

PROCESSOR ADVISORY GROUP

January 25, 2011

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

IPHC 87TH Annual Meeting—Victoria, B.C.

CHAIR: Blake Tipton, S.M. Products (B.C.) Ltd., Canada

VICE-CHAIR: Tom McLaughlin, Seafood Producers, Coop

The Processor Advisory Group meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by HANA President Blake Tipton. The first order of business was to nominate a Canadian chair for the meeting. Blake Tipton was nominated and approved unanimously. Tom McLaughlin was nominated and approved unanimously as vice-chair.

Twenty-one companies with 32 representatives attended the PAG meetings this year, representing a majority of halibut bought and processed in Alaska, British Columbia, Oregon and Washington. This attendance is the highest representation of the industry in PAG's history, breaking our record from last year.

The PAG is grateful to the additional guests who offered more information on a variety of subjects, and suffered our many questions. Thank you to:

Chris Oliver, Director of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Don McIssac, Director of the Pacific Fishery Management Council

Jane Di Cosimo, staff for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Scott Meyer, Alaska Department of Fish & Game Sports Division

Devona Adams, Manager, Fisheries & Oceans Canada Recreational Fisheries

CATCH LIMITS

2A	.92 million lbs.
2B	7.65
2C	3.11
3A	14.36
3B	7.51
4A	2.41
4B	2.18
4CDE	<u>3.72</u>
	41.86

Coming up with catch limits was a difficult decision as the PAG has continuing, serious concerns about the current apportionment method.

The PAG supports the 2011 Fisheries CEY total of 41.86 million pounds. We support the staff's recommendations for 2011 catch limits in Areas 2B, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, and 4CDE.

The PAG believes Area 2C will support a modest increase to 3.11 million pounds based on the fact that there was little change in the exploitable biomass data from 2010 to 2011. We also recommend an increase in 2A to .92 million lbs.

SEASON DATES

The PAG recommends an 8 a.m. opening time on Saturday, March 12, 2011 and a closing time of 12 noon on Monday October 31, 2011. By unanimous vote.

The PAG reiterates our long-held preference for an opening date on a Saturday or Sunday. The importance of a Saturday or Sunday opening puts halibut in the market for midweek sales and promotions.

Changing the opening time is primarily to provide more daylight hours for safety reasons.

STAFF REGULATORY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Catch Sharing Plans in Area 2A, 2B and 4CDE

2. Logbook location options

were supported by the PAG by unanimous vote.

INDUSTRY PROPOSALS

1. 2C halibut charter harvest control measures

The PAG supports this proposal by unanimous vote.

2. Onboard filleting of halibut.

The PAG support this proposal by unanimous vote.

3. Equal Opportunity for overnight charter operators

The PAG took no position.

By-Catch Statement

For the past several years, the PAG has voiced concern to the Commission on halibut by-catch. After hearing a presentation from the Pacific and North Pacific Council representatives, the PAG members have a clearer understanding of the current and soon to be implemented halibut by-catch regulations in the North Pacific. As the new observer plan is implemented, we encourage the commissioners to encourage the NPFMC to focus on by-catch monitoring of the fleets not currently adequately observed.

Sport Catch Statement

It is clear to the PAG that the single biggest issue relative to Area 2C and possibly 3A is the unregulated sport catch. As an example, in 2010, the GHF for Area 2C was 788,000 lbs., while the best estimate of all sports harvest is 2,548,000 lbs., more

than three times the GHL. We think this has very significant impact on the health of the resource.

The PAG has two specific concerns—accurate accounting of both guided and unguided sport catch, and limiting the sports section catch to their GHL.

The PAG understands there is a catch sharing plan being implemented in 2012. But we have concerns about 2011 and recommend that the IPHC ask NMFS and Alaska Fish & Game to implement the appropriate regulatory aspects of the catch share plan for 2011.

Failing this, we recommend the Commission exercise all authority at their disposal to ensure compliance to the charter GHL.

Tagging Proposal for non-commercial

The PAG recommends the Commissioners direct the IPHC staff to develop a regulatory proposal for consideration at the 2012 annual meeting to use as an accounting for all removals in all IPHC regulatory areas for non-commercial halibut.

PAG Attendees 2011

United States	Canada
APICDA Joint Ventures	Aero Trading
Auction Block Company	Canadian Fishing Co.
Bellingham Cold Storage	Hart Sales Corporation
Cannon Fish	PASCO Seafoods Ltd.
Dana F. Besecker Co., Inc.	SM Products (BC) Ltd.
Finest At Sea Seafoods	
Icicle Seafoods	
North Pacific Seafoods	
Northport Fisheries	
Pacific Seafoods	
Peter Pan Seafoods	
Seafood Producers Coop	
Snug Harbor	
Trident Seafoods	