



North Pacific Fishery Management Council

Simon Kinneen, Chair | David Witherell, Executive Director
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February 25, 2019

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

Dear Dr. Wilson,

On behalf of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) I am writing for additional clarification and coordination regarding a regulatory proposal that was recommended by the IPHC at your 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting. The proposal is paragraph 66 in AM095-R and reads:

*“The Commission **RECOMMENDED** evaluating and redefining TCEY to include the U26 component of discard mortalities, including bycatch, as steps towards more comprehensive and responsible management of the resource, in coordination with the IPHC Secretariat and Contracting Parties. The intent is that each Contracting Party to the Treaty would be responsible for counting its U26 mortalities against its collective TCEY. This change would be intended to take effect for TCEYs established at the 2020 Annual Meeting.”*

At its February meeting, the Council received a summary report on the IPHC Annual Meeting, and based upon discussion of this report, requests clarification from the IPHC regarding the intent and nature of this agreement and the impact this may have upon other existing IPHC priorities that are of mutual interest to the Council. The Council further requests information as to how the IPHC intends to engage and coordinate with the Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service and their staff throughout this process.

Given the rapid pace of this request for the 2020 Annual Meeting and the implications this additional work may have on existing high-profile IPHC priorities, we look forward to further communication on this at your earliest convenience and to continued coordination with the IPHC and your staff moving forward.

Sincerely,

DW
Simon Kinneen
Chairman, NPFMC