

Sullivan Applauds IPHC Decision to Defer Review of Proposal Targeting Alaska Halibut Limits to Appropriate Agency



From Martin, Helen (Sullivan) <Helen_Martin@sullivan.senate.gov>
To Martin, Helen (Sullivan) <Helen_Martin@sullivan.senate.gov>
Date 2026-01-23 10:22



Dan Sullivan

U.S. SENATOR for ALASKA

Sullivan.Senate.gov

SenDanSullivan

@SenDanSullivan

Sen_DanSullivan

706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 23, 2026

Contact: Devyn Shea, 202.669.1004

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WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska) welcomed the decision by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) to defer review of a regulatory proposal that sought to alter Alaska's unguided recreational Pacific halibut limits. The proposal, which was submitted by a Seattle, Washington-based trade association, would have reduced the daily bag limit of Alaska's unguided recreational halibut limit from two fish to one fish. Senator Sullivan previously sent a [letter](#) of concern to Dr. Neil Jacobs, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, regarding his concerns for the suggested allocation change especially as the IPHC was not the appropriate management body for such a proposal.

"I am relieved by the International Pacific Halibut Commission's decision to defer review of a regulatory proposal submitted by a Seattle-based trade association that targets Alaska's unguided recreational Pacific halibut limits to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council," **Senator Sullivan said.** "I recently sent a letter to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Dr. Neil Jacobs voicing my concern about this request, including the IPHC's lack of jurisdiction, which would have directly infringed on the livelihoods of Alaska's halibut fishermen, especially recreational and subsistence harvesters. This decision reaffirms that the IPHC does not have the authority to make this change, which I agree with. Pacific halibut harvested off Alaska's coast is a shared resource that goes through extensive management review to ensure careful conservation. Alaskan families and coastal communities have done this hard work of sustainable stewardship for generations. I will continue to fight for resource and fisheries management systems that follow the law, respect local knowledge, and keep Alaska's fisheries strong, sustainable, and thriving."

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