INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMI

News Release



2320 W, COMMODORE WAY, SUITE 300, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98199-1287

January 28, 2013

HALIBUT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2013 CATCH LIMITS AND SEASONS

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) completed its Eighty-ninth Annual Meeting in Victoria, BC on January 25th, 2013. More than 250 halibut industry stakeholders attended the meeting, with over 60 more participating in web broadcasts of the public sessions.

Catch Limits

The Commission is recommending to the governments of Canada and the United States catch limits for 2013 totaling 31,028,000 pounds, a 7.5% decrease from the 2012 catch limit of 33,540,000 pounds. The following table displays the catch limits by regulatory area.

2013 Catch Limits

| | Catch Limit |
|--|-------------|
| Regulatory Area | (pounds) |
| Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington) | |
| Non-treaty directed commercial (south of Pt. Chehalis) | 173,390 |
| Non-treaty incidental catch in salmon troll fishery | 30,600 |
| Non-treaty incidental catch in sablefish fishery (north of Pt. Chehalis) | 21,410 |
| Treaty Indian commercial | 314,300 |
| Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence (year-round) | 32,200 |
| Sport – North of Columbia River | 214,110 |
| Sport – South of Columbia River | 203,990 |
| Area 2A total | 990,000 |
| | |
| Area 2B (British Columbia) (includes sport catch allocation) | 7,038,000 |
| Area 2C (southeastern Alaska) | 2,970,000 |
| Area 3A (central Gulf of Alaska) | 11,030,000 |
| Area 3B (western Gulf of Alaska) | 4,290,000 |
| Area 4A (eastern Aleutians) | 1,330,000 |
| Area 4B (western Aleutians) | 1,450,000 |
| Area 4C (Pribilof Islands) | 859,000 |
| Area 4D (northwestern Bering Sea) | 859,000 |
| Area 4E (Bering Sea flats) | 212,000 |
| Area 4 total | 4,710,000 |
| Total | 31,028,000 |

Fishing Season Dates

The Commission approved a season of March 23 – November 7, 2013 for the U.S. and Canadian Individual Quota fisheries. The Treaty tribal commercial fisheries and the incidental halibut fisheries in Area 2A will occur within these dates.

In Area 2A, seven 10-hour fishing periods for the non-treaty directed commercial fishery are recommended: June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, August 21, September 4, September 18, 2013.

A subsequent News Release will publish more details of the Annual Meeting, including the regulatory and other issues decided by the Commission.

- END -

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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

News Release



2320 W. COMMODORE WAY, SUITE 300, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98199-1287

February 4, 2013

HALIBUT COMMISSION COMPLETES 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC, or Commission) completed its 89th Annual Meeting in Victoria, BC on January 25, with Mr. Michael Pearson of Ottawa, ON presiding as Chair. More than 250 halibut industry stakeholders attended the meeting, with over 60 more participating via the web. All of the Commission's public and administrative sessions during this year's meeting were open to the public and broadcast on the web.

The Commission is recommending to the governments of Canada and the United States catch limits for 2013 totaling 31,028,000 pounds, a 7.5% decrease from the 2012 catch limit of 33,540,000 pounds. These catch limits are higher than recommended by the Processor Advisory Group but consistent with Conference Board recommendations. They achieve a lower coastwide harvest rate than in 2012 and move the coastwide harvest rate toward the harvest policy, while recognizing that the harvest policy is under review. In addition to setting catch limits for 2013, the Commission addressed a wide range of regulatory issues and took important actions regarding the IPHC performance review, management strategy evaluation, the structure of its advisory bodies, and bycatch management.

A news release issued January 28 announced the catch limits and fishing seasons for 2013. That information is repeated in this news release. Documents and presentations used at the Annual Meeting can be found on the Annual Meeting page of the IPHC website: http://www.iphc.int/meetings-and-events/annual-meeting.html.

Stock Assessment and Harvest Rates

During 2012, the assessment staff at the IPHC conducted a full review of the data, specific model equations, and the general approach used to assess the stock in recent years. The retrospective bias seen in recent assessments was found to occur because the model did not correctly account for variation in the availability of different sizes of fish in different areas. A peer review team, including the U.S. and Canadian Science Advisors, agreed that the staff's more flexible model structure could be adopted to address this problem and correct the retrospective bias. The assessment model results are now more consistent with observed fishery and survey results. As a result of changes to the assessment model, estimates of recent recruitment are much lower than previously thought.

The Pacific halibut biomass has been declining over much of the last decade as a result of decreasing size at age as well as below-average recruitment. Including 2012 data, the stock assessment estimates that the population decline has now slowed and the stock trajectory is

relatively flat, with spawning biomass about 5% higher than a level which would require a reduction in harvest rate. The report of the 2012 stock assessment is available on the IPHC website at: http://www.iphc.int/publications/rara/2012/rara2012093 assessment.pdf.

As described in Information Bulletin 70 (http://iphc.int/library/bulletins/300-ib0070.html) and the IPHC Interim Meeting news release (http://www.iphc.int/news-releases/306-nr20121218.html), the IPHC staff harvest advice was reformatted this year into a decision table which provides the probabilities of risks and benefits associated with specific harvest choices. This decision table allowed a comparison of alternative stock biomass and fishery outcomes at different increments of total removals, providing more information for consideration by the Commissioners as they set the annual catch limits.

Catch Limits and Seasons

Catch Limits

The Commission received harvest advice for 2013 from the scientific staff, Canadian and United States harvesters and processors, and other fishery agencies, and recommends to the two governments the following catch limits for 2013:

| Regulatory Area | Catch Limit (pounds) |
|--|----------------------|
| Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington) | |
| Non-treaty directed commercial (south of Pt. Chehalis) | 173,390 |
| Non-treaty incidental catch in salmon troll fishery | 30,600 |
| Non-treaty incidental catch in sablefish fishery (north of Pt. Chehalis) | 21,410 |
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| Area 2B (British Columbia) (includes sport catch allocation) | 7,038,000 |
| Area 2C (southeastern Alaska) | 2,970,000 |
| Area 3A (central Gulf of Alaska) | 11,030,000 |
| Area 3B (western Gulf of Alaska) | 4,290,000 |
| Area 4A (eastern Aleutians) | 1,330,000 |
| Area 4B (western Aleutians) | 1,450,000 |
| Area 4C (Pribilof Islands) | 859,000 |
| Area 4D (northwestern Bering Sea) | 859,000 |
| Area 4E (Bering Sea flats) | 212,000 |
| Area 4 total | 4,710,000 |
| Total | 31,028,000 |

Notes Regarding the Catch Limits for Specific Regulatory Areas

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. The overall catch limit for Area 2A in 2013 is sufficient to permit non-treaty incidental harvest of halibut during the limited entry sablefish longline fishery, under the provisions of the PFMC catch sharing plan.

Area 2B

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

Area 4CDE

The IPHC sets combined limit for Area 4CDE. The individual catch limits for Areas 4C, 4D, and 4E reflect the 4CDE 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 Areas 4D and 4C.

Fishing Season Dates

After reviewing staff information and proposals from the harvesting and processing sectors, the Commission approved a season of March 23 – November 7, 2013 for the U.S. and Canadian Individual Quota fisheries. Seasons will commence at noon local time on March 23 and terminate at noon local time on November 7, 2013 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 take place between March 23 and November 7, 2013. The Saturday opening date was chosen to facilitate marketing. In order to provide more time for its staff to conduct the stock assessment prior to its Interim Meeting, the Commission selected the same closing date as in 2012.

In Area 2A, seven 10-hour fishing periods for the non-treaty directed commercial fishery, south of Point Chehalis, WA, are recommended: June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, August 21, September 4, and September 18, 2013. All fishing periods will begin at 8 a.m. and end at 6 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 the limited entry sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis and the 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 regarding the depth restrictions in the commercial directed halibut fishery, and the sport fisheries, call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825).

Regulatory Changes and Issues

Control of Charter Harvest in Area 2C

The Commission received a request from the NPFMC to continue from last year the Commission's existing one-fish bag limit with a reverse-slot limit length restriction (≤ 45 in or ≥ 68 in, head on). This proposal is intended to keep the removals by the charter fishery within the

Council's Guideline Harvest Level for Area 2C. In addition, the entire carcass must be retained on board the vessel until all fillets are offloaded. To accommodate the Council request, the Commission left in place the existing reverse slot limit regulation for charter halibut fishing in Area 2C for 2013.

Sport Fishery Management

The Commission forwarded proposals for developing an Alaska sport harvest ticket and an Oregon charter tag to the respective state agencies for their consideration, since these proposals should be appropriately considered by these agencies.

Other Proposals

The Commission reviewed other proposals concerning hook requirements, preserved fish aboard vessels, careful release of fish, direct assessment of U32 fish, hook and release mortality, Area 2A biomass, and halibut in Prince William Sound, but took no regulatory action concerning these proposals. The Commission directed staff to work with proponents of several of these proposals to accommodate the intents of the proposals to the extent practicable.

Other Actions

Performance Review

The Commission reviewed the recommendations of the 2012 Performance Review, as well as stakeholder response and advice. The Commission has already taken action on several recommendations concerning increased openness and transparency in Commission meetings and operations. Action on other recommendations will be incorporated into ongoing work to improve the Commission's procedures and processes, including the development of scientific advice, planning and review of research, and operation of the advisory bodies. The Performance Review final report can be found on the Commission's website at:

(http://www.iphc.int/documents/review/FINAL_IPHC_Performance_Review-April30.pdf).

Management Strategy Advisory Board and Scientific Review Board

The Commission approved the formation of a Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) to advise on the development and evaluation of candidate objectives and strategies for managing the halibut resource. The MSAB will be a cross-disciplinary group, with representatives from industry, science, fisheries management, and Commission staff. The Commission is accepting nominations for the MSAB until February 28, 2013, and the membership should be finalized by the end of March. The Commission expects the MSAB to meet for the first time in late spring of this year. Travel expenses for MSAB members will be paid by the Commission.

The Commission is also adding a new Scientific Review Board (SRB) to fulfill the need for ongoing scientific peer review of the stock assessment, harvest advice, and research. The SRB will be a small technical body of members invited by the Commission, and is expected to begin work during this year.

The two new advisory bodies are dedicated to particular organizational needs and are complementary to the existing advisory structure. They do not supplant or replace the functions of the Conference Board, Processor Advisory Group, or Research Advisory Board, but will work with them in advising the Commission.

Halibut Bycatch

The Commission expressed its continued concern about the yield and spawning biomass losses to the halibut stock from mortality of halibut in non-directed fisheries. Significant progress in reducing this bycatch mortality has been achieved in Areas 2A and 2B, using individual bycatch quotas for vessels in some fisheries. Reductions have also occurred in Alaska, and new measures aimed at improving bycatch estimation, scheduled to begin in 2013, should help to refine these estimates.

The Commission received a motion from the Conference Board concerning bycatch, which it is incorporating into the ongoing work of its Bycatch Project team and the Commission staff.

The Commission received a report from its Bycatch Project Team, which outlined its progress on its four project objectives: quantifying bycatch, documenting impacts to the fishery and resource, exploring options to mitigate impacts, and identifying options to reduce bycatch. The Project Team identified its next steps, to include refinement of the immediate term options, subsequent discussion on longer-term options, completion of a report by summer 2013, and an implementation plan for agreed-upon strategies.

IPHC Merit Scholarship

The Commission honoured Mr. Jamie Nightingale of Delta, BC as the 11th recipient of the IPHC Merit Scholarship.

Upcoming Meetings

The next Interim Meeting of the Commission will be held December 4-5, 2013 at the IPHC offices in Seattle. The next Annual Meeting of the Commission is planned for January 13-17, 2014 in the Seattle area (dates to be confirmed).

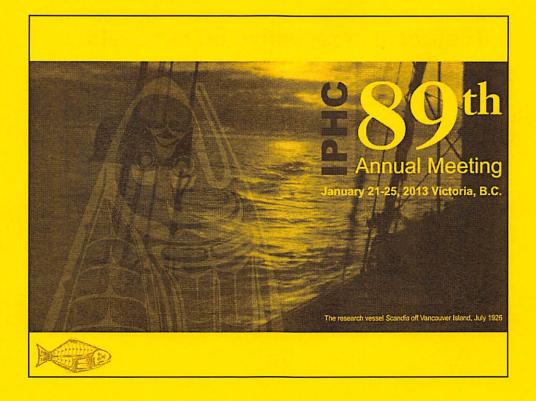
Commission Membership

United States Government Commissioner, Dr. James W. Balsiger of Juneau, AK, was elected Chair for the coming year. Canadian Government Commissioner Michael Pearson of Ottawa, ON, was elected Vice-Chair. The other Canadian Commissioners are David Boyes (Courtenay, BC) and Paul Ryall (Vancouver, BC). The other United States Commissioners are Ralph Hoard (Seattle, WA) and Phillip Lestenkof (St. Paul, AK).

- END -

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The 2012 Halibut Stock Assessment

The Good:

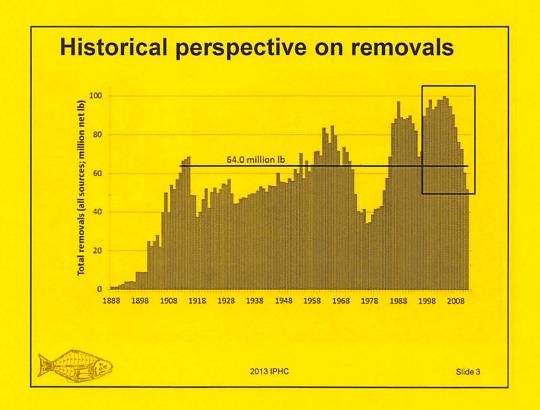
- 1) Major improvements in the stock assessment:
 - Retrospective bias has been addressed
 - Forecast methods extend recent trends in size
 - Uncertainty included via decision-making table
- 2) Small increase in 2012 coastwide survey WPUE
- 3) Stock trend estimated to be relatively stable

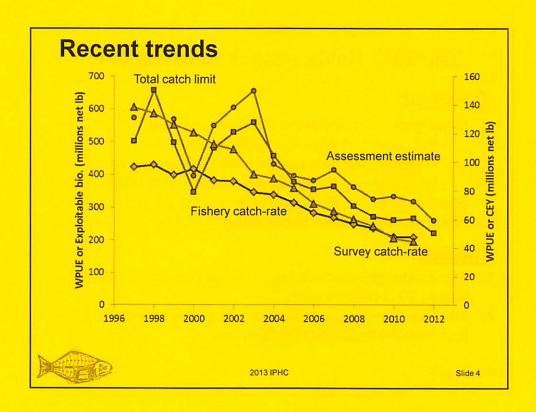
The Bad:

- 1) Stock estimates substantially smaller than those from the biased 2011 assessment
- 2) 2013 Blue line (current harvest policy) CEYs were ~30% less than the estimated 2012 values.

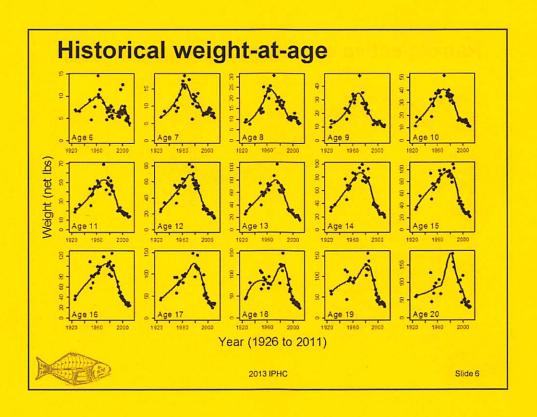


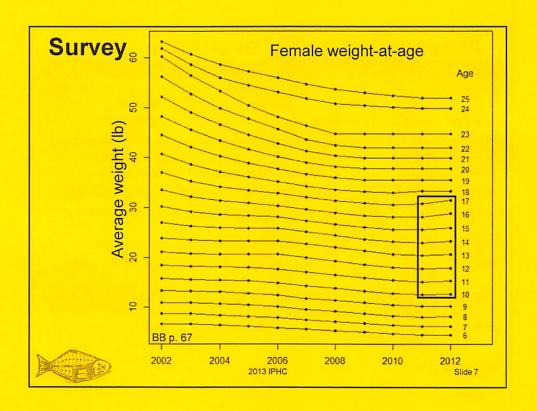
2013 IPHC

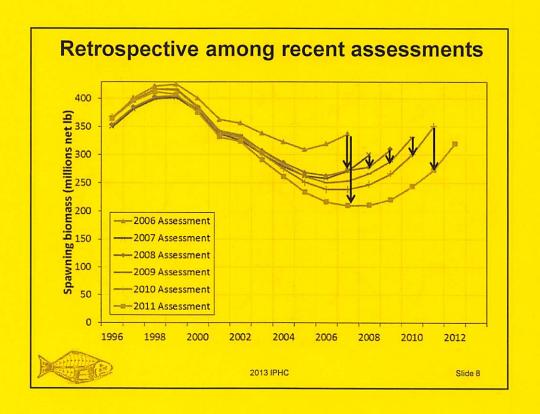


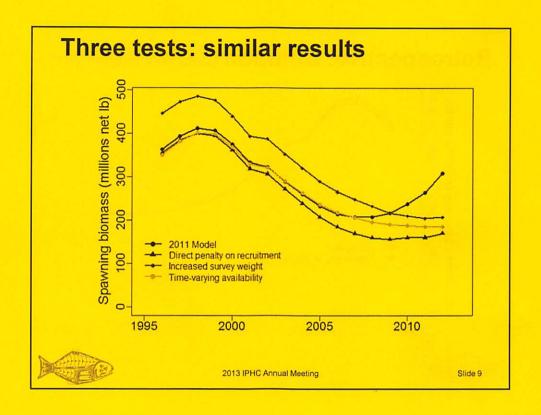


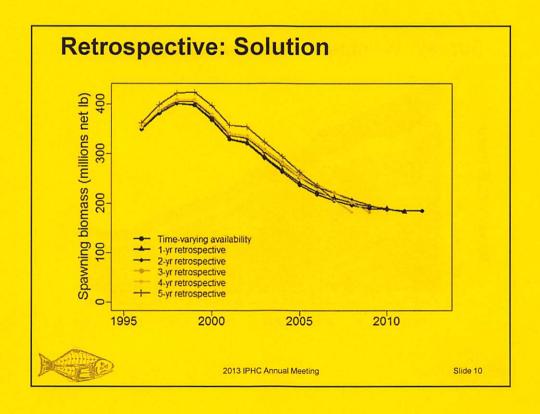
| Years | Model | Issues |
|-----------|---|--|
| Pre-1977 | Yield, yield-per-recruit, simple stock-production models | No growth or recruitmen variability |
| 1978-1981 | Cohort analysis, coastwide, natural mortality (M)=0.2 | Unstable estimates |
| 1982-1983 | Catch-AGE-ANalysis (CAGEAN; age-based availability), coastwide, M=0.2 | Migratory dynamics not accounted for |
| 1984-1988 | CAGEAN, area-specific, migratory and coastwide, M=0.2 | Trends differ by area |
| 1989-1994 | CAGEAN, area-specific, M=0.2, age-based selectivity | Retrospective pattern |
| 1995-1997 | Statistical Catch-Age (SCA), area-specific, length-based selectivity, M=0.2 | M estimate imprecise |
| 1998-1999 | SCA, area-specific, length-based selectivity, M=0.15 | Poor fit to data |
| 2000-2002 | New SCA, area-specific, constant age-based selectivity, M=0.15 | Retrospective pattern |
| 2003-2006 | SCA, area-specific, constant length-based selectivity, M=0.15 | Migratory dynamics created bias |
| 2006-2011 | SCA, coastwide, constant length-based <u>availability</u> , M=0.15 | Retrospective pattern |
| 2006-2011 | | Retrospective patt |

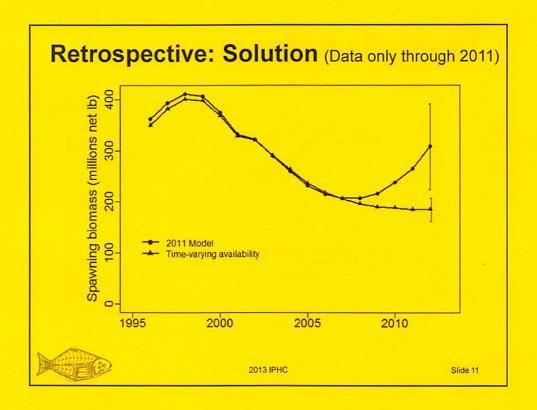


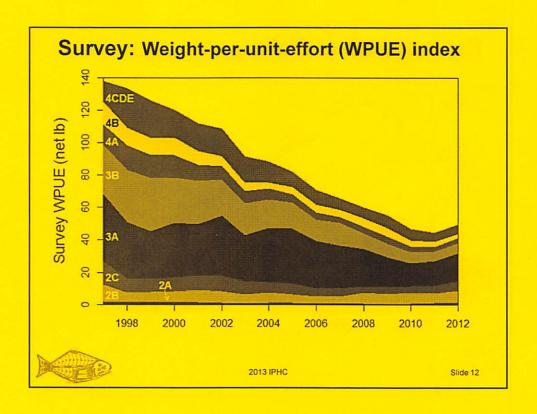


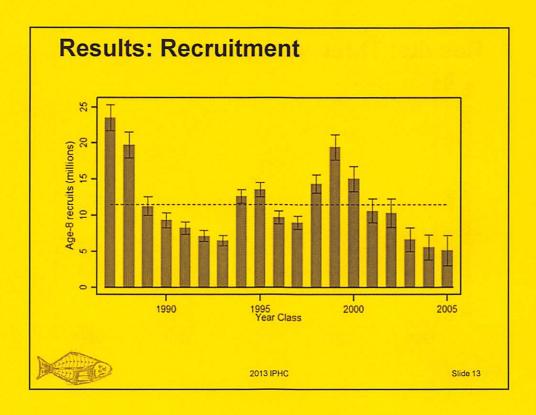


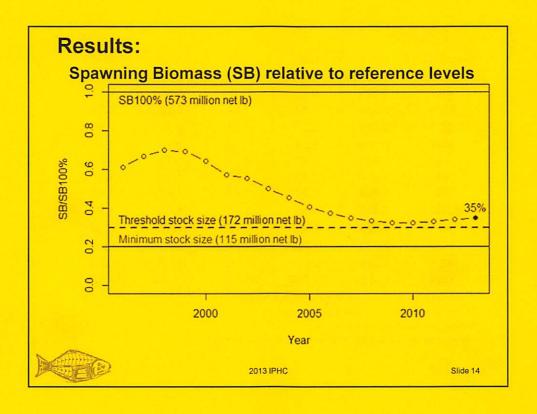


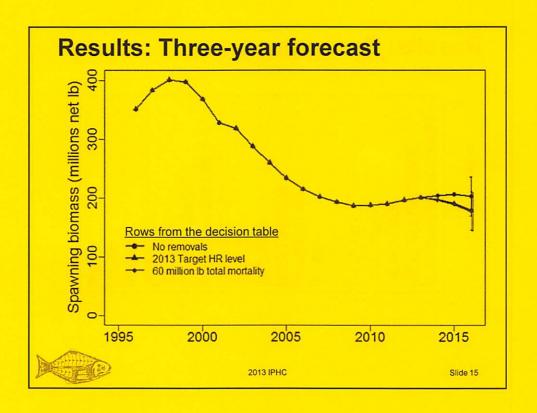












| Regulatory | 2012 | Blue | CB PAG | | IPHC |
|-----------------|-------------|--------|----------------|----------|--------|
| Area | Catch Limit | Line | (Millions o | Approved | |
| 2A 1 | 0.989 | 0.71 | 0.99 0.90 | | 0.99 |
| 2B 1,2 | 7.038 | 4.58 | 4.58 7.04 6.22 | | 7.04 |
| 2C ² | 2.624 | 2.97 | 3.12 | 3.76 | 2.97 |
| 3A ² | 11.918 | 9.24 | 11.03 | 9.24 | 11.03 |
| 3B | 5.070 | 2.73 | 4.29 | 2.73 | 4.29 |
| 4A | 1.567 | 0.85 | 1.33 | 1.33 | 1.33 |
| 4B | 1.869 | 0.62 | 1.45 | 1.45 | 1.45 |
| 4CDE 3 | 2.465 | 0.85 | 1.93 | 1.93 | 1.93 |
| 4C ⁴ | 1.690 | 0.358 | 0.859 | 0.859 | 0.859 |
| 4D ⁴ | 1.690 | 0.358 | 0.859 | 0.859 | 0.859 |
| 4E 4 | 0.340 | 0.135 | 0.212 | 0.212 | 0.212 |
| Total | 33.540 | 22.550 | 31.180 | 27.560 | 31.028 |

¹ Combined sport and commercial allocation (2A includes tribal)

⁴ NPFMC Plan: 4C , 4D: 46.43% of 80K less than 4CDE quota, 4E: 7.14% + 80K



2013 IPHC

² Presumes adherence to sport management targets

³ Allocation for combined Areas 4C, 4D, 4E

| | | Fishing intensity Effective | Stock | status | s | tock tren | d | Catch | trend | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | coastwide HR | | Spa | wning bior | nass | | Fisher | ry CEY | |
| | Coastwide | 2013 | 2014 2016 | | | | 2016 | 2014 | | |
| | Fishery CEY (total removals) | is greater than | is less than | is less than | is less than | is 5% less than | is less than | is less than | is 10% less than | Effective coastwide |
| | millions lb | target | 30% | 20% | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | 2013 | harvest rate |
| No removals | | | 25% | <1% | 23% | <1% | 41% | 0% | 0% | 0.0% |
| FCEY = 0 | | | 25% | <1% | 76% | 2% | 95% | 0% | 0% | 6.9% |
| | 3.4 (20.0) | | 25% | <1% | 77% | 2% | 96% | <1% | <1% | 8.8% |
| | 12.9 (30.0) | | 25% | <1% | 79% | 2% | 97% | 1% | <1% | 14.2% |
| 21 - 11 - | 17.7 (35.0) 22.7 (40.2) | 23% 50% | 25% 25% | <1% | 80% 82% | 2% 3% | 97% 97% | 19% 48% | 10% | 16.8% 19.6% |
| Blue Line | 27.3 (45.0) | - | 25% | <1% | 83% | 3% | 98% | 75% | 51% 64% | 22.2% |
| Midpoint: 2012 Limit and Blue Line FCEY | 28.1 (45.9) | The second desired to | 25% | <1% | 83% | 3% | 98% | 76% | 68% | 22.5% |
| ne-third increments 2012 and Blue Line | 20.1 (43.3) | | 25% | <1% | 93% | 3% | 00% | 70% | 74% | 22.0% |
| 2013 adopted catch limits | | | 25% | <1% | 84% | 3% | 98% | 82% | 76% | 24.4% |
| | 32.1 (50.0) | SARGE OF TAXABLE | 25% | <1% | 84% | 3% | 98% | 85% | 77% | 24.8% |
| 2012 Catch limit | | | 25% | <1% | 84% | 3% | 98% | 90% | 79% | 25.7% |
| 2011 Model x HR | | | 25% | <1% | 85% | 4% | 98% | 97% | 87% | 27.2% |
| | 41.6 (60.0) | >99% | 25% | <1% | 86% | 4% | 99% | >99% | 99% | 30.2% |
| | | a | b | С | d | e | f | g | h | |
| | | | 2013 | IPHC | | | | | Clia | de 17 |

Summary

- 1)2012 model:
 - -Fixing the retrospective bias means more reliable results
 - -The assessment is now consistent with observed trends in abundance
- 2)2012 results:
 - Stock trend estimated to be relatively stable
 - Below average recent recruitment
 - Continued poor size-at-age
- 3) 2013 Adopted coastwide catch limit 7.5% less than in 2012



2013 IPHC

IPHC Annual Meeting Decisions and Future Directions

- Apportioned Catch Limits and harvest rates
- Seasons and regulations
- Future directions
 - Stock assessment
 - Harvest policy evaluation
 - Bycatch
 - Management Strategy Evaluation and Management Strategy Advisory Board
 - Scientific Review Board



2013 IPHC

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| Regulatory | 2012 | Blue | CB PAG | | IPHC |
|-------------------|-------------|--------|-------------|----------|--------|
| Area | Catch Limit | Line | (Millions o | Approved | |
| 2A 1 | 0.989 | 0.71 | 0.99 0.90 | | 0.99 |
| 2B 1,2 | 7.038 | 4.58 | 7.04 | 6.22 | 7.04 |
| 2C ² | 2.624 | 2.97 | 3.12 | 3.76 | 2.97 |
| 3A ² | 11.918 | 9.24 | 11.03 | 9.24 | 11.03 |
| 3B | 5.070 | 2.73 | 4.29 | 2.73 | 4.29 |
| 4A | 1.567 | 0.85 | 1.33 | 1.33 | 1.33 |
| 4B | 1.869 | 0.62 | 1.45 | 1.45 | 1.45 |
| 4CDE ³ | 2.465 | 0.85 | 1.93 | 1.93 | 1.93 |
| 4C ⁴ | 1.690 | 0.358 | 0.859 | 0.859 | 0.859 |
| 4D ⁴ | 1.690 | 0.358 | 0.859 | 0.859 | 0.859 |
| 4E 4 | 0.340 | 0.135 | 0.212 | 0.212 | 0.212 |
| Total | 33.540 | 22.550 | 31.180 | 27.560 | 31.028 |

¹ Combined sport and commercial allocation (2A includes tribal)

⁴ NPFMC Plan: 4C , 4D: 46.43% of 80K less than 4CDE quota, 4E: 7.14% + 80K

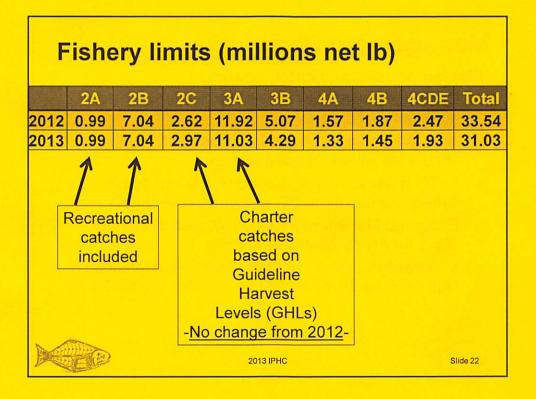


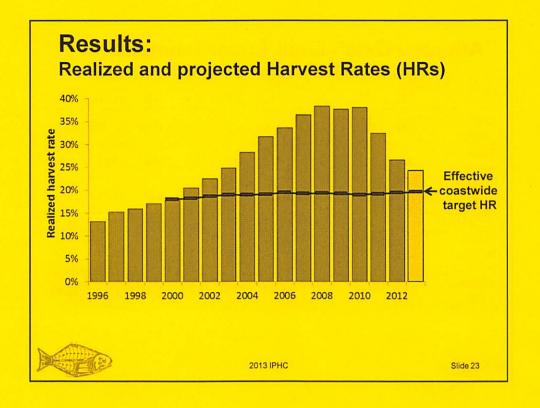
2013 IPHC

² Presumes adherence to sport management targets

³ Allocation for combined Areas 4C, 4D, 4E

Adopted Catch Limit Apportionment 2C 4CDE 2A 2B 3A **3B** 4A 4B Total Exploitable 3.81 24.54 23.28 70.38 26.02 11.97 6.75 19.74 186.49 biomass Percent of 2.0 13.2 37.7 100.0 12.5 14.0 6.4 3.6 10.6 total Harvest rate 29.0% 31.7% 21.6% 24.2% 22.6% 20.3% 28.6% 21.7% 24.4% (%) Total CEY 7.78 5.02 17.07 1.93 4.28 45.48 1.11 5.87 2.43 Other removals 0.11 0.73 2.05 6.04 1.58 1.10 0.48 2.35 14.45 (O26)26)Fishery 0.99 7.04 2.97 11.03 4.29 1.45 1.93 31.03 1.33 CEY 2013 IPHC Slide 21





Management Measures

Fishing periods and catch sharing

- Commission adopted March 23 November 7 for quota share fisheries
- Area 2A commercial and treaty Indian fisheries should fall within adopted season
- In 2A, a series of 10-h periods for the directed fishery starting June 26, at two-week intervals
- Endorsed Management Councils' catch sharing plans for Areas 2A and 4CDE
- Endorsed combined commercial/recreational catch limit for Area 2B which will be allocated to sector by DFO



IPHC Annual Meeting 2013

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Management Measures II

- The NPFMC recommended that the Commission extend the current regulation of a reverse slot limit (≤45 in, ≥68 in, head on) for the charter halibut fishery in Area 2C, in order to stay within the Council's Guideline Harvest Level for this area. For Area 3A, the Council recommended continuing with the current daily bag limit regulation of two fish of any size. IPHC took no action on this item as the existing regulations remains in effect until superseded.
- Additionally, if the fish is filleted on board the vessel, the carcass must be retained on board until all the fillets are offloaded.



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Stock assessment

- Over the next year+ Dr. Stewart will be examining alternative ways of assessing the stock, using different assumptions about stock behaviour
- Will examine coastwide, implicit spatial, and explicit spatial methods
- Explore alternative selectivity functions
- Integrate other survey information and more historical data



2013 IPHC

Harvest policy evaluation

- Dr. Martell will be reviewing over the next year
- In conjunction with MSE process
- Will examine alternative assumptions about stock distribution, movement, and dynamics
- Continue to examine issues of size limits and control rules
- Size at age research continuing



2013 IPHC

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Bycatch

- Commission's Bycatch Project Team will continue its work on:
 - Quantifying bycatch
 - Documenting impacts of bycatch on the fishery and the resource
 - Exploring options to mitigate impacts
 - Identifying options to reduce bycatch
- A progress report and implementation plan from the Project Team is anticipated by mid-summer 2013



2013 IPHC

Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)

- Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) aims to evaluate candidate management procedures against a realistic background model of stock and fishery behaviour
- Identifying the candidate procedures and management objectives is a very important part of MSE
- The MSAB will help the staff in this identification and testing them against the objectives
- Relatively small group (~15) needed to commit to a process over about two years
- Expenses will be paid by the Commission
- Accepting nominations until February 28th; finalize by end of March



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Scientific Review Board (SRB)

- Technical team made up of experts to act as peer reviewers of Commission science
- Fixed, staggered terms
- Advises Commission on staff scientific results, research plans, and management
- Will be permanent part of IPHC process



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