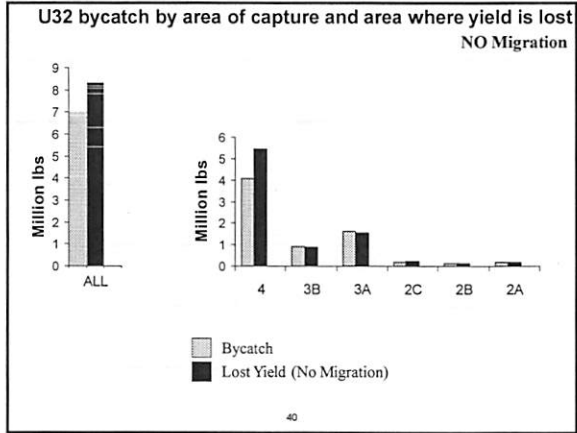
OBJECTIVE:

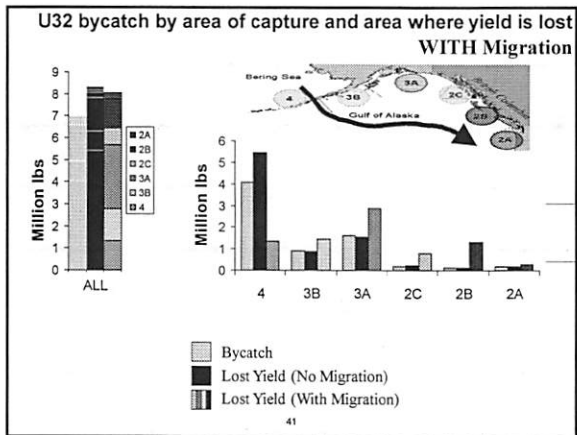
Evaluate coastwide and area specific impacts of U32 halibut bycatch on Lost Yield, Lost Spawning Biomass and Lost Egg Production when taking into account migration

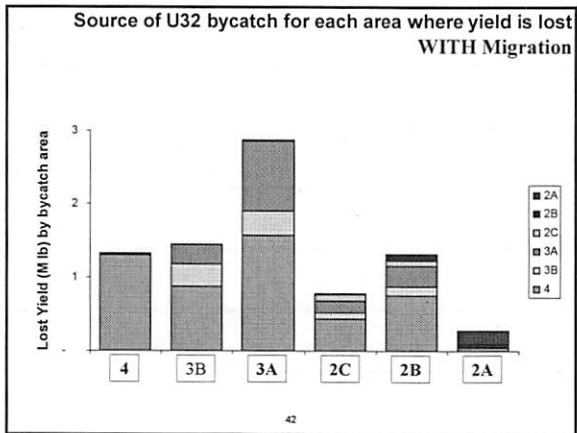
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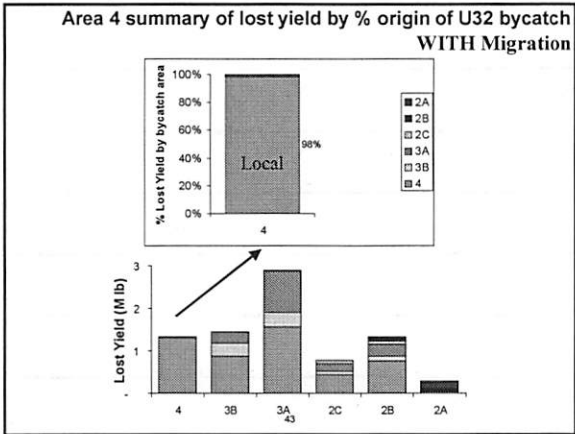


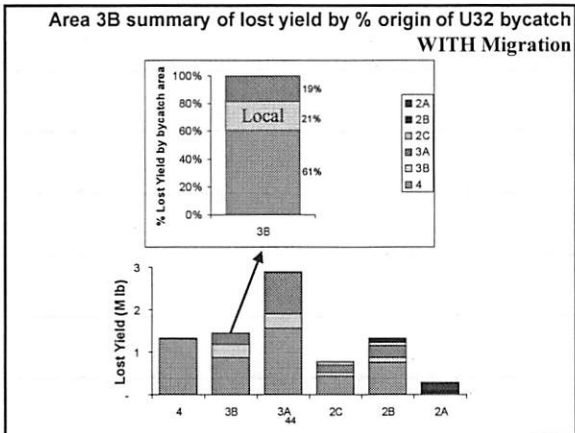


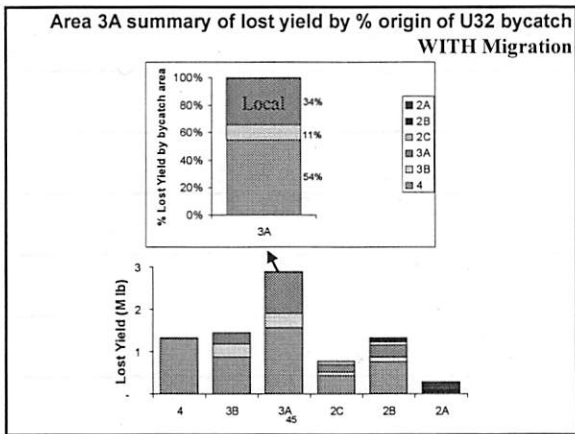


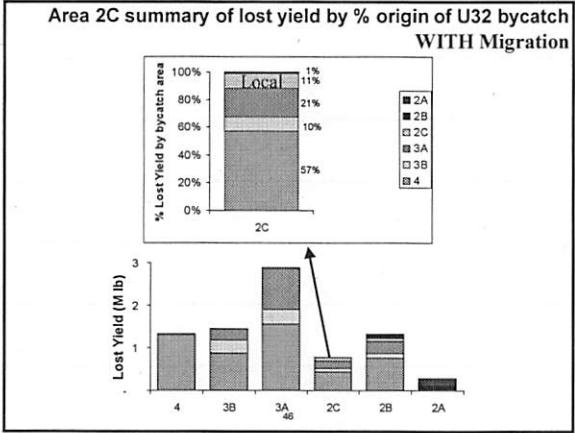


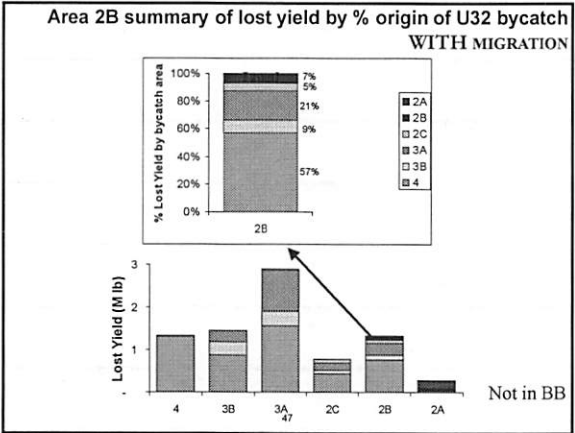


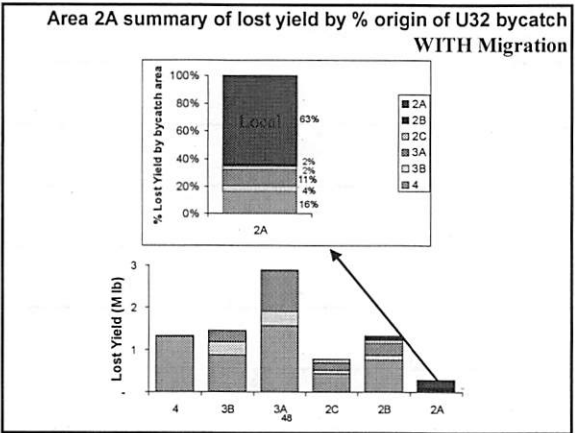












Major Issues Arising from Bycatch Workshop

- ❖ Examine bycatch estimates separately for Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska - DONE
- ❖ Re-examine validity of historical estimates of bycatch in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska - ONGOING
- ❖ Examine bycatch levels in relation to halibut abundance - ONGOING
- ❖ Reconvene the joint U.S. – Canada Halibut Bycatch Work Group and re-examine recommendations, targets, and progress. - ONGOING
- ❖ Continue research on estimating impacts of non-local bycatch on local yield - ONGOING

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2010 IPHC Annual Meeting

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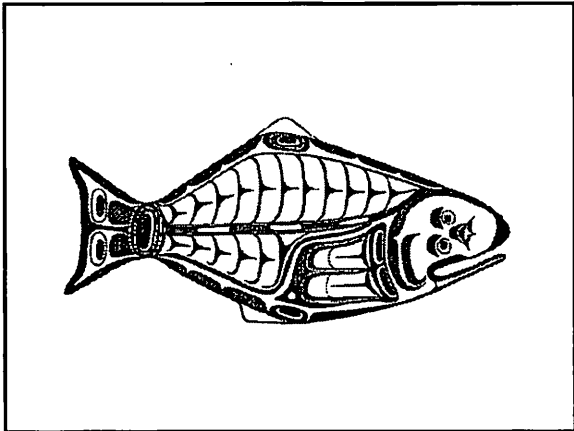
Workshops Output

- ❖ Reports of workshops: presentations, summary minutes, and staff responses to major comments and questions posted on the IPHC website:
www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/meetings/workshops.htm#reports
- ❖ Discussions from the IPHC online Forum are also posted on the website:
<https://tundra.iphc.washington.edu/iphc/blog/>
- ❖ All material from workshops on Commission annual CD
- ❖ Annual meeting and assessment information on IPHC website
www.iphc.washington.edu

10/0/10

2010 IPHC Annual Meeting

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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA

AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DIRECTOR
BRUCE M. LEAMAN

AGENDA B-4
Supplemental
February 2010

(206) 634-1838

FAX:
(206) 632-2983

February 3, 2010

Mr. Eric Olson, Chair
North Pacific Fishery Management Council
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, AK 99501-2252

Re: February 2010 Agenda Item B-4
VIA EMAIL

Dear Eric:

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) recently completed its Eighty-sixth Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA. I wish to inform the Council on the outcome of the discussions and convey several issues of mutual interest.

- 1. Halibut assessment and stock status.** The Commission staff reported on the 2009 Pacific halibut stock assessment which implemented a coastwide estimation of biomass, with apportionment to regulatory biomass based on the data from the annual Commission assessment survey. For 2010, the Commission staff recommended a 20% harvest rate for use in Areas 2A through 3A. The Commission staff expressed concern over continued declining catch rates in Area 3B and recommended a reduction of the harvest rate for this area to 15%, similar to that used for the Bering Sea (Areas 4A, 4B, and 4CDE).
- 2. Commercial fishery catch limits.** The Commission is recommending to the governments of Canada and the United States catch limits for 2010 totaling 50,670,000 pounds, a 6.3% decrease from the 2009 catch limit of 54,080,000 pounds. Catch limits adopted for 2010 were lower for most regulatory areas except Areas 4B and 4CDE, for which the recommended catch limits increased approximately 15 and 3 percent, respectively. The Commission adopted the NPFMC catch-sharing plan for Area 4CDE to determine the individual regulatory area catch limits. Decreased catch limits reflect stock biomass declines as the exceptionally strong 1987 and 1988 year classes pass out of the fishery. Recruitment from the 1999 and 2000 year classes is estimated to be above average but the lower growth rates of fish in recent years means that these year classes are recruiting to the exploitable stock very slowly.
- 3. Commercial fishery season dates.** After reviewing staff information and proposals from the harvesting and processing sector, the Commission approved a season opening date of March 6 for the U.S. and Canadian Individual Quota fisheries, and Treaty tribal fisheries in Area 2A. The Saturday opening date is to facilitate marketing. Therefore, seasons will commence at 12 noon local time on March 6 and terminate at 12 noon local time on November 15, 2010 for the following fisheries and areas: the Canadian Individual Vessel Quota (IVQ) fishery in

Area 2B, and the United States IFQ and CDQ fisheries in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E.

4. **Sport fishery issues.** The catch in sport fisheries and enforcement of sport fishing regulations, particularly for charter vessels, were discussed at length. The Commission's industry advisory body and the Commission supported in concept the development of a harvest tag or ticket for data collection in all recreational halibut fisheries in Alaska and for accurate and timely accounting. The Commission expressed its desire to see implementation of effective management measures for the Alaskan sport charter fishery, in consideration of the Guideline Harvest Level of 788,000 pounds defined for the Area 2C charter fishery. Continuous overruns of this management target since its inception has compromised the Commission's ability to meet its adopted management targets for the halibut resource. The Commission relies on the management agencies of the contracting parties to effect their internal allocation goals and requests that the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) undertake the necessary actions to correct these shortcomings. The Commission will also monitor the implementation of the proposed catch-sharing plan and has directed its staff to develop alternative control measures for consideration at the Commission's 2011 Annual Meeting, should the catch-sharing plan not be implemented in a timely manner.
5. **Sport fish filleting.** The Commission received an industry proposal to change the Alaska sport fishing filleting requirements. Although the Commission took no action to change the regulations for 2010, they did direct the staff to form an industry and agency work group to review the regulations to determine if a regulation proposal could be developed for next year that met enforcement needs and assisted the industry.
6. **Bycatch.** The Commission and advisory boards discussed halibut bycatch management. Commission research indicates that halibut movement is more extensive throughout life than believed when impacts of bycatch mortality were last considered. Information presented at the Commission's 2009 Bycatch Workshop and the 2010 Annual Meeting indicates that bycatch mortality in Areas 4 and 3 creates substantial losses in available yield and spawning biomass both in those areas and in Area 2. Understanding these impacts fully requires accurate knowledge of bycatch mortality in both of these areas. The Commission believes that halibut bycatch mortality in Alaskan groundfish fisheries should and can be reduced, while still preserving groundfish fishing opportunities. It further expresses its concern that monitoring of bycatch mortality in the Gulf of Alaska is potentially inadequate and that any underreporting of bycatch mortality impairs the ability of the Commission to manage the halibut resource. The Commission has directed that the staff reconvene the Halibut Bycatch Work Group, which last met in 1991, to examine how impacts of bycatch can best be incorporated into halibut assessment and management, as well as to review progress on bycatch reduction and the target levels for reduction identified in 1991. This joint U.S.-Canada Work Group identified a target of approximately 7 Mlb of halibut mortality in U.S. groundfish fisheries, achieved in 1985, as a goal for U.S. fisheries. Goals for bycatch reduction in Canadian groundfish fisheries were also identified. These goals for Canadian fisheries have since been achieved and exceeded through comprehensive observer coverage and the implementation of individual vessel bycatch quotas.

Heather Gilroy and I will be attending the Council's February meeting in Portland and would be pleased to review these issues or any others at that time.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial letter.

Bruce M. Leaman
Executive Director

Encl. Harvest ticket proposal

cc: Commissioners

IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: Harvest Ticket for Alaska Halibut and Blackcod

OCT 23 2001

Year Proposed For: 2010

Submission Information (Please type or print)

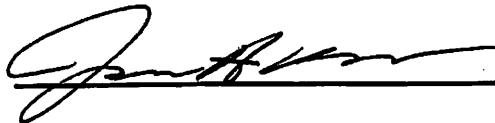
Name: James Whitethorn

Affiliation: West Brothers Group

Address: Box 94

City: Petersburg **State/Prov:** Alaska **Postal Zip Code:** 99833

Signature:



1) What is the definition and objective of the proposal?

A Harvest Ticket for all sport caught Halibut and Blackcod. The objective would be total accountability for all user groups.

2) Impacts: Describe who you think this proposed change might affect (including fishers, processors, agencies, and the public).

Would affect the future conservation of the resource.

2a) Who might benefit from the proposed change?

IPHC would have better science data.

2b) Who might suffer hardships or be worse off? The fish.

3) Are there other solutions to the problem described above? If so, why were they rejected?

The State says it's a Federal problem.

News Release

AGENDA B-4
FEBRUARY 2010

P.O. Box 95009, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98145-2009

February 1, 2010

HALIBUT COMMISSION COMPLETES 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) completed its Eighty-sixth Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, with Dr. James W. Balsiger of Juneau AK presiding as Chair. The Commission is recommending to the governments of Canada and the United States catch limits for 2010 totaling 50,670,000 pounds, a 6.4% decrease from the 2009 catch limit of 54,080,000 pounds.

The Commission staff reported on the 2009 Pacific halibut stock assessment which implemented a coastwide estimation of biomass, with apportionment to regulatory biomass based on the data from the annual Commission assessment survey. For 2010, the Commission staff recommended a 20% harvest rate for use in Areas 2A through 3A. The Commission staff expressed concern over continued declining catch rates in Area 3B and recommended a reduction of the harvest rate for this area to 15%, similar to that used for the Bering Sea (Areas 4A, 4B, and 4CDE). Catch limits adopted for 2010 were lower for most regulatory areas except Areas 4B and 4CDE, for which the recommended catch limits increased approximately 15 and 3 percent, respectively. Decreased catch limits reflect stock biomass declines as the exceptionally strong 1987 and 1988 year classes pass out of the fishery. Recruitment from the 1999 and 2000 year classes is estimated to be above average but the lower growth rates of fish in recent years means that these year classes are recruiting to the exploitable stock very slowly.

Seasons and Catch Limits

The Commission received regulatory proposals for 2010 from the scientific staff, Canadian and United States harvesters and processors, and other fishery agencies. The Commission will recommend to the governments the following catch limits for 2010 in Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington), Area 2B (British Columbia), Area 2C (southeastern Alaska), Area 3A (central Gulf), Area 3B (western Gulf), Area 4A (eastern Aleutians), Area 4B (western Aleutians), Area 4C (Pribilof Islands), Area 4D (northwestern Bering Sea), and Area 4E (Bering Sea flats):

2010 Catch Limits

Regulatory Area	Catch Limit (pounds)
Area 2A	
Non-treaty directed commercial (south of Pt. Chehalis)	141,865
Non-treaty incidental catch in salmon troll fishery	25,035
Treaty Indian commercial	253,072
Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence (year-round)	30,428
Sport – North of Columbia River	192,699
<u>Sport – South of Columbia River</u>	<u>166,901</u>
Area 2A total	810,000
Area 2B (includes sport catch allocation)	7,500,000
Area 2C	4,400,000
Area 3A	19,990,000
Area 3B	9,900,000
Area 4A	2,330,000
Area 4B	2,160,000
Area 4C	1,625,000
Area 4D	1,625,000
<u>Area 4E</u>	<u>330,000</u>
Area 4 total	8,070,000
Total	50,670,000

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada (DFO) will allocate the Area 2B catch limit between sport and commercial fisheries.

The IPHC sets biologically-based catch limits for Areas 4A, 4B, and a combined Area 4CDE. The catch limits for Regulatory Areas 4C, 4D, and 4E reflect the catch-sharing plan implemented by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). The catch-sharing plan allows Area 4D Community Development Quota (CDQ) harvest to be taken in Area 4E and Area 4C Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and CDQ to be fished in Area 4D.

The catch-sharing plan implemented by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) for Area 2A was adopted by the Commission and is reflected in the catch limits adopted for the Area 2A fisheries. Due to the mechanisms in the PFMC catch-sharing plan and the adopted total Area 2A catch limit there will not be a non-treaty incidental halibut fishery during the limited entry sablefish longline fishery. The IPHC licensing regulations will be amended to reflect this change.

The Commission surveyed the Area 2A directed commercial/incidental halibut fishery license holders for their preferred starting date for the directed commercial fishery. There was a range of views on starting dates with most harvesters supporting opening during June and largest proportion favored June 30. In Area 2A, seven 10-hour fishing periods for the non-treaty directed commercial fishery are recommended: June 30, July 14, July 28, August 11, August 25, September 8, September 22, 2010. All fishing periods will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. local time, and will be further restricted by fishing period limits announced at a later date.

Area 2A fishing dates for an incidental commercial halibut fishery concurrent with salmon troll fishing seasons will be established under United States domestic regulations by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The remainder of the Area 2A catch-sharing plan, including sport fishing seasons and depth restrictions, will be determined under regulations promulgated by NMFS. For further information of the depth restrictions in the commercial directed halibut fishery, and the sport fisheries, call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825).

After reviewing staff information and proposals from the harvesting and processing sector, the Commission approved a season opening date of March 6 for the U.S. and Canadian Individual Quota fisheries, and Treaty tribal fisheries in Area 2A. The Saturday opening date is to facilitate marketing. Therefore, seasons will commence at 12 noon local time on March 6 and terminate at 12 noon local time on November 15, 2010 for the following fisheries and areas: the Canadian Individual Vessel Quota (IVQ) fishery in Area 2B, and the United States IFQ and CDQ fisheries in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E. All Area 2A commercial fishing including the treaty Indian commercial fishery will fall within March 6 – November 15, 2010.

Regulatory Changes and Issues

The Commission approved changing the Area 2A IPHC license requirements to stipulate that persons fishing in Subarea 2A-1 as members of U.S. treaty Indian tribes are not required to have an IPHC vessel license. The tribal fisheries have their own licensing requirements and IPHC does not therefore require that tribal vessels to be licensed.

IPHC regulations had required that a vessel number be recorded on state fish tickets. The Commission changed this regulation to reflect that the vessel number is the state, federal, or tribal vessel number (i.e., not the IPHC vessel number). In addition, the Commission approved that Washington tribal tickets could be used when permitted by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and that the same IPHC regulations that applied to State fish tickets would apply to tribal tickets.

The Commission deleted an obsolete regulation that the IPHC license number be recorded on State fish tickets. This regulation was removed as Area 2A is the only area that IPHC licenses are required and the IPHC number is not currently recorded or needed on State fish tickets.

The Commission approved updating the Cape Spencer Light coordinates to the 2009 U.S. Coast Guard Light List (changed from the 2003 U.S. Coast Guard Light List of 58°11'54"N, 136°38'24"W) to 58°11'56"N, 136°38'26"W.

Other Actions

The catch in sport fisheries and enforcement of sport fishing regulations, particularly for charter vessels, were discussed at length. There was support in concept for the development of a harvest tag or ticket for improved data collection in all recreational halibut fisheries in Alaska and for accurate and timely accounting. The Commission will send letters to the NPFMC and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game acknowledging this support.

The Commission received an industry proposal to change the Alaska sport fishing filleting requirements. Although the Commission took no action to change the regulations for 2010 they did direct the staff to

form an industry and agency work group to review the regulations to determine if a regulation proposal could be developed for next year that met enforcement needs and assisted the industry.

The Commission and advisory boards discussed halibut bycatch management. The staff was asked to reconvene the Bycatch Work Group, that had met in 1991, to examine how impacts of bycatch can best be incorporated into halibut assessment and management, as well as to review progress on bycatch reduction and the target levels for reduction identified in 1991.

The Commission expressed its desire to see implementation of effective management measures for the Alaskan sport charter fishery, in consideration of the Guideline Harvest Level of 788,000 pounds defined for this fishery. The Commission will therefore monitor the implementation of the NMFS proposed catch-sharing plan and has directed its staff to develop alternative control measures for consideration at the Commission's 2011 meeting, should the catch-sharing plan not be implemented in a timely manner.

The Commission honoured Mr. Parker McLelland of Port Townsend, WA and Mr. Ryder Whitmire of Anchorage AK as the seventh and eighth recipients of the IPHC Merit Scholarship. Both individuals were unable to attend the meeting due to class requirements but were previously presented with the scholarships of \$2,000 (U.S.). The Commissioners expressed their continued support for the scholarship program and commended the Scholarship Committee for their efforts in assessing the candidates.

The recommended regulations for the 2010 halibut fishery will become official as soon as they are approved by the Canadian and United States Governments. The Commission will publish and distribute regulation pamphlets.

The next Annual Meeting of the Commission is planned for Victoria B.C. from January 25-28, 2011. The Canadian Government Commissioner, Dr. Laura J. Richards, of Nanaimo B.C., was elected Chair. The United States Government Commissioner, Dr. James W. Balsiger, of Juneau AK, was elected Vice-Chair for the coming year. Other Canadian Commissioners are Larry Johnson (Parksville, B.C.) and Gary Robinson (Vancouver, B.C.). The other United States Commissioners are Ralph Hoard (Seattle, WA) and Phillip Lestenkof (St. Paul, AK). Dr. Bruce M. Leaman is the Executive Director of the Commission.

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