



03 March 2017

IPHC CIRCULAR 2017-004

Dear Commissioners,

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE 93rd SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING (AM093)

In accordance with Rule 15 (Reports and Records) of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2017), I am pleased to provide you with the final Report of the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093), which was adopted via correspondence on the 3rd of March 2017. Please distribute as you see fit.

The report is also available for download from the IPHC website at the following link:
<http://www.iphc.int/meetings-and-events/annual-meeting/documents.html>

Yours sincerely

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.

Executive Director, IPHC

Attachments:

Attachment I: Report of the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093)



Report of the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093)

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, 23-27 January 2017

DISTRIBUTION:

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY

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IPHC-2017-AM093-R, 61 pp.



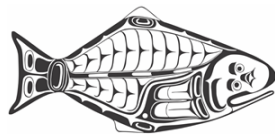
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ACRONYMS

ABM	Abundance-Based Management (of Prohibited Species Catch limits)
CB	Conference Board
CDQ	Community Development Quota
CSP	Catch Sharing Plan
DFO	Fisheries and Ocean Canada
DMR	Discard Mortality Rate
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
HANA	Halibut Association of North America
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
MSAB	Management Strategy Advisory Board
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Services, of NOAA
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPFMC	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
NPUE	Number-Per-Unit-Effort
OLE	Office of Law Enforcement
PAG	Processor Advisory Group
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
RAB	Research Advisory Board
SRB	Scientific Review Board
SPR	Spawning Potential Ratio
TCEY	Total Constant Exploitation Yield
WPUE	Weight-Per-Unit-Effort

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

The AM093 Report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

- Level 1: RECOMMENDED; RECOMMENDATION** (formal); **REQUESTED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary (advisory) body of the Commission and/or the IPHC Secretariat.
- Level 2: AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be elevated in the Commission's reporting structure.
- Level 3: NOTED/NOTING; CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED:** General terms to be used for consistency. Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference. Any other term may be used to highlight to the reader of an IPHC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. Other terms may be used but will be considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 93rd Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Annual Meeting (AM093) was held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada from 23 to 27 January 2017. A total of 6 members (Commissioners) attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, and were supported by 9 advisors/experts. A total of 334 public participants registered for the Session as well as 161 via the webcast. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) who welcomed participants to Victoria.

REGULATIONS

IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations, Section 13. Size Limits

The Commission **ADOPTED** a proposal aimed at eliminating a recently identified bias in Pacific halibut removal estimates (net weight), by requiring all commercial Pacific halibut to be landed and weighed with their heads attached for data reporting purposes and to be subject to the 32-inch minimum size limit (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropA), which supersedes Section 13 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations. An exemption was agreed upon whereby vessels that freeze Pacific halibut at sea may possess and land their frozen fish with the head removed subject to the 24-inch minimum size limit if possessed or landed with the head removed ([Appendix VI](#)).

IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations, Section 18. Fishing Multiple Regulatory Areas

The Commission **ADOPTED** a proposal aimed at harmonising IPHC and NMFS regulations regarding fishing in multiple regulatory areas in Alaska ([Appendix VII](#)), which supersedes Section 18 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations.

2017 Catch limits

The Commission **ADOPTED** catch limits for 2017 as provided at [Appendix VIII](#).

Fishing periods

The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2017 as provided at [Appendix IX](#), thereby superseding Section 8 of the IPHC halibut fishery regulations.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations for action from the AM093, which are provided at [Appendix XVI](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Survey expansion through 2019

AM093–Rec.03 ([para. 19](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat develop a proposal detailing an ad-hoc expansion of the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey for 2017, which would involve a denser survey grid off the north coast of Washington, USA. The proposal shall be provided to the Commission as soon as possible following the close of the 93rd Annual Meeting for its review, endorsement, and potential implementation. The intention of the ad-hoc expansion is to verify the current estimates of stock distribution within Regulatory Area 2A.

Draft Pacific halibut apportionment and catch tables (2017)

AM093–Rec.04 ([para. 29](#)) **NOTING** that the IPHC Secretariat and the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB) have demonstrated that Ebio is outdated and inconsistent with current assessment results, and that numerous elements of the current harvest policy are reliant on Ebio, and that the Commission has agreed that the current harvest policy is considered to be outdated (IPHC–2016–IM092–R, items 21, 22), the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that



reference to all elements of the current harvest policy reliant on Ebio, as well as the use of the Blue line, be eliminated subsequent to the close of the 93rd Session of the Commission. The “*status quo* SPR” (F_{46%}) may serve as an interim “hand rail” that allows all participants to gauge this and future years’ catch limit discussions in comparison to previous years.

AM093–Rec.05 ([para. 30](#)) **NOTING** that the Commission has indicated its interest in clearer accounting for all mortality, and that Canada has put forward catch limit allocation principles proposing that catch limits include all sources of mortality for each regulatory area, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the presentation of harvest advice be changed to be based on the TCEY, which includes all O26 commercial, sport, personal use/subsistence, bycatch and wastage removals, for the 2018 Annual Meeting cycle, as a step towards more comprehensive and responsible management of the resource that will result in the negotiation of Regulatory Area-specific catch limits based on TCEYs.

IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation

AM093–Rec.07 ([para. 39](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process be accelerated so that more of the elements contained within the current Program of Work are delivered at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Commission in 2018. The IPHC Secretariat is directed to mobilise carryover funds from “core operations” to ensure the accelerated delivery schedule.

Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) updates

AM093–Rec.09 ([para. 110](#)) **NOTING** that the Commission had previously requested the IPHC Secretariat to examine bycatch reduction by the Amendment 80 sector versus other sectors in the Bering Sea, by regulatory area (see AM92.10), which was yet to be undertaken, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a detailed examination of changes in bycatch levels among all gears/sectors, and for results to be presented to the Commission at its 93rd Interim Meeting (in November 2017).

IPHC Performance Review: Planning for the 2nd IPHC Performance Review

AM093–Rec.13 ([para. 153](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise the draft performance review terms of reference and criteria to conduct the review, and implement the 2nd Performance Review throughout 2017, for presentation to the Commission at its 94th Annual Meeting in 2018.



1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 93rd Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Annual Meeting (AM093) was held in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada from 23 to 27 January 2017. A total of 6 members (Commissioners) attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, and were supported by 9 advisors/experts. A total of 334 public participants registered for the Session as well as 161 via the webcast. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) who welcomed participants to Victoria.
2. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) who welcomed participants to Victoria. The Vice-Chairperson, Dr Jim Balsiger (United States of America) and the Executive Director, Dr David Wilson, also offered opening remarks.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

3. The Commission **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#), with the addition of a discussion on the harvest policy, apportionment, and alternatives to occur in conjunction with Agenda item 6. The documents provided to the AM093 are listed in [Appendix III](#).

3. UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 92ND ANNUAL MEETING, IPHC WORK MEETING AND THE 92ND INTERIM MEETING

4. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-03 which provided an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during its 92nd Session (January 2016), the IPHC Work Meeting (September 2016) and the 92nd Interim Meeting (November 2016).
5. The Commission **AGREED** to consider and revise as necessary, the actions arising that are either in progress or pending, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from the AM093 into a consolidated list of recommendations and requests for future reporting.

Recommendations/Requests:

6. **NOTING** the importance of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) working cooperatively with the IPHC on Pacific halibut management, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the existing ad-hoc meetings between the NPFMC and the IPHC be formalised into a standing body that meets regularly to provide direction to the development of a coordinated relationship between both parties. Such a body should consist of IPHC Commissioners (from both the USA and Canada) and the NPFMC leadership.

3.1 Minutes of the 92nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM092)

7. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the draft minutes of the 92nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM092) held in January 2016 (IPHC-2016-AM092-M) and **ENDORSED** them without modification.

3.2 Report of the 92nd Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM092)

8. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 92nd Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM092) IPHC-2016-IM092-R, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from IM092, provided at Appendix VI of the IM092 report.

3.3 Scholarship Committee report

9. The Commission **RECALLED** its decision from the Interim Meeting (IM092, para. 101) endorsing the selection Ms. Ysabel Echeverio of Stevensville, MT, to receive the 2016 IPHC Scholarship and expressed its congratulations. Ms. Echeverio addressed the Commission, thanking them for the opportunity.



4. STATE OF THE FISHERY (2016)

10. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-04 which provided an update on the key fishery statistics from fisheries catching Pacific halibut during the 2016 fishing season, including the following abstract from the author:

“The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) estimates all Pacific halibut removals taken in the IPHC Convention Area and uses this information in its stock assessment. The data are compiled by the IPHC and include data from Canadian and U.S. agencies. All 2016 data are in net weight (head-off, dressed, ice and slime deducted) and considered preliminary at this time. If full-year estimates (through 31 December 2016) were not available, IPHC or agency staff projected amounts for each removal by regulatory area. When the Commission was established in 1923, the commercial fishery, which dates back to the late 1800s, was the only documented source of harvest. Since that time, the commercial landings have continued to be the largest removal coastwide. However, as the Pacific halibut stocks have declined in recent years, they have represented a lower percentage of the total removals. The commercial landings represented 60% of the removals in 2016. Estimates of other removals have been added through the years. The other removals, including when they were first accounted for, are: bycatch mortality in the 1960s, sport catch in the late 1970s, wastage from the directed commercial fishery in the 1980s, personal use (subsistence) in the 1990s, and release mortality from the sport fishery in 2014. In 2016, the removals from all sources totalled 41.8 Mlbs (18,960 t), similar to 2014 and 2015. The total removals were at the highest levels from 1998 to 2007, in the 90-100 Mlbs range (40,823 – 45,359 t), declined for several years, and appear to be stabilized at levels similar to levels from the early 1980s.” – see paper for full abstract.

5. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2016) AND HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2017)

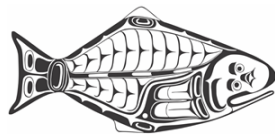
5.1 Stock assessment inputs (space-time modelling of survey data)

11. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-05 which provided an overview of new methods of space-time modelling of survey WPUE and NPUE data, including the following abstract from the author:

“Space-time modelling of survey data was used to produce regulatory-area estimates of mean weight-per-unit-effort (WPUE) and numbers-per-unit-effort (NPUE) for Pacific halibut from 1998-2016, with corresponding estimates of uncertainty. While the primary data source was the International Pacific Halibut Commission fishery-independent setline survey (setline survey), this was augmented with data from three other sources: the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) annual sablefish longline survey for deep waters in the Gulf of Alaska; the NMFS annual trawl survey of the Bering Sea flats; and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game triennial trawl survey of Norton Sound. Approaches to calculating adjustments for hook competition and the timing of the setline survey relative to the commercial Pacific halibut harvest were modified in 2016 with input from the Science Review Board. Overall, trends in model-estimated mean WPUE and NPUE by area are consistent with previous empirical estimates, with some modest changes in these indices among regulatory areas. Revised apportionment estimates maintain our current understanding of the biomass distribution among areas, although with some small, but locally important, changes from previous estimates.”

12. The Commission **NOTED**:

- a) that the new method for modelling fishery-independent setline survey WPUE represents an improvement to the IPHC's stock assessment and harvest policy data inputs.
- b) the potential implications of periodic survey expansion on the stock assessment model and apportionment arising from the survey which includes taking into consideration potential population-abundance variability of Pacific halibut in expansion areas which are infrequently surveyed, and that further updates/analysis would be provided in 2017.



- c) that the distribution of Pacific halibut is constantly changing over time, and that maintaining survey coverage in all areas (low- and high-density), allows the IPHC Secretariat to identify those changes.
- d) the intention of the IPHC Secretariat to work closely with relevant government agencies, to ensure that the proposed fishery-independent setline survey expansion sites have a minimal impact on protected species (e.g. yelloweye rockfish). This will involve the examination of survey station placement with the known distribution of protected species, along with protected areas, to discuss the scientific benefits of design-based site placement versus the potential environmental cost.

5.2 Survey expansion through 2019

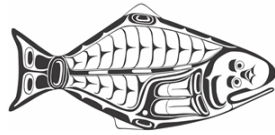
13. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-06 which provided an overview of the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey expansion undertaken in 2016 and that planned for 2017-19, including the following abstract from the author:

“Beginning in 2014, the IPHC has undertaken a sequence of expansions of the annual IPHC Fishery-independent setline survey in order to obtain direct observation in regions not covered by the annually fished stations. A five-year plan for undertaking these expansions has been proposed, which was subsequently updated to a six-year plan as follows: 2014 Areas 2A and 4A; 2015 Area 4CDE eastern Bering Sea flats; 2016 Area 4CDE eastern Bering Sea continental shelf edge; 2017 Area 4B; 2018 Areas 2B and 2C; and 2019 Areas 3A and 3B. The order of expansions was based on an evaluation the quality of data at the time and the impact the new data was likely to have on improving weight-per-unit-effort (WPUE) indices and its effect on coastwide stock estimates. The 2014-16 expansions were successfully completed, with the results presented in a series of reports to the Commission.”

14. The Commission **NOTED** that the 2016 survey expansion into the Regulatory Area 4CDE continental shelf edge survey region, in regions not previously covered by the survey, found lower population densities of Pacific halibut than adjacent areas with similar habitat. However, in areas near the Russia/U.S.A Maritime Boundary Line, catches were near or above average levels.
15. The Commission **NOTED** industry concerns regarding the Regulatory Area 2A fishery-independent setline survey station placement (10 x 10 nmi grid) and whether the current configuration is adequately capturing Pacific halibut distribution and abundance in the 100-150 fathom depth band.
16. The Commission **NOTED** that there is an increasing use of barotrauma release methods in longline fisheries taking yelloweye rockfish and that it may be useful to consider as part of the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey when this species is caught.

Recommendations/Requests:

17. The Commission recalled its previous **RECOMMENDATION** that the IPHC Secretariat develop an information paper associated with the survey expansion, which details the likely implications of periodic survey expansion on the stock assessment and apportionment, taking into consideration potential population variability of Pacific halibut in expansion areas which are infrequently surveyed. The paper shall be submitted for initial consideration at the Commission’s Work Meeting in September 2017.
18. **NOTING** the potential positive implications of periodic survey expansion on the stock assessment model and apportionment arising from the survey, and that the IPHC Secretariat will be developing an information paper associated with the survey expansion (see IPHC–2016–IM092–R, item 38), and that there are implications of survey expansion in Regulatory Area 2B for species of conservation concern and protected areas, and that Canada would like to better understand the value of the additional survey information, the Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat work with domestic agencies and interests to explore options to the proposed survey expansion to minimise impacts on species of conservation concern and area closures before proceeding with planning any survey expansion in 2B.



19. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat develop a proposal detailing an ad-hoc expansion of the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey for 2017, which would involve a denser survey grid off the north coast of Washington, USA. The proposal shall be provided to the Commission as soon as possible following the close of the 93rd Annual Meeting for its review, endorsement, and potential implementation. The intention of the ad-hoc expansion is to verify the current estimates of stock distribution within Regulatory Area 2A.

5.3 Stock assessment (2016) & Draft Harvest decision table (2017)

20. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-07 which provided an opportunity to consider the results of the 2016 IPHC stock assessment for Pacific halibut within the Convention Area, and the IPHC harvest decision table for 2017, including the following abstract from the authors:

*“In 2016, an ensemble of four (4) equally weighted models, two long time-series models, and two short time-series models either using data sets by geographical region, or aggregating all data series into coastwide summaries, were applied to the Pacific halibut stock in the IPHC Convention Area, using Stock Synthesis III software. The results here describe the approximate probability distributions derived from the ensemble of models, thereby incorporating the uncertainty within each model as well as the uncertainty among models. Female spawning stock biomass at the beginning of 2017 was estimated to be 41% (27–59%) of the SB_0 defined by the harvest policy (Table 1). There was only a 5% probability of the estimate being below the threshold level of SB_{30} , and less than a 1% probability of being below the limit value of $SB_{20\%}$. The level of spawning stock biomass at the beginning of 2017 is consistent with the recent slow increase in the primary stock abundance indices (IPHC fishery-independent setline survey WPUE indices and directed longline WPUE). Historical declining trends are attributable to changes in weight-at-age, recruitment, and catch levels. Total catch has stabilised in recent years with 25,030,000 lbs (~11,353 t) taken in 2016, up slightly from 24,670,000 lbs (11,190 t) in 2015 and 23,700,000 lbs (10,750 t) in 2014. The most recent five-year average (2012-16; 26,886,000 lbs; ~12,195 t) is substantially lower in comparison to the previous five-year average (2007-11; 52,544,000 lbs; 24,741 t). The assessment is slightly more pessimistic than the 2015 assessment due to the additional data from 2016 and the changes in assessment estimates regarding the recruitment processes. Fishing intensity estimated for 2016, measured via Spawning Potential Ratio, was 47% (33–60%); this is higher than the fishing intensity corresponding to recent harvest policy calculations. Thus, on the weight-of-evidence available in 2016, the Pacific halibut stock is determined to be **not overfished** ($SB_{2017} > SB_{20\%}$). The IPHC does not have an explicit coastwide fishing intensity target or limit reference point, thus it is **Uncertain** if current levels of fishing intensity are consistent with harvest policy objectives.”*

21. The Commission **NOTED** that the removals subtracted from the TCEY to determine the FCEY differ by Regulatory Area, leading to more complexity when comparing FCEYs among Regulatory Areas. One example of this is the treatment of unguided recreational removals in Alaska, which are not included in the FCEY as they are in Areas 2A and 2B. The removals accounted for in the FCEY for each regulatory area are noted in the *Catch table projected for the 2017 adopted catch limits* (see [Section 5.4](#)).
22. The Commission **NOTED** that the absolute estimate of stock size (female spawning biomass) has decreased from the 2015 assessment to the 2016 assessment, but that the overall trend is estimated to be increasing in recent years within both assessments. Space-time modelling of survey data has indicated an increasing trend in some areas, but the reduction of the overall scale of the biomass estimates compared to the previous assessment and differences in the relative change among areas results in variable results with respect to the relative biomass between areas.
23. The Commission **NOTED** that apportionment depends not only on the within-area trends, but also how these trends compare to those in other regulatory areas (i.e. if all areas are increasing by the same amount, none will see an increase in its individual apportionment percentage).



Table 1. Draft harvest decision table of yield alternatives (rows) and risk metrics (columns). Values represent the probability, in “times out of 100”, of a particular risk.

2017 Alternative	Total removals (M lb)	Fishery CEY (M lb)	Fishing intensity	Stock Trend				Stock Status				Fishery Trend				Fishery Status		
				Spawning biomass				Spawning biomass				Fishery CEY from the harvest policy				Harvest rate		
				in 2018		in 2020		in 2018		in 2020		in 2018		in 2020		in 2017		in 2017
				is less than 2017	is 5% less than 2017	is less than 2017	is 5% less than 2017	is less than 30%	is less than 20%	is less than 30%	is less than 20%	is less than 2017	is 10% less than 2017	is less than 2017	is 10% less than 2017	is above target		
				a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m		
No removals	0.0	0.0	F _{100%}	<1	<1	<1	<1	3	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	0		
FCEY = 0	11.2	0.0	F _{77%} 61%-84%	1	<1	3	<1	3	<1	1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1		
	20.0	8.6	F _{66%} 49%-75%	5	<1	20	4	4	<1	3	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1		
	30.0	18.4	F _{55%} 39%-67%	32	<1	53	31	5	<1	6	<1	6	3	8	4	8		
Blue Line	37.9	26.1	F _{48%} 33%-62%	56	3	77	53	6	<1	12	<1	47	33	48	39	50		
status quo SPR	41.6	29.7	F _{46%} 32%-60%	68	6	87	64	6	<1	15	<1	57	45	57	49	61		
	50.0	37.9	F _{40%} 27%-55%	92	29	98	88	7	<1	25	1	94	83	95	86	95		
	60.0	47.7	F _{35%} 23%-51%	>99	52	>99	99	9	<1	37	3	>99	>99	>99	>99	>99		

Terms: *Apportionment:* Estimates of the stock distribution by IPHC regulatory area (for halibut greater than 32 inches (~81.3 cm) in length) based on the catch rates (WPUE) observed in the IPHC's setline survey, adjusted for regional catchability differences, and bottom area from 0 to 400 fathoms. *Blue Line:* A row in the Decision Table, highlighted in blue, which provides the removals consistent with the Commission's current harvest policy. *Constant Exploitation Yield (CEY):* A specific concept from the IPHC's harvest policy: the Total CEY (TCEY) is the amount of yield of halibut greater than 26 inches (66 cm) in length, and Fishery CEY (FCEY), is the amount of yield for the directed halibut fisheries where applicable. *Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR):* A metric of fishing intensity. SPR is the ratio of the equilibrium spawning biomass per recruit given some level of fishing and the equilibrium spawning biomass per recruit in the absence of fishing.

- The Commission **NOTED** that there were several requests for additional rows to be added to the draft harvest decision table by the Conference Board during the AM093, which were provided by the IPHC Secretariat. Future versions of the decision table will include greater detail in terms of alternative removal scenarios (e.g. 2.5 to 5.0 Mlb intervals), and projections for 1, 2 and 3 years.
- The Commission **NOTED** the final harvest decision table of yield alternatives (rows) and risk metrics (columns), which included a row detailing the values for the final overall catch limit of 31.4 Mlb adopted during the AM093([Appendix IV](#)).

5.4 Draft Pacific halibut apportionment and catch tables (2017)

- The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-08 which provided an opportunity to consider updated Pacific halibut catch tables from the application of the current International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) harvest policy as well as additional information on fishing intensity and management alternatives for 2017, including the following abstract from the authors:

“The IPHC fishery-independent setline survey legal-size (O32) Weight-Per-Unit-Effort (WPUE) is used to estimate the distribution of the stock available to the directed fisheries each year. The apportionment percentages and the target harvest rates for each regulatory area (21.5% for Areas 2A-3A, and 16.125% for Areas 3B-4CDE) together result in a target distribution for the annual TCEY. The scale of this distribution is based on the estimate of the coastwide exploitable biomass at the beginning of 2017 from the stock assessment. The Blue Line catch table is then calculated by solving for the area specific Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield (FCEY) values that satisfy both the target scale and distribution of the coastwide Total Constant Exploitation Yield (TCEY) based on projections of all sources of O26 (over 26” (66 cm) in length) removals. Differing components of



the O26 removals are included in the FCEY, along with commercial fishery landings, in Areas 2A-3A, depending on the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) in place for each area. Catch tables including all sizes and sources of removals, (including U26) are presented for the 2017 Blue Line, and the status quo Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR; the average fishing intensity realized on the stock over the period 2014-16). Additional management alternatives will be produced as needed during the 2017 Annual Meeting (AM093) at the request of the Commissioners, Processor Advisory Group (PAG) and the Conference Board (CB)."

27. The Commission **NOTED** [Table 2](#) which provided Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield (FCEY; the amount of yield for the directed halibut fisheries) by Regulatory Area for 2014-17, as well as the adopted FCEY for 2016, and the Blue Line and the *status quo* SPR for 2017.

Table 2. Comparison of FCEYs among regulatory areas from recent years for the Blue Line, the *status quo* SPR ($F_{46\%}$; the 2014-16 average), and the adopted limits from 2016.

	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
2014 Blue Line	0.72	4.98	4.16	9.43	2.84	0.85	0.82	0.64	24.45
2015 Blue Line	0.75	4.96	4.30	10.10	2.46	1.39	0.73	0.52	25.22
2016 Blue Line	1.02	5.22	4.62	9.27	2.71	1.30	0.92	1.64	26.70
2017 Blue Line	0.75	4.72	4.08	9.57	3.14	1.26	1.12	1.55	26.19
2017 <i>status quo</i> SPR	0.84	5.28	4.69	10.88	3.53	1.43	1.25	1.92	29.81
2016 Adopted	1.14	7.30	4.95	9.60	2.71	1.39	1.14	1.66	29.89

28. The Commission **ADOPTED** a coastwide catch limit of 31.40 Mlb (FCEY). A breakdown by Regulatory Area is shown in [Appendix V](#), with the resultant values based on the Commission’s previously adopted formula for calculating TCEY.

Recommendations/Requests:

29. **NOTING** that the IPHC Secretariat and the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB) have demonstrated that Ebio is outdated and inconsistent with current assessment results, and that numerous elements of the current harvest policy are reliant on Ebio, and that the Commission has agreed that the current harvest policy is considered to be outdated (IPHC–2016–IM092–R, items 21, 22), the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that reference to all elements of the current harvest policy reliant on Ebio, as well as the use of the Blue line, be eliminated subsequent to the close of the 93rd Session of the Commission. The “*status quo* SPR” ($F_{46\%}$) may serve as an interim “hand rail” that allows all participants to gauge this and future years’ catch limit discussions in comparison to previous years.
30. **NOTING** that the Commission has indicated its interest in clearer accounting for all mortality, and that Canada has put forward catch limit allocation principles proposing that catch limits include all sources of mortality for each regulatory area, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the presentation of harvest advice be changed to be based on the TCEY, which includes all O26 commercial, sport, personal use/subsistence, bycatch and wastage removals, for the 2018 Annual Meeting cycle, as a step towards more comprehensive and responsible management of the resource that will result in the negotiation of Regulatory Area-specific catch limits based on TCEYs.

6. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

6.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation update

31. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-09, which provides an update on the task assigned to IPHC Secretariat and the Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) at the 2016 Annual Meeting to review and provide recommendations for updating the IPHC harvest policy and harvest control rules.



32. The Commission **AGREED** that the current harvest policy is outdated and that there is a need to remove the current blue line reference, which reflects the current interpretation of the IPHC harvest policy in the harvest decision table.
33. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat will use Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) to evaluate options for a modified harvest policy that separates the decisions regarding scale of the coastwide fishing intensity, and distribution of the removals consistent with that level of fishing among Regulatory Areas, and accounts for all sources of Pacific halibut mortality.
34. The Commission **NOTED** that a harvest policy and associated implementation guidelines should aim to ensure that Pacific halibut is managed for long-term biological and fishery sustainability (Commission objectives), and should be a point of reference for Commissioners when making short-term decisions. The harvest policy should also seek to provide the fishing industry with a more certain operating environment.
35. The Commission **NOTED** that a harvest policy should also provide a framework that allows a strategic, science-based approach to setting catch levels in the Pacific halibut fishery.
36. The Commission **NOTED** that the Pacific halibut stock has been stable or slightly increasing in light of recent decisions, thus an alternative row in the decision table has been provided that is consistent with the harvest decisions made over the previous three years (labelled “*status quo* SPR” – see Table 1). A harvest policy will always provide a point of reference for catch levels that meet long-term objectives.
37. The Commission **NOTED** the presentation of an SPR-based harvest policy to update the current harvest policy, and that MSE will be used to evaluate alternative SPR values that are robust to possible bycatch scenarios.

Recommendations/Requests:

38. **NOTING** that the term “apportionment” has connotations broader than stock distribution that are not reflective of its meaning in the IPHC context, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that it be replaced with the terms “stock distribution” or “stock distribution model(ing)”.
39. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process be accelerated so that more of the elements contained within the current Program of Work are delivered at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Commission in 2018. The IPHC Secretariat is directed to mobilise carryover funds from “core operations” to ensure the accelerated delivery schedule.
40. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat initiate a process to develop alternative, biologically based stock distribution strategies for consideration by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. This should also be incorporated into the MSE Program of Work.

6.2 Reports of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)

41. The Commission **NOTED** the Reports of the 7th (IPHC-2016-MSAB07-R) and 8th (IPHC-2016-MSAB08-R) Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) held in 2016, which were presented by the Co-Chairpersons of the MSAB, Mr Adam Keizer (Canada) and Ms Michele Culver (United States of America).
42. The Commission **RECALLED** the mandate of the MSAB as stated in the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014) as follows:

Rule 10.5 (d) *A Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB), on which individuals representing harvesters (commercial, sport, and subsistence), fisheries managers, processors, Staff, science advisors, Commissioners, and other experts as required may be represented. The primary role of the MSAB is to oversee and advise the IPHC Secretariat on the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process, which shall propose fishery objectives, articulate and evaluate management procedures, and propose performance measures in order to recommend fishery management strategies for Commission consideration.*



43. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the MSAB from its 2016 reports (IPHC-2016-MSAB07-R and IPHC-2016-MSAB08-R) and provided comment or endorsement as specified below.
44. **NOTING** that the previous IPHC harvest policy was unresponsive to under-26" (U26) mortality, and that selectivity curves used to define exploitable biomass (EBio) are outdated, the Commission **AGREED** that alternative approaches that address these shortcomings and take into account mortality for all sizes and all sources be evaluated by the IPHC Secretariat and subsequently the MSAB. One approach that has the potential to account for mortality for all sizes and all sources which should be evaluated is a Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR)-based harvest policy.
45. The Commission **AGREED** that clear goals and objectives need to be approved by the Commission regarding target stock abundance levels to provide guidance for the IPHC Secretariat and MSAB to assess the long-term health of the stock. As a first step, the IPHC Secretariat, in consultation with the SRB and MSAB, should provide a range of suitable options. The intention would be for a range of objectives (e.g. through coast-wide or area-specific adjustments, setting harvest targets, examining the effects of bycatch levels) to be examined.
46. The Commission **AGREED** that the MSAB membership should be reviewed and subsequently approved by the Commission.

7. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2017

47. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-10 Rev_1 which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the regulatory proposals received from the IPHC Secretariat, agencies and stakeholders for 2017, including advice for action on each proposal. The proposals are detailed in papers IPHC-2017-AM093-PropA through -PropQ.

7.1 *IPHC Secretariat proposals*

7.1.1 *IPHC-2017-AM093-PropA: Head-on landed weight requirement for the commercial fishery, including removal of the 24" head-off minimum size limit*

48. The Commission **ADOPTED** a proposal aimed at eliminating a recently identified bias in Pacific halibut removal estimates (net weight), by requiring all commercial Pacific halibut to be landed and weighed with their heads attached for data reporting purposes and to be subject to the 32-inch minimum size limit (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropA), which supersedes Section 13 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations. An exemption was agreed upon whereby vessels that freeze Pacific halibut at sea may possess and land their frozen fish with the head removed subject to the 24-inch minimum size limit if possessed or landed with the head removed ([Appendix VI](#)).
49. The Commission **AGREED** that the IPHC's definition of net weight in IPHC Regulation Section 3 paragraph (l) would continue to include a 10 percent deduction for heads, and that the fish landing receipt systems in Canada and the U.S.A. would continue to use a 10 percent deduction to convert head-on to head-off weight.

7.1.2 *IPHC-2017-AM093-PropB: IPHC Closed Area - removal*

50. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at removing the IPHC Closed Area, as defined in IPHC Regulation 10, which applies to "halibut fishing" only (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropB), but agreement could not be reached and the proposal was **DEFERRED** until the 94th Annual Meeting of the Commission.
51. **NOTING** the detailed information gathered and presented to the Commission in support of the removal of the IPHC Closed Area (PropB), as detailed in paper IPHC-2017-AM093-INF03 on the following topics:
- Past considerations
 - History of boundaries
 - Bycatch



- Nursery grounds
- Other nearby closed areas
- Impacts of allowing directed Pacific halibut fishing

the Commission **REQUESTED** further information be provided on whether the area is a nursery ground for Pacific halibut, by examining juvenile abundance from data sources including but not limited to observer programs and the NMFS trawl surveys, and comparing this information with the impact of the directed fishery operating in nearby areas, as well as the non-directed fisheries currently operating within the Closed Area.

52. **NOTING** that while the Processor Advisory Group (PAG) provided unanimous support for the proposal, the Conference Board did not, making the following statement on Regulatory Proposal B:

“The Conference Board discussed the idea of the Closed Area as a nursery and felt it should be closed to all other fisheries rather than allowing the longline halibut fleet to fish in the area.”

53. **NOTING** the Conference Board’s comment detailed in [para 52](#), the Commission **AGREED** that closing the area to fisheries not managed by the IPHC is not permissible under the IPHC mandate and thus, it would not be proposing such a measure at this time, or at any time in the future. Should members of the Conference Board wish to further their proposed course of action, they should take up the matter with the relevant management body, in this case the NPFMC.

7.2 Agency proposals

7.2.1 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropC: NMFS - Fishing in Multiple Regulatory Areas in Alaska

54. The Commission **ADOPTED** a proposal aimed at harmonising IPHC and NMFS regulations regarding fishing in multiple regulatory areas in Alaska (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropC) ([Appendix VII](#)), which supersedes Section 18 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations.

7.3 Stakeholder proposals

7.3.1 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropD: Upgrade the US-Canada Treaty

55. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at revising the *Convention between Canada and the United States of America for the preservation of the halibut fishery of the northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea* (by increasing the number of IPHC Commissioners from the current six (6) (three (3) per Contracting Party) to eight (8), one for each Regulatory Area (4CDE as one) (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropD). The proposal was not considered suitable as a regulatory proposal and was **WITHDRAWN** from further consideration.

56. The Commission **NOTED** that any potential revision of the IPHC Convention would be examined as part of the 2nd IPHC Performance Review planned for 2017/18 and as detailed under agenda item 10.7, paper IPHC-2017-AM093-18.

7.3.2 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropE: Drop the Blue Line

57. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at eliminating the use of the IPHC ‘blue line’ (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropE), as the authors suggested that it was not being consistently applied by the Commission. Consideration of the IPHC Harvest Policy, including the implementation and use of the IPHC Blue Line, was discussed under agenda items 5.3 and 6.1 on the use of the IPHC harvest decision table (papers IPHC-2017-AM093-07 and 09). The proposal was not considered suitable as a regulatory proposal and was **WITHDRAWN** from further consideration.

7.3.3 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropF: Drop IPHC setline survey

58. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at eliminating the use of the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropF), as the authors suggested that it could be replaced by the use of fishery-dependent observer data. Consideration of the IPHC fishery-independent setline



survey was discussed under Agenda Items 5.1 and 5.2 (papers IPHC-2017-AM093-05 and 06). The proposal was not considered suitable as a regulatory proposal and was **WITHDRAWN** from further consideration.

7.3.4 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropG: Closure of the Nursery Area

59. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at prohibiting all fishing gears catching Pacific halibut (targeted and non-targeted) from being used in any closed area delineated as a nursery ground for Pacific halibut (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropG). However, for the same reasons outlined in [paragraph 53](#) the Commission **AGREED** that the authors of the proposal should take up the matter with the relevant management body, in this case the NPFMC, and that it would not be further considered by the IPHC.

7.3.5 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropH: Non-resident, self-guided sport same regulations as charter, other than need for a CHP

60. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at standardising the regulations for the non-resident, self-guided sport and charter sectors (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropH). However, as the proposal was outside the mandate of the IPHC, the Commission **AGREED** that the authors of the proposal should take up the matter with the relevant management body, in this case the NPFMC, and that it would not be further considered by the IPHC.

7.3.6 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropI: Unguided sport same standards as CSP sectors

61. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at standardising the regulations for the unguided sport and CSP sectors (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropI). However, as the proposal was outside the mandate of the IPHC, the Commission **AGREED** that the authors of the proposal should take up the matter with the relevant management body, in this case the NPFMC, and that it would not be further considered by the IPHC.

7.3.7 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropJ: Elimination of Law requiring skin to be left on Pacific halibut

62. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at removing the current regulatory requirement to leave a portion of the skin on any filleted Pacific halibut for species identification purposes in Alaska (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropJ). However, as this regulation (IPHC Regulation 28(1)(d)) is important for enforcement purposes, the proposal was not adopted.

7.3.8 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropK: Allow filleted halibut in sport fishery

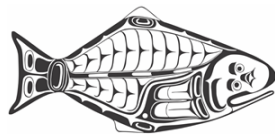
63. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at removing the requirement for sport fishers to retain Pacific halibut (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropK), as stipulated in IPHC Regulation 28(1)d (two ventral, and two cheek pieces with skin on all pieces). However, as this regulation (IPHC Regulation 28(1)(d)) it is important for enforcement purposes, the proposal was not adopted.

7.3.9 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropL: Charter Boat Trip Limits 3A – trips per season

64. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at implementing seasonal trip limits in days, for the Charter sector in Regulatory Area 3A instead of the weekly ‘dayclosure currently in place via IPHC Regulation 28(3) (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropL). It was **NOTED** that Pacific halibut charter sport fishery management measures for Regulatory Area 3A are developed, analysed, and recommended annually through the NPFMC’s annual process. The NPFMC’s proposed charter management measures are then approved annually at the IPHC’s Annual Meeting based on the Commission’s final adopted catch limits. The Commission **AGREED** that the authors of the proposal should take up the matter with the relevant management body, in this case the NPFMC during their annual CSP development process.

7.3.10 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropM: Charter Boat Trip Limits 3A – trips per week

65. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at implementing weekly ‘day’ limits for the Charter sector in Regulatory Area 3A (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropM). However, the Commission **AGREED** that



the authors of the proposal should take up the matter with the relevant management body, in this case the NPFMC, and that it would not be further considered by the IPHC.

7.3.11 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropN: Guided Angler 3A Daily

66. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal aimed at implementing daily fish limits for the Charter sector in Regulatory Area 3A (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropN). However, the Commission **AGREED** that the authors of the proposal should take up the matter with the relevant management body, in this case the NPFMC, and that it would not be further considered by the IPHC.

7.3.12 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropO: Clarify pot gear requirements

67. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal seeking to clarify requirements for the use of pot gear while commercially fishing for Pacific halibut (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropO), including: (1) clarifying whether Pacific halibut may be targeted with pots in U.S. federal and state waters; and (2) requesting removal of a prohibition against carrying Dungeness crab pots on a vessel while commercially fishing for or in possession of Pacific halibut. However, agreement could not be reached and the proposal was **DEFERRED** until the 94th Annual Meeting of the Commission.

68. The Commission **NOTED** the written clarification regarding part (1) of the proposal provided by NMFS in IPHC-2017-AM093-INF05.

7.3.13 IPHC-2017-AM093-PropP: Size Limit Clarification

69. The Commission **CONSIDERED** a proposal to clarify the IPHC size limit regulations (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropP). However, the adoption of Proposal A (IPHC-2017-AM093-PropA), including the requirement to measure the minimum size of Pacific halibut only once and in the condition delivered, made this current proposal redundant. Thus, the Commission took no further action on Proposal P.

7.4 Catch limits

7.4.1 Stakeholder catch limit proposals

70. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-PropQ which detailed each of the catch limit proposals received from stakeholders by the deadline of 31 December 2016.

7.4.2 2017 Catch limits

71. The Commission **ADOPTED** catch limits for 2017 as provided at [Appendix VIII](#).

7.5 Fishing periods

72. The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2017 as provided at [Appendix IX](#), thereby superseding Section 8 of the IPHC halibut fishery regulations.

7.6 IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations 2017

73. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat prepare the draft IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations for 2017, based on the decisions of the AM093, for review and final approval by the Commission, prior to submission to the Contracting Parties for implementation.

8. AGENCY REPORTS

8.1 Regulatory Area 2A (U.S.A. west coast)

8.1.1 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

74. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR01 from the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), which detailed adopted final recommended changes to the 2017 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Regulatory Area 2A and annual fishing regulations for the



Washington and Oregon recreational fisheries. These recommendations had been forwarded to, and are subject to approval of both the IPHC and the NMFS.

75. The Commission **ENDORSED** the 2017 Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 2A.

8.1.2 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region

76. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR02 from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which reported on the 2016 Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.

8.1.3 U.S. Coast Guard enforcement report (USCG)

77. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR03 from the U.S. Coast Guard, which reported on its activities in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A, 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E) throughout 2016.

8.1.4 NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)

78. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR04 from the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), which detailed its west coast enforcement activities during 2016.

8.1.5 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

79. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR05 from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), which summarised its activities in 2016.

80. The Commission **NOTED** that there has been increased effort/participation in the recreational fishery in Washington in the last few years. In an effort to prevent exceeding catch limits in future years, WDFW is moving to a modified in-season management program for the Puget Sound area in 2017 (compared to fixed seasons as used in previous years), with common opening dates for each of the Marine Areas along the Washington Coast.

8.1.6 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

81. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR06 Rev_1 from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) which reported on the 2016 Oregon recreational and commercial Pacific halibut fisheries and economic impacts of 2017 Catch Alternatives.

82. The Commission **NOTED** that descending devices are now mandatory in the Oregon recreational fishery, and that 60-70 % of yelloweye rockfish are assumed to survive release when a descending device is used.

8.1.7 California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

83. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR07 from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) which reported on the 2016 Pacific halibut fisheries in California.

8.2 Regulatory Area 2B (British Columbia)

8.2.1 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) 2016: Annual report

84. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR08a from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), which reported on the 2016 Pacific halibut fisheries in Regulatory Area 2B.

85. The Commission **NOTED** the Pacific halibut fishery update provided by DFO. Agency staff summarised Canadian catch limits and allocation processes, as well as 2016 management measures that are likely to affect Pacific halibut fisheries. Management measures include reduced catch limits of non-target species, improvements to recreational fishery catch monitoring, and the development of a plan to meet national marine conservation targets. Agency staff also summarized organizational changes within DFO that present opportunities for collaboration with the Commission, including engagement in the management strategy evaluation process and an improved understanding of changes to spatial fishery effort distribution.



86. The Commission **NOTED** that the scope of Canada's marine conservation targets is available via the following weblink: <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/conservation/index-eng.html>
87. The Commission **ENDORSED** DFO's combined commercial/sport catch limit for Area 2B.
88. The Commission **NOTED** the development of an electronic logbook option for Area 2B Pacific halibut fisheries the DFO intends to implement during 2017, and the request from Canada during the 93rd Session of the Commission to attempt to incorporate this change in management into the IPHC Regulations, ensuring that data collection and management meet IPHC requirements.
89. **NOTING** that the proposed change to the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations was made in Session, rather than in accordance with the IPHC rules relating to proposal submission, the Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat work with DFO Staff in an attempt to implement electronic logbooks for Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2B in 2017, including but not limited to:
- a) Any necessary updates to IPHC Regulations such as Section 16, Paragraphs (5) through (7) on Canadian logs to reflect both electronic and paper logbooks;
 - b) Coordination with the IPHC Secretariat on the data fields captured in the electronic logbook to ensure inclusion of the information listed in IPHC Regulations 16(6) noted below and any other necessary fields as mutually agreed;
 - i. the name of the vessel and the DFO vessel registration number;
 - ii. the date(s) upon which the fishing gear is set and retrieved;
 - iii. the latitude and longitude coordinates for each set;
 - iv. the number of skates deployed or retrieved, and number of skates lost; and
 - v. the total weight or number of halibut retained for each set.
 - c) Coordination with the IPHC Secretariat on the logistics of data delivery to IPHC, including the timing of and security of data delivery to IPHC and the access to electronic logbooks by IPHC port samplers at the time of landing.
 - d) Should this not be possible in 2017, a Regulatory Proposal would be submitted by Canada for consideration at the 94th Session of the Annual meeting in 2018, in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure.

8.2.2 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) 2016: Canadian Recreational Fishery Halibut Catch

90. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR08b, also from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), which reported on the 2016 Canadian recreational fishery catch of Pacific halibut in 2016.

8.2.3 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) 2016: Pacific halibut fishery enforcement activities

91. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR08c Rev_1, also from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO), which reported on the enforcement activities related to Pacific halibut fisheries in Regulatory Area 2B.

8.3 Regulatory Areas 2C/3/4 (Alaska)

8.3.1 North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC)

92. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR09, from the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), which provided a summary of NPFMC actions related to Pacific halibut management in 2016.
93. The Commission **NOTED** that the target for implementation of electronic monitoring (EM) in Alaska is February, 2018. The EM program currently includes 90 vessels and data are being collected from those vessels and integrated.



94. The Commission **NOTED** that the NPFMC is considering a program allowing CDQ groups in Area 4CDE to lease additional halibut quota for use by residents operating vessels < 51 feet in length, in years where the halibut catch limits are low. The issue is scheduled for initial review in February 2017, with possible implementation in 2018.
95. The Commission **NOTED** that the NPFMC has postponed further consideration of a Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Gulf of Alaska fisheries that would include bycatch of halibut, in large part due to a lack of progress on alternative plans. The NPFMC remains interested in addressing the bycatch issue and has requested that the IPHC continue to investigate a decrease in the minimum size limit as one measure to reduce halibut bycatch in the directed fishery.
96. The Commission **EXPRESSED** its disappointment that bycatch reduction measures in U.S. waters were not moving more quickly, but recognised that some progress had been made in recent years.
97. The Commission **NOTED** concerns about the relatively low observer coverage in the Gulf of Alaska and the reported differences in species composition from observed versus unobserved vessels. Observer coverage on the fixed-gear fleet was approximately 18% in 2016 and estimates of variance will be available for the first time in June of 2017.
98. The Commission **NOTED** that a lowest practicable level of bycatch mortality has not yet been defined, and that efforts by the Amendment 80 fleet and other voluntary bycatch reduction plans may inform a definition of what level of bycatch is possible while maintaining a groundfish harvest.
99. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the NMFS provide a report of juvenile Pacific halibut catch rates in the commercial fisheries versus scientific trawl surveys. The IPHC Secretariat shall facilitate this request for presentation at the 93rd Interim Meeting in November 2017.
100. The Commission **NOTED** that Abundance-Based Management (ABM) of Prohibited Species Catch (PSC) limits for Pacific halibut is being investigated by a working group of NPFMC, Alaska Fishery Science Center (AFSC), NMFS Alaska Regional Office and the IPHC Secretariat. A public meeting will occur at the February 2017 NPFMC meeting to solicit feedback from stakeholders. It is expected that alternatives for analysis will be presented at the April NPFMC meeting. The earliest possible implementation of an ABM framework would be 2019, and PSC limits would likely remain the same in the interim.
101. The Commission **ENDORSED** the NPFMC's Catch Sharing Plans (CSP) for Areas 2C and 3A, as well as for Area 4CDE.
102. The Commission **ENDORSED** the NPFMC's recommended charter recreational fishery management measures for Regulatory Area 2C appropriate to the adopted Regulatory Area 2C catch limit for 2017. These measures include: 1) a one-fish daily bag limit, and 2) a reverse slot limit of less than or equal to 44 inches or greater than or equal to 80 inches.
103. The Commission **ENDORSED** the NPFMC's recommended charter recreational fishery management measures for Area 3A appropriate to the adopted Area 3A catch limit for 2017. These measures include: 1) a two-fish daily bag limit, with a maximum size limit of 28 inches on one of the two fish; 2) a four-fish annual limit, with a recording requirement; 3) one trip per vessel per day; 4) one trip per charter halibut permit per day; 5) a Wednesday closure for the entire season; and 6) three Tuesday closures between 18 July and 1 August 2017.
104. The Commission **NOTED** that the U.S.A. delegation highlighted concerns from guided sport groups regarding the increase in Area 2C and Area 3A of assisted unguided sport fishery operations, and that this is a matter for the NPFMC to consider further.



8.3.2 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS-Alaska Region)

105. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR10, from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS-Alaska Region), which provided a summary of NMFS actions related to Pacific halibut management in 2016 off the coast of Alaska.
106. The Commission **NOTED** that current bycatch is less than the PSC limits in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands, and it is uncertain if the bycatch could be reduced further in some sectors.

Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) updates

107. The Commission **NOTED** information paper IPHC-2017-AM093-INF02, which provided an update on the Amendment 80 bycatch reduction program, permitted under a NMFS Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) that allows deck sorting of Pacific halibut in the trawl fisheries.
108. The Commission **NOTED** the Pacific halibut bycatch reduction tools being used by the Amendment 80 fleet, which include changing fishing targets, use of excluder devices, test tows, communication among vessels, weekly bycatch calls, and deck sorting. Vessels use these tools to meet the annual and quarterly standards of their cooperative agreements. Failure to meet the standards could result in a substantial monetary penalty pursuant to the participants' contractual arrangements.
109. The Commission **NOTED** that 12 vessels participated in the deck-sorting EFP in 2016 compared to nine vessels in 2015. This resulted in a total net savings of 289.9 t (639,120 lbs) of Pacific halibut compared to 175.6 t (387,132 lbs) in 2015.
110. **NOTING** that the Commission had previously requested the IPHC Secretariat to examine bycatch reduction by the Amendment 80 sector versus other sectors in the Bering Sea, by regulatory area (see AM92.10), which was yet to be undertaken, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a detailed examination of changes in bycatch levels among all gears/sectors, and for results to be presented to the Commission at its 93rd Interim Meeting (in November 2017).

8.3.3 Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

111. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR11, from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), which provided a summary of its activities related to Pacific halibut in 2016.

8.3.4 NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE): Alaska Enforcement Division

112. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR12, from the NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE): Alaska Enforcement Division, which provided a summary of its enforcement activities related to Pacific halibut in 2016.

8.3.5 Alaska State Troopers Department of Public Safety Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers

113. The Commission **NOTED** agency report IPHC-2017-AM093-AR13, from the Alaska State Troopers (the Department of Public Safety Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers), which provided a summary of its activities related to Pacific halibut in 2016.

9. IPHC RESEARCH AND 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM

9.1 *Draft: IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Science research program*

114. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-11 which provided an overview of the proposed IPHC 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science research program, including the following abstract from the author:

“The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has a long history of research activities devoted to describe and understand the biology of the Pacific halibut (Hippoglossus stenolepis). Currently, the primary objectives of the biological research conducted by IPHC are

- (1) to identify and assess critical knowledge gaps in the biology of the Pacific halibut,*
- (2) to understand the influence of environmental conditions, and*



(3) to apply the resulting knowledge to reduce uncertainty in current stock assessment models.

Current and planned biological research activities over the next five-year period (2017-21) include studies in five major research areas:

- (1) reproduction (i.e. sex identification, maturity estimates),
- (2) growth (i.e. decrease in size at age, temperature effects),
- (3) discard mortality rates (i.e. physiological condition and survival post-release of bycatch),
- (4) migration (i.e. larval dispersal, adult and reproductive migrations), and
- (5) genetics and genomics (i.e. genetic population structure, genome characterisation).

For FY2017, seven new projects have been proposed on reproduction, migration, growth, viability assessment and survival post-capture and genetics in the Pacific halibut. Furthermore, eight continuing projects have been proposed for FY2017 that deal with sex identification, monitoring the Pacific halibut population for mercury and Ichthyophonus contamination, migration-related research with the use of wire and satellite tagging and the re-evaluation of the weight-length relationship. In addition to the new and continuing research projects proposed for 2017, four research projects have been submitted for external funding.”

115. The Commission **ENDORSED** the new and continuing research proposals proposed by IPHC Secretariat for internal funding as described in paper IPHC-2017-AM093-11 and listed at [Appendix Xa](#) and included in the summary diagram at [Appendix XI](#).

116. The Commission **NOTED** that:

- a) investigation of discard mortality rates (DMRs) has increased in importance given that the Amendment 80 trawl fleet has realized halibut bycatch savings. Obtaining an accurate DMR will assist in estimating the footprint of that fishery on the halibut population.
- b) regarding sex marking at sea by the commercial fleet, they encourage the IPHC Secretariat to contact local fishing organizations prior to the season start in order to give clear guidance on why the information is being collected and thus increase voluntary participation for 2017.

117. The Commission **NOTED** the range of research proposals developed by the IPHC Secretariat which aimed to provide additional financial support via external sources. The research projects were designed to address key biological issues for stock assessment and the Pacific halibut fisheries that complement projects supported by internal IPHC funding ([Appendix Xb](#)).

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

118. The Commission **NOTED** information paper IPHC-2017-AM093-INF04 which provided an overview of North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) objectives, including climate and ecosystem issues, and a request for increased participation in scientific working groups by the IPHC Secretariat.

119. The Commission **ENCOURAGED** the IPHC Secretariat to explore opportunities and enter into arrangements with PICES as might be beneficial to both parties, which can be approved by the Executive Director.

9.2 Reports of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB)

120. The Commission **NOTED** the Reports of the 8th (IPHC-2016-SRB08-R) and 9th (IPHC-2016-SRB09-R) Sessions of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB) which were presented by Dr Sean Cox (Simon Fraser University, Canada), one of the three (3) SRB members.

121. The Commission **RECALLED** the mandate of the SRB as stated in the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014) as follows:

Rule 10.5 (e) A Scientific Review Board (SRB), with the main objective of providing an independent scientific review of Commission science products and programs, and to support and strengthen the stock assessment process. The Scientific Review Board shall review modelling and evaluation used



by the Management Strategy Advisory Board and review research proposals from the Research Advisory Board and the IPHC Secretariat. The Scientific Review Board will prepare reports to the Commission summarizing findings, recommendations, and documentation of any divergent views for all of its reviews.

122. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the SRB in its 2016 reports (IPHC-2016-SRB08-R and IPHC-2017-SRB09-R) and provided comment as specified below.
123. The Commission **REQUESTED** that, in response to the SRB recommendation that the Ebio calculation be phased out in favour of alternatives, the SRB recommend specific alternatives that the IPHC Secretariat can explore.
124. The Commission **NOTED** that increased fishery-independent survey station density is being considered in some areas, but expressed concern about the effect that increased effort will have on sensitive bycatch species. The SRB's advice was that density at locations that are not surveyed annually can be predicted from the space-time model using information from nearby stations.

9.3 Report of the 18th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB18)

125. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 18th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB18) (IPHC-2016-RAB18-R) which was presented by the Chairperson of the RAB, Dr David Wilson (IPHC Executive Director). A total of seven (7) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 18 IPHC Secretariat staff as observers or officers. Four (4) RAB Members were absent.
126. The Commission **RECALLED** the mandate of the RAB as stated in the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014) as follows:
- Rule 10.5 (c) A Research Advisory Board, composed of members of the halibut community that shall suggest research ideas, review IPHC research, and provide the IPHC Secretariat with direct input and advice from industry during the development of research plans. The Board may also make recommendations to the Scientific Review Board concerning research plans and priorities. The Executive Director shall facilitate the Board's meetings, as well as communication with the Commission and the other IPHC advisory bodies on the Board's behalf.*
127. The Commission **NOTED** that the recommendations made by the RAB18 from its 2016 report (IPHC-2016-RAB18-R) had been considered by the Commission at its 92nd Interim Meeting for incorporation into the IPHC 5-year research program detailed in [section 9.2](#). Additional comment or endorsement is specified below.

Best practices handling guidelines

128. The Commission recalled its **RECOMMENDATION** from the 92nd Interim Meeting, that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a project to develop 'Best practice handling guidelines' for each of the primary gear types which catch Pacific halibut, both directed and non-directed.

IPHC Closed Area review

129. **NOTING** recommendation RAB18.03, as stated below, the Commission **DEFERRED** further discussion to [Section 7.1.2](#), where a regulatory proposal on the IPHC Closed Area was discussed:
- RAB18-03 (para. 37) "The RAB18 RECOMMENDED that as the IPHC Closed Area was designated to protect juvenile Pacific halibut, there is no scientific justification for retaining the closure in its current form. Thus, the IPHC Closed Area should either be removed, noting that it would be unlikely that much longline fishing would occur in the area as most fish are below the legal size limit, or it should only apply to gear which would interact with juvenile Pacific halibut."*



10. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

10.1 *Financial Statement for FY2016*

130. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-12 which provided the end-of-year financial statement for the Commission (financial period: 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016).
131. The Commission **NOTED** the contributions received from Contracting Parties as follows:
- U.S.A. Contribution – In FY2016, the U.S. Government appropriated **\$4,150,000** to the IPHC. The U.S. contributions included funding for pension deficits and headquarters lease costs up to **\$250,000**.
 - Canada Contribution – In FY2016, the Canadian government contributed **\$974,228** to the IPHC. The Canadian contributions included **\$848,720** for general contributions (which has been unchanged since 2003), as well as a separate amount of **\$95,508** to cover pension deficit payments as well as a one-time payment of **\$30,000** for lab upgrades.
132. The Commission **NOTED** that FY2016 preliminary expenses were 93% of the projected budget (General Expenses at **\$10,067,759** USD and income was 107% of the projected budget at **\$10,486,608** USD).
133. The Commission **NOTED** an increase in the General/Supplemental carryover of \$418,849 USD.
134. The Commission **NOTED** that the University of Washington would be invoiced an additional **\$9,243** for FY2016 lease costs based on the 2010 Separation and Relocation Agreement.

10.2 *Annual independent auditor's report*

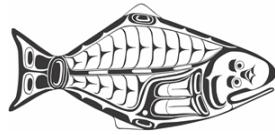
135. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-13 which provided the current status of the audit report and necessary intersessional approval process.
136. The Commission **ENDORSED** the re-appointment of MKD CPAs PPLC (Seattle, WA) as the IPHC auditor for the FY2017 audit of the IPHC financial statements.

10.3 *Handling of the annual budget carryover*

137. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-14 which provided a methodology for parsing the IPHC General and Supplemental Fund carryovers into two distinct accounts which are used to track annual carryovers related to the IPHC core operations and fishery-independent survey (FIS). The paper and subsequent presentation provided a methodology which allowed all permanent Seattle Secretariat staff salaries to be debited against member contributions and all non-FIS income and expenses carried forward separate from FIS income and expenses. The period of FY2006-FY2015 was divided between the accounts based on this methodology.
138. The Commission **AGREED** that the IPHC Financial Regulations should be revised to incorporate a specific policy statement on the handling of fishery-independent survey expenses and revenue, with the overall objective potentially being limited to cost-recovery and long-term revenue neutrality. A draft shall be provided for consideration at the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting in January 2018.

10.4 *Proposed budget for FY2017, 2018 and tentatively for 2019*

139. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-15 which detailed the draft current-year budget estimate for the Commission (FY2017 - financial period: 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017).
140. The Commission **NOTED** that U.S.A. appropriations for FY2017 are still unresolved but currently indicated at **\$4,150,000** USD. The Canada general assessment is shown at **\$848,720** USD and the pension deficit payment at **\$95,508** USD.



141. The Commission **NOTED** that FY2017 anticipated income is **\$9,761,922** USD and expenses at **\$11,738,816** USD. The Commission anticipates using **\$1,976,824** USD from the General/Supplemental carryover for expenses in excess of income.
142. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** two supplementary budget items at the Annual Meeting, whose expenses would be drawn from the IPHC carryover, and not the regular budget.
- a) Area 2A fishery-independent setline survey ad-hoc expansion (densification) of the Washington region. The IPHC Secretariat shall provide a proposal to the Commission for inter-sessional decision, which details the scientific, logistical and budget implications.
 - b) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) supplemental support – The IPHC Secretariat shall provide a proposal to the Commission for inter-sessional decision, detailing any additional resources that could be used to expedite, enhance and supplement the MSE Program of Work.
143. The Commission **ADOPTED** the FY2017 budget, a summary of which is provided at [Appendix XII](#).
144. **NOTING** that in the current IPHC annual budgeting process, the budget is approved several months after the fiscal year has begun, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat propose modifications to the IPHC Financial Regulation (2014) to address this issue, for consideration at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Commission in 2018.
145. The Commission **NOTED** the preliminary budget estimates for FY2018 ([Appendix XIII](#)) and FY2019 ([Appendix XIV](#)), and that they include assumed increases in contributions from the Contracting Parties.
146. **NOTING** the proposed increases in contributions from the Contracting Parties for 2018 and 2019, which are based on a nominal 3% increase in line with inflation estimates, and that the most recent increase in contribution from Canada was in 2003 which has resulted in a compounded increase of \$513,280 USD proposed for 2018, the Commission **AGREED** that in the event of the expected contributions not being realised, that the IPHC Secretariat shall be required to pare back its personnel and operating expenses in 2018 and 2019 to compensate.

10.5 IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014)

147. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-16 which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider proposed amendments to the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014).
148. The Commission **NOTED** that in accordance with Rule 15, paragraph 2 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014), which states: “2. *These Rules of Procedure should be reviewed for their consistency and appropriateness at least biennially.*”, on 20 October 2016, the IPHC Secretariat indicated the need to revisit the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014) at the Interim Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Commission in 2016 and 2017, respectively (via IPHC Circular 2016-001).
149. That the Commission **ADOPTED** the revised [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2017\)](#) by consensus.

10.6 IPHC Performance Review: Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 1st IPHC Performance Review recommendations

150. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-17 which detailed the status of each of the recommendations from the 1st IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC01).
151. The Commission **AGREED** that the status table provided at Appendix I of paper IPHC-2017-AM093-17 should continue to be periodically updated and provided to the IPHC Work Meeting, Interim Meeting and Annual Meeting for information purposes.

10.7 IPHC Performance Review: Planning for the 2nd IPHC Performance Review

152. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-18 which provided the Commission with a draft process, terms of reference and assessment criteria for undertaking a 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC in 2017.



153. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise the draft performance review terms of reference and criteria to conduct the review, and implement the 2nd Performance Review throughout 2017, for presentation to the Commission at its 94th Annual Meeting in 2018.

11. REPORT OF THE 87TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB087)

154. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 87th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB087) (IPHC-2017-CB087-R) which was presented by the Co-Chairpersons of the CB, Mr Jeff Kauffman and Mr Jim Lane. A total of 85 organisations were represented at the Session.

155. The Commission **RECALLED** the mandate of the CB as stated in the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014) as follows:

Rule 10.5 (a) A Conference Board, on which individuals representing Canadian and U.S. commercial, sport, subsistence, Tribal/First Nations halibut harvesters, and other interested parties may be represented. The Board shall advise the Commission on matters relating to conservation measures and halibut management. The Conference Board shall also review Staff reports and recommendations, regulatory and catch limit proposals received by the Commission, and provide its advice concerning these items to the Commission at its Annual Meeting, or on other occasions as requested. The Conference Board Co-Chairs shall communicate with the Commission and the other IPHC advisory bodies on the Board's behalf. The Commission's Executive Director may facilitate this communication.

156. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the CB087 from its 2017 report (IPHC-2017-CB087-R) and provided comment or endorsement as specified below.

157. The Commission **NOTED** the commercial season dates proposal by the CB of a commencement date of 4 March 2017 and a closing date of 20 November 2017.

158. The Commission **NOTED** the Conference Board's proposed coastwide catch limit of 32.455 Milb for 2017, which would equate to an **8.58% increase** from the adopted 2016 catch limit, with the following breakdown by Regulatory Area:

- a) 2A (1.33 Milb)
- b) 2B (7.90 Milb)
- c) 2C (5.40 Milb)
- d) 3A (10.225 Milb)
- e) 3B (3.335 Milb)
- f) 4A (1.345 Milb)
- g) 4B (1.185 Milb)
- h) 4CDE (1.735 Milb)

12. REPORT OF THE 22ND SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY GROUP (PAG)

159. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 22nd Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Group (PAG022) (IPHC-2017-PAG022-R) which was presented by the Chairperson of the PAG, Mr Blake Tipton. A total of 19 member companies attended the Session (7 from Canada and 12 from the U.S.A.).

160. The Commission **RECALLED** the mandate of the PAG as stated in the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014) as follows:

Rule 10.5 (b) A Processor Advisory Group, representing the U.S. and Canadian halibut processing industry and other interested parties. The Group shall advise the Commission on matters relating to conservation measures and halibut management. The Processor Advisory Group shall also review Staff reports and recommendations, regulatory and catch limit proposals received by the Commission, and provide its advice concerning these items to the Commission at its Annual Meeting, or on other occasions as requested. The PAG Chair shall communicate with the Commission and the other IPHC advisory bodies on the Group's behalf. The Commission's Executive Director may facilitate this communication.



161. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the PAG022 from its 2017 report (IPHC-2017-PAG022-R) and provided comment or endorsement as specified below.
162. The Commission **NOTED** the commercial season dates proposal by the PAG of a commencement date of 18 March 2017 and a closing date of 01 November 2017.
163. The Commission **NOTED** the PAG's proposed coastwide catch limit of 32.255 Mlb for 2017, which would equate to a **7.91% increase** from the adopted 2016 catch limit, with the following breakdown by Regulatory Area:
- a) 2A (1.33 Mlb)
 - b) 2B (7.50 Mlb)
 - c) 2C (5.30 Mlb)
 - d) 3A (10.225 Mlb)
 - e) 3B (3.53 Mlb)
 - f) 4A (1.43 Mlb)
 - g) 4B (1.25 Mlb)
 - h) 4CDE (1.66 Mlb)
164. The Commission **NOTED** that Mr Donald McLeod (former IPHC Commissioner) had received the HANA William J. Kelliher Award for his long-term contribution to the Pacific halibut fishery, and offered their congratulations to Mr McLeod.

13. IPHC COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

13.1 IPHC Website improvements

165. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-19 which outlined the approach planned for the IPHC website redesign, which is expected to be launched in the summer of 2017.
166. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** the improvements already being made to the IPHC website and thanked the IPHC Secretariat for those modifications which have greatly improved information accessibility.
167. The Commission **NOTED** that one key element of the project is obtaining feedback from IPHC website users. The team has developed a seven-question survey that will be used to collect feedback. The survey will remain open through the 93rd Annual Meeting, as an input to the website design planning, and then after that to gather feedback from website users on improvements.

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

168. The Commission **NOTED** that the term of the current Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) is due to expire at the closing of the current Session, and as per the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014) the Commission is required to elect a new Chairperson for the next year.
169. **NOTING** the Rules of Procedure (2014), the Commission **CALLED** for nominations for the newly vacated position of Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year. Mr James Balsiger (U.S.A.) was nominated, seconded and elected as Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year.
170. The Commission **NOTED** that the term of the current Vice-Chairperson, Mr James Balsiger (U.S.A.) is due to expire at the closing of the current Session, and as per the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014) the Commission is required to elect a new Vice-Chairperson for the next year.
171. **NOTING** the Rules of Procedure (2014), the Commission **CALLED** for nominations for the newly vacated position of Vice-Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year. Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) was nominated, seconded and elected as Vice-Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year.



14.2 *IPHC meetings calendar (2017-19)*

172. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-20 which provided an opportunity to consider the annual IPHC meetings calendar (2017-19).
173. The Commission **ADOPTED** the proposed dates and places for the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as provided in [Appendix XV](#).

15. THE PROCESS FOR ‘REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 93RD SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM093)’

15.1 *News releases: Content and schedule*

174. **NOTING** the IPHC Secretariat’s proposal for two news releases subsequent to the 93rd Annual Meeting the Commission **RECOMMENDED** the release of an initial news release on 27 January 2017 announcing the 2017 catch limits and season dates, and a subsequent, more detailed news release within one month of the close of the Session.

15.2 *Draft: Report of the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093)*

175. The Commission **AGREED** that the Draft Report of the AM093 shall be distributed to the Contracting Parties for a 7-day comment period, before being recirculated for a further 7-day review period (or as needed), as a consolidated version with edits from both Parties. Once agreement has been reached on the edits proposed, the report shall be considered and adopted via correspondence.
176. The report of the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (IPHC–2017–AM093–R) was **ADOPTED** via correspondence on 03 March 2017, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from AM093, provided at [Appendix XVI](#).

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 93RD SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM093)

Commission Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)	Dr James Balsiger (United States of America)

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Mr Paul Ryall	Dr James Balsiger
Mr Ted Assu	Mr Robert Alverson
Mr Jake Vanderheide	Ms Linda Behnken

Advisors/experts

Canada	United States of America
Mr Neil Davis	Mr Jonathan Pollard
Mr Adam Keizer	Ms Michele Culver
Dr Robyn Forrest	Dr Carey McGilliard
	Mr John Lepore
	Mr Brian McTague

Other participants

First	Last	Organization
Russell	A. S.	Makah Tribe
Mike	Allen	2C Fisherman
Matt	Alward	North Pacific Fisheries Assoc.
Muriel	Amos	Native Village of Mekoryuk
Howard T.	Amos	Native Village of Mekoryuk
Phil	Anderson	Pacific Fishery Mgmt Council
Katie	Archer	Archipelago Marine Research
Chuck	Ashcroft	Sport Fishing Advisory Board, Canada
Cliff	Atleo	NTC
Rachel	Baker	NMFS, AK Region
Katherine	Bannar-Martin	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Nazary	Basargin	K-Bay Fisheries Assoc.
Joshua	Baure Etheston	Quileute Tribe
Kevin	Begley	Sidney Anglers
Keith	Bell	South Central Ak
Robert	Bennett	Council of the Haida Nation
Dana	Besecker	Dana Besecker Co.
Tyler	Besecker	Dana Besecker Co.
Owen	Bird	SFI
Maureen	Blair	U of A Southeast Juneau
Barbara	Blake	State of Alaska
Ron	Blake	Fisherman
Tony	Blore	Dana Besecker Co.
Chris	Bos	SVIAC
Doug	Bowen	AK Boats and Permits, Inc.
Madeleine	Bowen	Alaska Boats and Permits
Dave	Boyes	PHMA
Judy	Brakel	
David	Brindle	Pacific Seafood/HANA



Colin	Brinkman	US Dept. of State
Ted	Brookman	BC Wildlife Federation
Aaron	Brooks	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe
Kyle	Brynjolfson	2B PCVOG
Sigard	Brynjolfson	2B Pacific Coast Fishing Vessel Owners Guild
Bernie	Burkholder	Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Assoc.
Ann	Bussell	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Mark	Callahan	Icicle SFDS
Russell	Cameron	United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union
Sam	Cameron	Fisherman
Alan	Carl	Northern 2B Halibut Products
Jacqueline	Carmesin	
Shannon	Carroll	Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Barron	Carswell	BC Govt.
Gary	Caton	ESQ Anglers
Joel	Cladouhos	Arctic Sablefish
Paul	Clampitt	Independent Fisherman
Mike	Clark	US Dept. of State
Tom	Cole	Amalgamated Conservation
Karson	Coutre	ERT, NOAA
Estelle	Couture	DFO
Sean	Cox	Chair, IPHC Scientific Review Board
Craig	Cross	ASF
Michele	Culver	WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Leslie	Culver-Sanders	
Sam	Cunningham	NPFMC Staff
Dick	Curran	Seafood Producers COOP
Daniel	Danich	Homer Charter Assoc.
D.	Darryl Tate	Ditidaht Nation
Douglas	Daugert	Sport Fishing Advisory Board, North
Art	Davidson	2B Fisherman
Patrick	Defoe	Makah Tribal Government
Matthew	Dobson	Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Daniel	Donich	Homer Charter Assoc.
Frank	Dragon	Ka:'yu:'k't'h'/Che:k:tles7et'h' First Nations
Angela	Drobnica	Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development
Kit	Durnil	Pacific Seafood Group, Seward
Angel	Dvobnica	APICDA
Lando	Echeverio	Seven Sisters Fisheries
Ysabel	Echeverio	Kema Sue
Carl	Edgar	IMAWG
Phillip	Edgar	Ditidaht Nation
Will	Ellis	NOAA-OLE
Garett	Elwood	Young Fishermen of Western AK
Tori	Elwood	3B Fisherman
Greg	Elwood	IPHC MSAB
Josh	Etherton	Quileute Natural Resoucrs
Casey	Evens	



Craig	Evens	Petersburg Vessel Owner's Assoc.
Barbi	Failor	Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Alisha	Falberg	NOAA OGC
James	Fall	ADFG
Dan	Falvey	Alaska Lonline Fishermen's Assoc.
Wallace	Fields	Fisherman, AK
Mark	Fina	United States Seafoods
Michael	Flores	Alaska Charter Assoc.
Robyn	Forrest	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ron	Frank	Ka:'yu:'k'th'/Chek'ties First Nation
David	Fraser	Adak Community Development
Bruce	Gabrys	IPHC MSAB
Kyla	Ganton	Tradex Foods Inc
Yongwen	Gao	Makah Tribe
John	Gauvin	Alaska Seafood Group
Tom	Gemmell	Halibut Coalition
Jessica	Gill	UAS
Jason	Gobin	Tulalip Tribes
Junior	Goodell	Quinault Indian Nation
Eric	Goodman	Genday Fisheries
Tyler	Goodnight	Northport Fisheries
Keith	Goodnight	Northport Fisheries
William E.	Gosnell	Fisherman
Anya	Greniek	Alaska Lonline Fishermen's Assoc.
Herb	Groolef	Sleveslom Halibut Assoc.
Dave	Groonquist	Pheet Sound Anglers
Angus	Grout	Gulf Troll Assoc.
Jennifer	Hagen	Quileute Tribe
Bruce	Hale	FAS Seafoods
Jenn	Hall Brown	NMFS, AK Region
Ed	Hansen	SEAK Fishermen's Alliance
Kathy	Hansen	SEAK Fishermen's Alliance
Grethen	Hanshew	NMFS WCR
Joel	Hanson	The Boat Company
David	Hardie	
Dylan	Hardie	Commercial Fisherman 2B
Jeff	Hartman	NMFS, AK
Pete	Hartman	Hartman Group
Joel	Harvey	Bellingham Cold Storage
Robert	Haukness	
Doug	Havin	
Clark C.	Hawkens	SPC
Charles	Hawks	SPC
Danny	Heggelund	
Henry	Heggelund	BC Commercial Halibut Fisherman
James	Heggelund	
Colleen	Heide	Gulf Crab
Hannah	Heimbuch	Alaska Young Fishermen's Network
Terry	Henshaw	Annieville Halibut Assoc.



Nick	Heras	7 Sea Fish Co.
Leonard	Herzog	Area 4 Fisherman
Michael	Ho	Tradex Foods Inc
Kevin	Hogan	The Auction Block Co.
John	Holloway	RFA-OR
Craig	Holowianchuck	Hartman Group
Kendra	Holt	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Jacque	Hostler-Carmesm	CA Fish & Game
Duff	Hoyt	Icicle Seafoods
Rhonda	Hubbard	J&R Fisheries
Jim	Hubbard	Kruzof Fisheries
Kent	Huff	Charter Halibut Managemnet Comm.
Dan	Hull	NPFMC
Chelsea	Hutton	
Mike	Hyde	ASC
Roy	Hyder	NPFMC
Greg	Indreland	Yakutat Seafoods
Lorne	Iverson	BC Halibut Longline Fishermen's Assoc.
Vince	Jacobson	
Mike	Jaenicke	ADFG
Peter	Jankiewicz	AMR/IPHC
Ed	Johnson	Huu-ay-aht
Jim	Johnson	Deep Sea Fisheries
Ed	Johnstone	Quinault Indian Nation
Steve	Joner	Makah Tribe
Rob	Jones	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
Jeff	Kauffman	St. Paul Fishermen's Assoc.
Tiffany	Keen	Memorial University of Newfoundland
Adam	Keizer	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Jeff	Kelton	Peter Pan Seafoods
Keeley	Kent	NMFS
Sherry	Klassen	Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
Tim	Klassen	Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers
Kneber	Kneber	Scarley Point Seafoods
Michael	Kohan	Alaskan Seafood Marketing Institute
Rick	Koso	ACDC
Alexander	Kotlamov	NMFS
Deryk	Krefting	West Coast Fishing Guide Assoc.
Gerry	Kristianson	SRAB Canada
Rob	Kronlunf	Pacific Biological Station
Arlo	Kueber	Scarlet Point Seafoods
Richard	Lake	Sidney Anglers
Bernette	Laliberte	Island Marine Aquatic Working Group
Jim	Lane	IPHC MSAB
Karl	Larson-Blair	Aleut Corporation
Kay	Larson-Blair	
Buck	Laukitis	Fisherman
Arne	Lee	
Phillip	Lestenkof	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc.



Steve	Lewis	PHMA
Ryan	Littleton	IPHC MSAB
Layton S.	Lockett	City of Adak/ACDC
Frank	Lockhart	NMFS WCR
Lorraine	Loomis	Swinomish
Al	Mack	Areo
Grant	MacPherson	Sidney Anglers
Derek	Mahoney	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Ryan	Makinster	SE Alaska Guides Org.
Patrick	Malecho	NOAA
Mary	Marking	Homer Charter Association
Tom	Marking	IPHC MSAB
Jim	Martin	Recreational Fishing Alliance
Robert	Marvelle	NOAA-OLE
Doug	Mavin	PHMA
Carry	Mayes	ACDC
Scott	Mazzone	IPHC MSAB
Heather	McCarthy	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc.
Chuck	McCarthy	Ucluelet First Nation
Dane	McFadden	Archipelago Marine Research
Madeleine	McGreer	CCIRA
Brad	McLean	
Shawn	McManus	Deep Sea Fishermen's Union
Rob	McNutt	Trader Foods
Brian	McTague	
Myron	Melovidov	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc.
Ray	Melovidov	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc.
Nick	Meras	7 Seas Fish Co.
Rachael	Merrett	Archipelago Marine Research
Glenn	Merrill	NFMS
Scott	Meyer	ADFG
Andy	Mezirow	NPFMC
Alicia	Miller	NMFS
George	Milne	
Malcolm	Milne	North Pacific Fisheries Association
Brad	Mirau	PAG
John	Moller	Nav North Consultants
Craig	Molonaycheuk	Hart
Mel	Moon	ADFG
Joe	Morell	SPC
Doug	Morrill	Lower Elwha Tribe
Craig	Murdoch	NMFS
Peter	Neaton	
Andy	Nezsow	SCISA
Carina	Nichols	Southeast Alaska
Midori	Nicolson	MDFG
Cameron	Noble	LGL Limited
Carl	Nordmann	SM Products, BC, Ltd
Per	Odegaard	Fishing Vessel Owners Association



Ben	Odegard	Fishing Vessel Owners Association
Michael	Offerman	Fishing Vessel Owners Association
Tom	Ohaus	Sitka Lodge Owner
Mike	Okoniedski	Pacific Seafood/HANA
Chris	Oliver	NPFMC
Eric	Olson	Dana Besecker Co.
Megan	O'Neil	PVOA
Alan	Otness	Fisherman
Peggy	Parker	HANA
Mateo	Paz-Soldan	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc.
Joe	Peterson	Makah Tribe
Jeffery	Philemonoff	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc.
Will	Phillips	PHMA
James E.	Phillips	Pacific Fishing Inc. Pelican Adv. Council
Patricia	Phillips	City of Pelican/Pacific Fishing, Inc.
Lyle	Pierce	
Martin	Polish	WCFG
Heather	Reed	WDFW
Jeff	Richards	Coastside Fishing Club
Matt	Robinson	BBEDC
Christopher	Rogers	NMFS
Jose	Rogues	Bellingham Cold Storage
Kevin	Romain	Archipelago Marine Research
Christa	Rusel	A Tlegay Fisheries Society
Quinton	Sample	PCFVOG
Leslie	Sanders	Trinidad Rancheria
Tashe	Sanders	Trinidad Rancheria
Jonathan	Sanim	Westport Charter Boat Assoc.
Demian	Schane	NOAA GC
Julie	Scheurer	NOAA Fisheries, AK Region
Ervin	Schumacker	
Joe	Schumacker	Quinault Indian Nation
Chad	See	Freezer Longline Coalition
Arthur	Severance	Coastal Villager Region Fund
John	Sevier	International Seafood of Alaska
Bill	Shaw	Westcoast Fishing Guides Assoc.
Dale	Smith	Native Village of Mekoryuk
Miles	Smith	Dana F. Besecker Co.
Steven	Solomon	Lummi Nation
Maggie	Sommer	ODFW
Don	Spigelmyre	Icicle Seafoods, Petersburg
Chris	Sporer	Pacific Halibut Management Assoc.
Robbie	St. Louis	French Creek Seafoods
Jan	Standaert	Deep Sea Fishermen's Union
Rob	Stanley	Fisherman Van Isle
Ben	Starkhouse	Lummi Nation
Diana	Stram	NPFMC
Russell	Svec	
Simeon	Swetozof Jr.	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Assoc.



D. Darryl	Tate	Ditidaht First Nation
Keri	Taylor	Archipelago Marine Research
Clem	Tillion	Aleut Enterprise Corp
Blake	Tipton	HANA, PAG
Mike	Turner	Province of British Columbia
Herb	Van Grootel	Steveston Halibut Assoc.
Colleen	Vanderheide	PHMA
Anne	Vanderhoeven	Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp.
Jaelee	Vanidestine	IPHC
Stephanie	Warpinski	McDowell Group
Andy	Webster	BC
Abigail	Welch	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
Rod	Whitehead	F/V Larisa M
Jim	Whitethorn	2E West Brother Group
Tandy	Wilbur	Swinomish Tribe
Ben	Wilkenson	Archipelago Marine Research
Ellis	Willard	
Gary	Williamson	Wild Canadian Sablefish
Ken	Wing	2B Fisherman
Dan	Woldord	PFMC, Coastside Fishing Club
Chris	Woodley	Groundfish Forum
John	Woodruff	IPHC MSAB
Rob	Wurm	Kodiak Vessel Owners Assoc.
Phillip	Wyman	Sitka Black Cod & Halibut Marketing Assoc.
Richard	Yamada	Alaska Charter Association
Phil	Young	Canadian Fishing Co.
Colleen	Zlandebiedie	PHMA Member

Webinar participants

Kevin Abena	Stephanie Hart	Alan Otness
Big Al	James Hasbrouck	Martin Paish
Peter Allan	Darlene Haugan	Amos Philemonoff
GG Allen	Ed Henry	Jeffrey Philemonoff
Matthew Alward	Michael Ho	Patricia Phillips
Kelly Ames	John Holloway	Red Ranger
Howard T. Amos	Craig Holowaychuk	Heather Reed
Breena Apgar-Kurtz	Chelsea Hutton	Kaila Ritchie
Jim Armstrong	Andy Iversen	Matt Robinson
Clydina Bailey	Maria Jacob	Janet Rumble
Carol Batteen	Michael Jaenicke	Christa Rusel
David Benson	Pete Jenkins	Chris Russ
Jim Benton	Keith Jernigan	Alyssa Russell
Owen Bird	Gary Johnson	Audrey Salmon
Ronald Blake	Chris Johnston	Annika Saltman
Tony Blore	Bob Joness	Quinton Sample
Kathryn Bond	Robert Kaczynski	Robert Schell
Julie Bonney	Steve Keith	Carol Schirmer
Chris Bos	Simon Kinneen	Joe Schumacker



Aaron Brooks	Bryan Kirby	Bill Shaw
Tracy Buck	Rebecca Knight	Kurt Sigfusson
Mark Callahan	Linda Kozak	AC Simmons
Bob Chadwick	Gerry Kristianson	Dan Smith
Kelly Chapman	Allen (Rob) Kronlund	Eric Soderlund
David Clark	Rena Kudrin	Chad Soiseth
Charles Clement	Bruce Leaman	Maggie Sommer
Lisa Cook	Arne Lee	Blair Stewart
Jerry Dahl	Frank Lockhart	Jeanine Stewart
Douglas Daugert	Jessica Lombard	Diana Stram
Art Davidson	Robert Mackenzie	Todd Strand
Shannon Davis	Kirsten MacTavish	William Sullivan
CC Deville	Sarah Marrinan	David Summers
Angel Drobnica	Steve Martell	Aaron Sutton
Kevin Duffy	Jim Martin	Lori Swanson
Lando Echeverio	Jessica Marx	Tom Taube
Catherine Emrick	Lynn Mattes	Diana Tersteeg
Joshua Etherton	Morris Mattson	Aregash Tesfatsion
Alisha Falberg	Roland Maw	Peter Thompson
Daniel Falvey	Heather McCarty	Mike Vaughn
Steve Farr	John McCulloch	Erik Velsko
Jeff Farvour	Kelly McElligott	Joe Viechnicki
P Frnake	William McGill	Jay Walker
Mot Gnok	Caroline Mcknight	Sarah Webster
Jason Gobin	John McLaughlin	Samantha Weinstein
Junior Goodell	Matthew Metcalf	Ernie Weiss
Eric Goodman	Chuck Metzner	Abigail Welch
Tyler Goodnight	Malcolm Milne	Laine Welch
Eric Grauvogel	CDFW Monterey	Chantel Wetzell
Joanna Grebel	Lisa Newland	Jennifer Williams
C Greeley	Midori Nicolson	Marissa Wilson
Angus Grout	David Oen	Deb Wilson-Vandenberg
Eric Grundberg	Gary Olsen	Mark Worley
Charles Harper	Kristian Olsen	Marci Yaremko
Kelly Harrell	Jeff Osborn	

IPHC Secretariat

Name	Position and email
Dr David Wilson	Executive Director, david@iphc.int
Mr Stephen Keith	Assistant Director, steve@iphc.int
Ms Tamara Briggie	Administrative Coordinator, tamara@iphc.int
Mr Claude Dykstra	Research Scientist, claudio@iphc.int
Ms Lara Erikson	Commercial Fisheries Data Manager, lara@iphc.int
Ms Tracee Geernaert	Survey Manager, tracee@iphc.int
Ms Jamie Goen	Fisheries Statistics Program Manager, jamie@iphc.int
Dr Allan Hicks	Quantitative Scientist, allan@iphc.int
Mr Keith Jernigan	Technology Program Manager, keith@iphc.int
Mr Tom Kong	Biologist – Data and B.C. Port Supervisor, tom@iphc.int



Mr Michael Larsen	Administrative Program Manager, mike@iphc.int
Dr Timothy Loher	Research Scientist, tim@iphc.int
Dr Josep Planas	Biological and Ecosystem Program Manager, josep@iphc.int
Ms Dana Rudy	Biologist – Age Lab Technician, dana@iphc.int
Ms Lauri Sadorus	Research Scientist, lauri@iphc.int
Dr Ian Stewart	Quantitative Scientist, ian@iphc.int
Ms Jaelee Vanidestine	Port Sampler, jaelee@iphc.int
Mr Jay Walker	Computer Systems Manager, jay@iphc.int
Dr Ray Webster	Quantitative Scientist, ray@iphc.int



APPENDIX II

AGENDA FOR THE 93RD SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM093)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
- 3. UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 92ND ANNUAL MEETING, IPHC WORK MEETING and the 92ND INTERIM MEETING**
- 4. STATE OF THE FISHERY (2016)**
- 5. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2016) & HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2017)**
 - 5.1 Stock assessment inputs (Spatio-temporal modelling of survey data)
 - 5.2 Survey expansion through 2019
 - 5.3 Stock assessment (2016) & Draft Harvest decision table (2017)
 - 5.4 Updated Pacific halibut catch tables (2017)
- 6. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**
 - 6.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation update
 - 6.2 Reports of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)
- 7. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2017**
 - 7.1 IPHC Secretariat proposals
 - 7.2 Agency proposals
 - 7.3 Stakeholder proposals
 - 7.4 Stakeholder catch limit proposals
- 8. AGENCY REPORTS**
 - 8.1 Regulatory Area 2A (US west coast)
 - 8.2 Regulatory Area 2B (British Columbia)
 - 8.3 Regulatory Areas 2C/3/4 (AK)
- 9. IPHC RESEARCH AND 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM**
 - 9.1 IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Science research program
 - 9.2 Reports of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (2016)
 - 9.3 Report of the 18th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB18)
- 10. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**
 - 10.1 Financial Statement for FY2016
 - 10.2 Annual independent auditor's report
 - 10.3 Handling of the annual budget carryover
 - 10.4 Proposed budget for FY2017, 2018 and tentatively for 2019
 - 10.5 IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014)
 - 10.6 IPHC Performance Review: Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 1st IPHC Performance Review recommendations



10.7 IPHC Performance Review: Planning for the 2nd IPHC Performance Review

11. REPORT OF THE 87th SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB087)

12. REPORT OF THE 22nd SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY GROUP (PAG022)

13. IPHC COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

14. OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

14.2 IPHC meetings calendar (2017-19)

15. THE PROCESS FOR ‘REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 93rd SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM093)’

15.1 News Releases: Content and schedule

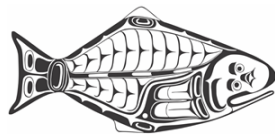
15.2 Draft: Report of the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093)



APPENDIX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 93RD SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM093)

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2017-AM093-01	DRAFT: Agenda & Schedule for the 93 rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093)	✓ 23 Dec 2016 ✓ 20 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-02	DRAFT: List of Documents for the 93 rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093)	✓ 03 Jan 2017 ✓ 20 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-03	Update on actions arising from the 92 nd Annual Meeting, 2016 Work Meeting and the 92 nd Interim Meeting (D. Wilson)	✓ 03 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-04	State of the Fishery (2016) (J. Goen)	✓ 12 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-05	Space-time modelling of IPHC fishery-independent setline survey WPUE and NPUE data (R. Webster)	✓ 12 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-06	Fishery-independent setline survey expansion through 2019 (R. Webster)	✓ 09 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-07	Assessment of the Pacific halibut stock at the end of 2016 (I. Stewart & D. Wilson)	✓ 11 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-08	Updated Pacific halibut catch tables (I. Stewart)	✓ 09 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-09	An update on the IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) (A. Hicks & I. Stewart)	✓ 11 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-10 Rev 1	Regulatory proposals for 2017: IPHC Secretariat overview (J. Goen)	✓ 11 & 17 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-11	IPHC 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science research program (J. Planas)	✓ 06 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-12	Financial Statement for FY2016 (M. Larsen)	Not public
IPHC-2017-AM093-13	Independent auditor's report (2016) (M. Larsen)	Not public
IPHC-2017-AM093-14	Handling of the annual budget carryover (M. Larsen & D. Wilson)	Not public
IPHC-2017-AM093-15	Budget estimates for FY2017, 2018 and tentatively for 2019 (M. Larsen)	Not public
IPHC-2017-AM093-16	Amendment of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014) (D. Wilson)	✓ 04 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-17	Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 1 st IPHC Performance Review recommendations (S. Keith & D. Wilson)	✓ 10 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-18	Planning for the 2 nd IPHC Performance Review (D. Wilson & S. Keith)	✓ 10 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-19	IPHC communications – Website review (K. Jernigan & S. Keith)	✓ 11 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-20	IPHC meetings calendar (2017-19) (S. Keith)	✓ 06 Jan 2017
Agency reports for 2016		
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR01	Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) update	✓ 20 Jan 2017



IPHC-2017-AM093-R

IPHC-2017-AM093-AR02	NMFS Report: Report on the 2016 Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2a	✓ 11 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR03	U.S. Coast Guard enforcement Report (IPHC Areas 2A, 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E) to the International Pacific Halibut Commission (11 th , 13 th and 17 th Districts)	✓ 05 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR04	NOAA-NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) West coast enforcement division report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission	✓ 09 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR05	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Summary of Washington Pacific Halibut Fisheries Management in 2016	✓ 09 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR06 Rev 1	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW): Report on the 2016 Oregon Recreational and Commercial Pacific Halibut Fisheries and Economic Impacts of 2017 Catch Alternatives	✓ 04 Jan 2017 ✓ 20 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR07	California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission on 2016 California Fisheries	✓ 06 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR08a	Fisheries and Oceans Canada 2016 IPHC Annual Report	✓ 06 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR08b	2016 Canadian Recreational Fishery Halibut Catch Report	✓ 06 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR08c Rev 1	Canadian report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission on 2016 halibut fishery enforcement activities	✓ 06 Jan 2017 ✓ 20 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR09	North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC): Annual management letter (C. Oliver and D. Hull)	✓ 03 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR10	Annual Report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission from the Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service	✓ 06 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR11	Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)	✓ 04 Nov 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR12	NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE): Alaska enforcement division report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission	✓ 06 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-AR13	Alaska State Troopers Department of Public Safety Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers Report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission	✓ 09 Jan 2017
<i>Regulatory proposals for 2017</i>		
<i>IPHC Secretariat Regulatory proposals for 2017</i>		
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropA	Head-on landed weight requirement for the commercial fishery, including removal of the 24" head-off minimum size limit (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 30 Dec 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropB	IPHC Closed Area – removal (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 30 Dec 2016
<i>Agency Regulatory proposals for 2017</i>		



IPHC-2017-AM093-R

IPHC-2017-AM093-PropC	Fishing in Multiple Regulatory Areas in Alaska (NMFS-OLE, AK)	✓ 23 Nov 2016
<i>Stakeholder Regulatory proposals for 2017</i>		
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropD	Upgrade the US-Canada Treaty (J. Whitethorn)	✓ 26 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropE	Drop the Blue Line (J. Whitethorn)	✓ 26 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropF	Drop IPHC setline survey (J. Whitethorn)	✓ 26 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropG	Closure of the Nursery Area (J. Whitethorn)	✓ 26 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropH	Non-resident, self-guided sport same regulations as charter, other than need for a CHP (P. Ewing)	✓ 24 Jun 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropI	Unguided sport same standards as CSP sectors (J. Kearns)	✓ 29 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropJ	Elimination of Law requiring skin to be left on Halibut (J. Shirk)	✓ 16 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropK	Allow filleted halibut in sport fishery (S. Reihemann)	✓ 24 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropL	Charter Boat Trip Limits 3A – trips per season (M. Erickson)	✓ 31 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropM	Charter Boat Trip Limits 3A – trips per week (M. Erickson)	✓ 31 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropN	Guided Angler 3A Daily (M. Erickson)	✓ 31 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropO	Clarify pot gear requirements (P. Wyman)	✓ 31 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropP	Size Limit Clarification (P. Thompson)	✓ 28 Oct 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-PropQ	Stakeholder Catch Limit Proposals (Various)	✓ 30 Dec 2016
<i>Reports from IPHC bodies (2016/17)</i>		
IPHC-2016-AM092-M	Draft: Minutes of the 92 nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM092)	✓ 10 Jan 2017
IPHC-2016-IM092-R	Report of the 92 nd Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM092)	✓ 30 Dec 2016
IPHC-2016-SRB08-R	Report of the 8 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB08)	✓ 30 Dec 2016
IPHC-2016-SRB09-R	Report of the 9 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB09)	✓ 30 Dec 2016
IPHC-2016-MSAB07-R	Report of the 7 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB07)	✓ 30 Dec 2016
IPHC-2016-MSAB08-R	Report of the 8 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB08)	✓ 30 Dec 2016
IPHC-2016-RAB18-R	Report of the 18 th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB18)	✓ 30 Dec 2016
IPHC-2017-CB087-R	Report of the 87 th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB87)	✓ 26 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-PAG22-R	Report of the 22 nd Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Group (PAG22)	✓ 26 Jan 2017
<i>Information papers</i>		



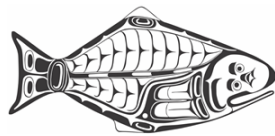
IPHC-2017-AM093-INF01	Understanding the IPHC harvest decision table	✓ 30 Dec 2016
IPHC-2017-AM093-INF02	A80 bycatch reduction program update	✓ 06 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-INF03	Background information for Regulatory Proposal PropB: IPHC Closed Area - Removal	✓ 20 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-INF04	North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) collaboration	✓ 19 Jan 2017
IPHC-2017-AM093-INF05	NMFS response to PropO	✓ 26 Jan 2017



APPENDIX IV
FINAL: DECISION TABLE OF 2017 YIELD ALTERNATIVES

Final decision table of 2017 yield alternatives (rows) and risk metrics (columns). Values in the table represent the probability, in “times out of 100” of a particular risk.

2017 Alternative	Total removals (M lb)	Fishery CEY (M lb)	Fishing intensity	Stock Trend				Stock Status			
				Spawning biomass				Spawning biomass			
				in 2018		in 2020		in 2018		in 2020	
				is less than 2017	is 5% less than 2017	is less than 2017	is 5% less than 2017	is less than 30%	is less than 20%	is less than 30%	is less than 20%
No removals	0.0	0.0	F_{100%}	<1	<1	<1	<1	3	<1	1	<1
FCEY = 0	11.2	0.0	F_{77%} 61%-84%	1	<1	3	<1	3	<1	1	<1
	20.0	8.6	F_{66%} 49%-75%	5	<1	20	4	4	<1	3	<1
	30.0	18.4	F_{55%} 39%-67%	32	<1	53	31	5	<1	6	<1
	37.9	26.1	F_{48%} 33%-62%	56	3	77	53	6	<1	12	<1
status quo SPR	41.6	29.7	F_{46%} 32%-60%	68	6	87	64	6	<1	15	<1
Adopted	43.3	31.4	F_{45%} 30%-59%	71	10	89	67	6	<1	17	<1
	50.0	37.9	F_{40%} 27%-55%	92	29	98	88	7	<1	25	1
	60.0	47.7	F_{35%} 23%-51%	>99	52	>99	99	9	<1	37	3
				a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h



APPENDIX V
CATCH TABLE PROJECTED FOR THE 2017 ADOPTED CATCH LIMITS

Catch table projected for the 2017 adopted catch limits (grey) and the resultant values based on the Commission's previously adopted formula for calculating TCEY. All values reported in millions of net pounds.

	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
<u>O26 Non-FCEY</u>									
Comm. wastage	0.05	0.23	NA	NA	0.23	0.05	0.06	0.08	0.69
Bycatch	0.10	0.24	0.03	1.17	0.58	0.34	0.14	1.98	4.57
Sport (+ wastage)	NA	NA	1.33	1.56	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	2.91
Pers./Subs.	NA	0.41	0.43	0.23	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.08	1.17
Total Non-FCEY	0.14	0.87	1.79	2.96	0.84	0.41	0.20	2.14	9.34
<u>O26 FCEY</u>									
Comm. wastage	NA	NA	0.12	0.37	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.49
CSP Sport (+wastage)	0.53	1.15	0.92	1.89	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.49
Pers./Subs.	0.03	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.03
Comm. Landings	0.77	6.30	4.21	7.74	3.14	1.39	1.14	1.70	26.39
Total FCEY	1.33	7.45	5.25	10.00	3.14	1.39	1.14	1.70	31.40
TCEY	1.47	8.32	7.04	12.96	3.98	1.80	1.34	3.84	40.74
<u>U26</u>									
Comm. wastage	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.07
Bycatch	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.62	0.29	0.23	0.01	1.27	2.44
Total U26	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.63	0.33	0.24	0.01	1.27	2.51
Total Mortality	1.48	8.35	7.04	13.60	4.30	2.04	1.35	5.11	43.25



**APPENDIX VI
SIZE LIMITS**

IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations, Section 13. Size Limits

(Note: Internal references are those contained in the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations 2017)

- (1) No person shall take or possess any halibut that:
 - (a) with the head on, is less than 32 inches (81.3 cm) as measured in a straight line, passing over the pectoral fin from the tip of the lower jaw with the mouth closed, to the extreme end of the middle of the tail, as illustrated in Figure 2; or
 - (b) with the head removed, is less than 24 inches (61.0 cm) as measured from the base of the pectoral fin at its most anterior point to the extreme end of the middle of the tail, as illustrated in Figure 2.
- (2) No person on board a vessel fishing for, or tendering, halibut shall possess any halibut that has had its head removed, except that halibut frozen at sea with its head removed may be possessed on board a vessel by persons in Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E if authorized by Federal regulations.
- (3) The size limit in paragraph (1)(b) will not be applied to any halibut that has had its head removed after the operator has landed the halibut.

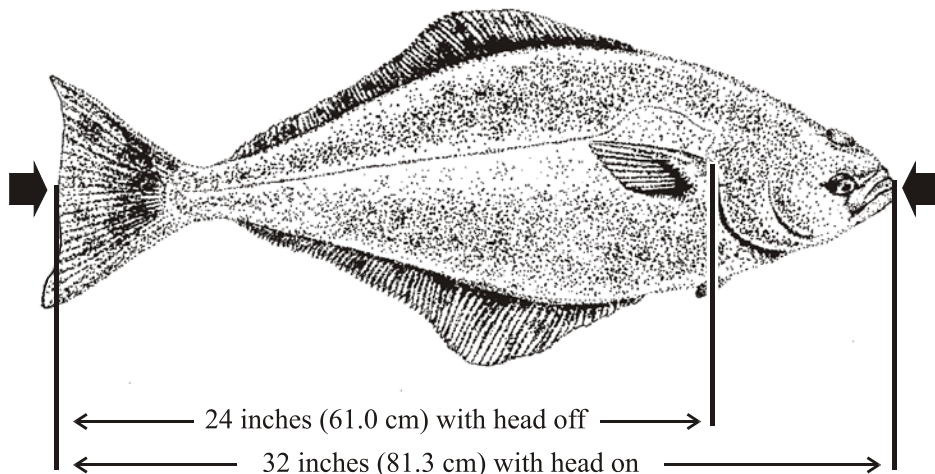


Figure 2. Minimum commercial size.



APPENDIX VII
FISHING MULTIPLE REGULATORY AREAS

IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations, Section 18. Fishing Multiple Regulatory Areas

(Note: Internal references are those contained in the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations 2017)

- (1) Except as provided in this section, no person shall possess at the same time on board a vessel halibut caught in more than one regulatory area.
- (2) Halibut caught in more than one of the Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, or 4E may be possessed on board a vessel at the same time only if:
 - (a) authorized by NMFS regulations published at 50 CFR Section 679.7(f)(4); and
 - (b) the operator of the vessel identifies the regulatory area in which each halibut on board was caught by separating halibut from different areas in the hold, tagging halibut, or by other means.



APPENDIX VIII
2017 ADOPTED CATCH LIMITS (IN MILLIONS OF POUNDS) IN COMPARISON TO THE THOSE
RECOMMENDED BY SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND FROM 2016

IPHC Regulatory Area	2016 adopted catch limits	Status quo SPR	CB catch limit recommendation	PAG catch limit recommendation	2017 adopted catch limits (FCEY)
2A ¹	1.140	0.840	1.330	1.330	1.330
2B ¹	7.300	5.280	7.900	7.500	7.450
2C ²	4.950	4.690	5.400	5.300	5.250
3A ²	9.600	10.880	10.225	10.225	10.000
3B	2.710	3.530	3.335	3.530	3.140
4A	1.390	1.430	1.345	1.430	1.390
4B	1.140	1.250	1.185	1.250	1.140
4CDE ³	1.660	1.920	1.735	1.660	1.700
4C ⁴	0.734	0.854	0.768	0.734	0.750
4D ⁴	0.734	0.854	0.768	0.734	0.750
4E ⁴	0.092	0.211	0.198	0.193	0.200
Total	29.890	29.810	32.455	32.225	31.400

SPR: Spawning Potential Ratio; CB: Conference Board; PAG: Processor Advisory Group.

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

² Includes commercial and recreational charter Catch Sharing Plan

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

⁴ NPFMC Plan: 4C, 4D: 46.43% of 80K less than 4CDE quota, 4E: 7.14% + 80K. 80K implemented if at or above 1.6576.



APPENDIX IX
FISHING PERIODS

IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations, Section 8. Fishing Periods

(Note: Internal references are those contained in the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations 2017)

- (1) The fishing periods for each regulatory area apply where the catch limits specified in section 11 have not been taken.
- (2) Each fishing period in the Area 2A directed commercial fishery² shall begin at 0800 hours and terminate at 1800 hours local time on 28 June, 12 July, 26 July, 9 August, 23 August, 6 September, and 20 September, unless the Commission specifies otherwise.
- (3) Notwithstanding paragraph (7) of section 11, an incidental catch fishery³ is authorized during the sablefish seasons in Area 2A in accordance with regulations promulgated by NMFS. This fishery will occur between 1200 hours local time on 11 March and 1200 hours local time on 7 November.
- (4) Notwithstanding paragraph (2), and paragraph (7) of section 11, an incidental catch fishery is authorized during salmon troll seasons in Area 2A in accordance with regulations promulgated by NMFS. This fishery will occur between 1200 hours local time on 11 March and 1200 hours local time on 7 November.
- (5) The fishing period in Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E shall begin at 1200 hours local time on 11 March and terminate at 1200 hours local time on 7 November, unless the Commission specifies otherwise.
- (6) All commercial fishing for halibut in Areas 2A, 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E shall cease at 1200 hours local time on 7 November.

² The directed fishery is restricted to waters that are south of Point Chehalis, Washington, (46°53.30' N. latitude) under regulations promulgated by NMFS and published in the Federal Register.

³ The incidental fishery during the directed, fixed gear sablefish season is restricted to waters that are north of Point Chehalis, Washington, (46°53.30' N. latitude) under regulations promulgated by NMFS at 50 CFR 300.63. Landing restrictions for halibut retention in the fixed gear sablefish fishery can be found at 50 CFR 660.231.



**APPENDIX X
RESEARCH PROJECTS PROPOSED FOR FY2017**

Part a: List of new and continuing projects selected for internal (IPHC) funding

Project #	Project Name	Priority	Budget (US\$)	Principle Investigator	Management implications
<i>New Projects</i>					
2017-01	Full characterization of the annual reproductive cycle	High	91,098	Planas	Maturity assessment
2017-02	Investigation of halibut dispersal on Bowers Ridge	High-Medium	124,527	Loher	Spawning areas
2017-03	Tail pattern recognition analysis in Pacific halibut	High	2,370	Dykstra	Adult distribution
2017-04	Condition factors for tagged U32 fish	High	13,000	Dykstra	DMR estimates
2017-05	Identification and validation of markers for growth	High	27,900	Planas	Changes in biomass/size-at-age
2017-06	Discard mortality rates and injury classification profile by release method	High-Medium	16,123	Dykstra	DMR estimates
2017-07	Sequencing the Pacific halibut genome	High	22,500	Planas	Population estimate
<i>Continuing Projects</i>					
621.15	Voluntary at-sea sex marking	High	18,120	Loher	Stock spawning biomass
669.11	At-sea collection of Pacific halibut weight to reevaluate conversion factors	High	1,500	Soderlund	Length-weight relationship
621.16	Development of genetic sexing techniques	High	146,107	Loher	Sex composition of catch
650.2	Investigation of halibut dispersal on the 4D Edge	High	5,500	Loher	Spawning areas
650.18	Archival tags: tag attachment protocols	High	2,800	Loher	Adult distribution
670.11	Wire tagging of halibut on NMFS trawl and setline surveys	High	12,000	Forsberg	Juvenile and adult distribution
642	Assessment of mercury and other contaminants	Medium	8,400	Dykstra	Environmental effects
661.11	<i>Ichthyophonus</i> incidence monitoring	Medium	8,055	Dykstra	Environmental effects
	Total - New Projects		297,518		
	Total - Continuing Projects		202,482		
	Overall Total (all projects)		500,000		

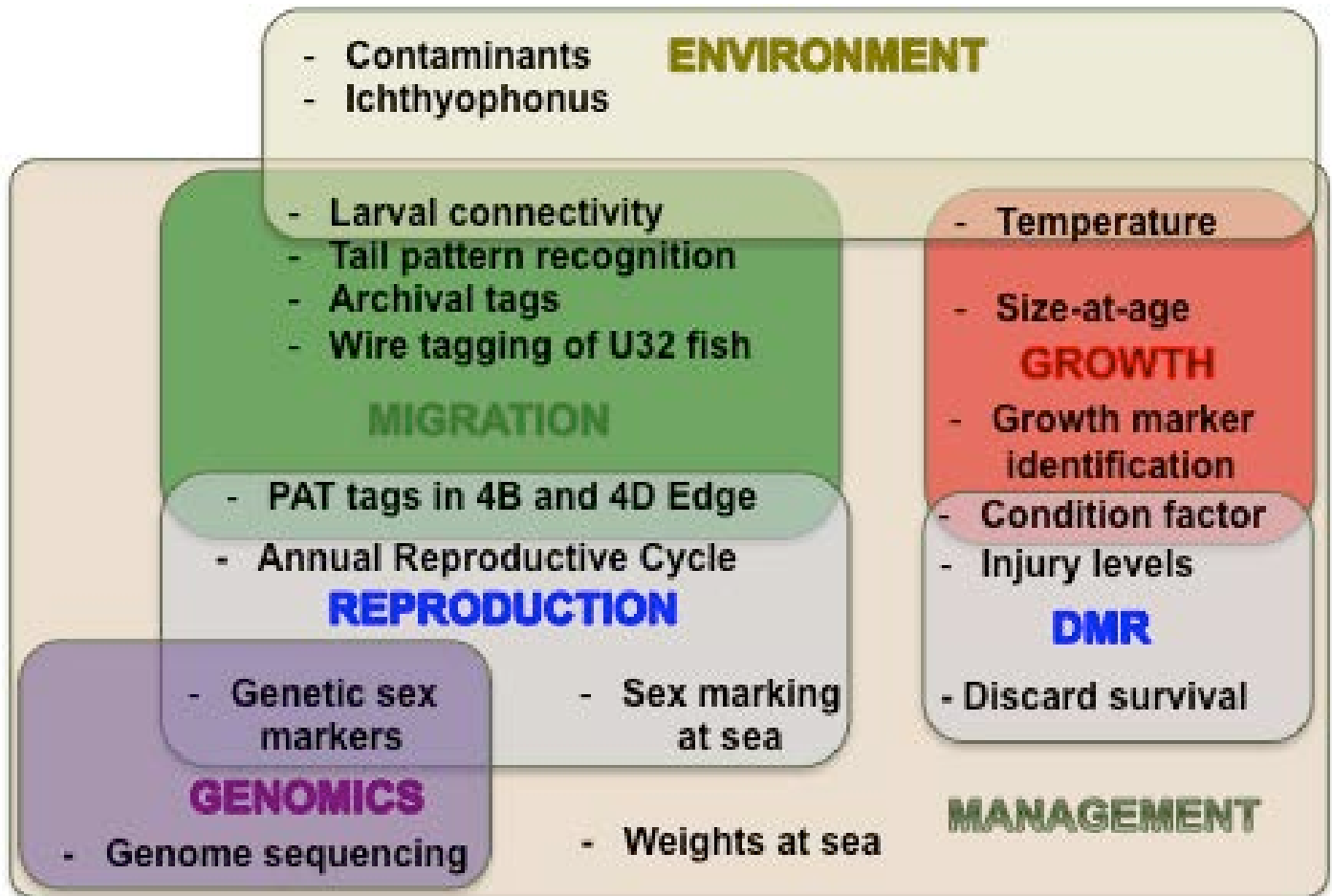
Part b: List of projects selected for external funding (submitted or to be submitted)

Grant agency	Project name	Partners	IPHC Budget (US\$)	PI	Management implications	Submission status
S-K NOAA	Improving discard mortality rate estimates in the Pacific halibut by integrating handling practices, physiological condition and post-release survival	Alaska Pacific University	223,220	Planas Dykstra Loher Stewart Hicks	Bycatch estimates	To be submitted by 12/9/2016
NPRB	Somatic growth processes in the Pacific halibut (<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>) and their response to temperature, density and stress manipulation effects	AFSC-NOAA-Newport	122,264	Planas	Changes in biomass/size-at-age	To be submitted by 12/16/2016
NPRB	Larval transport, supply, and connectivity of Pacific halibut between the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea	AFSC-NOAA-SandPoint-NWFSC	8,000	Sadorus Planas Stewart	Biomass distribution	To be submitted by 12/16/2016
EPH NOAA	Validating biochemical markers of growth for habitat assessment in flatfishes	AFSC-NOAA-Newport	35,000	Planas	Changes in biomass/recruitment	Submitted in November 2016
	Total requested		388,884			



APPENDIX XI
SUMMARY DIAGRAM OF IPHC RESEARCH PROJECTS FOR FY2017

Summary diagram showing the interaction among the various research areas at IPHC with indication of the specific new and continuing projects proposed for FY2017.





APPENDIX XII
CONSOLIDATED GENERAL & SUPPLEMENTAL FY2017 BUDGET
(FY2017: 01 October 2016 to 30 September 2017)

<i>Income (US\$)</i>		<i>Expenses (US\$)</i>	
Assessments (Contributions)		Core IPHC Activities	
United States of America	4,150,000	Administration	1,911,806
Canada	944,228	Scientific	3,050,610
		Catch Sampling	663,064
Fish Sales Income		Survey Expenses	
FIS Program	3,853,654	FIS Expenses	5,488,335
Other Research	125,000		
Other Income		Research Activities	
Grants & Contracts	672,984	Field Research	-
Interest Income	16,125	Other Research	625,000
Misc. Income	-		
		Transfer to Restricted Accounts	-
Total FY2017 Income	9,761,992	Total FY2017 Expenses	11,738,816
Total General & Supplemental FY2017	(1,976,824)		
Total as % of Income	-20.3%		
Unrestricted Funds Balance	3,137,173		



APPENDIX XIII
CONSOLIDATED GENERAL & SUPPLEMENTAL FY2018 BUDGET
(FY2018: 01 October 2017 to 30 September 2018)

<i>Income (US\$)</i>		<i>Expenses (US\$)</i>	
Assessments (Contributions)		Core IPHC Activities	
United States of America	4,275,000	Administration	1,863,390
Canada	1,457,508	Scientific	3,204,286
		Catch Sampling	667,658
Fish Sales Income		Survey Expenses	
FIS Program	4,333,588	FIS Expenses	5,048,965
Other Research	-		
Other Income		Research Activities	
Grants & Contracts	672,984	Field Research	-
Interest Income	16,125	Other Research	515,000
Misc. Income	-		
		Transfer to Restricted Accounts	-
Total FY2017 Income	10,755,206	Total FY2017 Expenses	11,299,300
Total General & Supplemental FY2018		(544,094)	
Total as % of Income		-5.1%	
Unrestricted Funds Balance		2,593,079	



APPENDIX XIV
CONSOLIDATED GENERAL & SUPPLEMENTAL FY2019 BUDGET
(FY2018: 01 October 2018 to 30 September 2019)

<i>Income (US\$)</i>		<i>Expenses (US\$)</i>	
Assessments (Contributions)		Core IPHC Activities	
United States of America	4,400,000	Administration	1,885,779
Canada	1,495,508	Scientific	3,160,914
		Catch Sampling	672,455
Fish Sales Income		Survey Expenses	
FIS Program	4,529,067	FIS Expenses	4,893,066
Other Research	-		
Other Income		Research Activities	
Grants & Contracts	675,437	Field Research	-
Interest Income	26,125	Other Research	530,000
Misc. Income	-		
		Transfer to Restricted Accounts	-
Total FY2017 Income	11,126,137	Total FY2017 Expenses	11,142,213
Total General & Supplemental FY2019	(16,076)		
Total as % of Income	-0.1%		
Unrestricted Funds Balance	2,577,003		



APPENDIX XV
IPHC MEETINGS CALENDAR (2017-19)

Meeting	2017			2018			2019		
	No.	Date	Location	No.	Date	Location	No.	Date	Location
Annual Meeting (AM)	93rd	23-27 Jan	Victoria, Canada	94th	22-26 Jan	Portland, USA	95th	28 Jan-1 Feb	Victoria, Canada
Conference Board (CB)	87 th	24-25 Jan	Victoria, Canada	88 th	23-24 Jan	Portland, USA	89 th	29-30 Jan	Victoria, Canada
Processor Advisory Group (PAG)	22 nd	24-25 Jan	Victoria, Canada	23 rd	23-24 Jan	Portland, USA	24 th	29-30 Jan	Victoria, Canada
Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)	--	23, 26 Jan, during AM	Victoria, Canada	--	22, 25 Jan	Portland, USA	--	28, 31 Jan	Victoria, Canada
Scientific Review Board (SRB)	10 th	20-21 June	Seattle, USA	12 th	19-20 June	Seattle, USA	14 th	18-19 June	Seattle, USA
	11 th	26-28 Sept	Seattle, USA	13 th	25-27 Sept	Seattle, USA	15 th	24-26 Sept	Seattle, USA
Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)	9 th	9-11 May	Seattle, USA	11 th	9-10 May	Seattle, USA	13 th	8-9 May	Seattle, USA
	10 th	25-26 Oct	Seattle, USA	12 th	24-25 Oct	Seattle, USA	14 th	23-24 Oct	Seattle, USA
Scholarship Committee (SC)	(no meeting in 2017)			--	Late Aug	Seattle, USA	(no meeting in 2018)		
Work Meeting (WM)	--	20-21 Sept	Bellingham, USA	--	19-20 Sept	Bellingham, USA	--	18-19 Sept	Bellingham, USA
Research Advisory Board (RAB)	19 th	15 Nov	Seattle, USA	20 th	14 Nov	Seattle, USA	21 st	13 Nov	Seattle, USA
Interim Meeting (IM)	93rd	28-29 Nov	Seattle, USA	94th	27-28 Nov	Seattle, USA	95th	26-27 Nov	Seattle, USA



APPENDIX XVI

CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 93ND SESSION OF THE
IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (23-27 JANUARY 2017)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Update on actions arising from the 92nd Annual Meeting, IPHC Work Meeting and the 92nd Interim Meeting

AM093–Rec.01 ([para. 6](#)) **NOTING** the importance of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) working cooperatively with the IPHC on Pacific halibut management, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the existing ad-hoc meetings between the NPFMC and the IPHC be formalised into a standing body that meets regularly to provide direction to the development of a coordinated relationship between both parties. Such a body should consist of IPHC Commissioners (from both the USA and Canada) and the NPFMC leadership.

Survey expansion through 2019

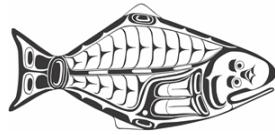
AM093–Rec.02 ([para. 17](#)) The Commission recalled its previous **RECOMMENDATION** that the IPHC Secretariat develop an information paper associated with the survey expansion, which details the likely implications of periodic survey expansion on the stock assessment and apportionment, taking into consideration potential population variability of Pacific halibut in expansion areas which are infrequently surveyed. The paper shall be submitted for initial consideration at the Commission’s Work Meeting in September 2017.

AM093–Rec.03 ([para. 19](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat develop a proposal detailing an ad-hoc expansion of the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey for 2017, which would involve a denser survey grid off the north coast of Washington, USA. The proposal shall be provided to the Commission as soon as possible following the close of the 93rd Annual Meeting for its review, endorsement, and potential implementation. The intention of the ad-hoc expansion is to verify the current estimates of stock distribution within Regulatory Area 2A.

Draft Pacific halibut apportionment and catch tables (2017)

AM093–Rec.04 ([para. 29](#)) **NOTING** that the IPHC Secretariat and the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB) have demonstrated that Ebio is outdated and inconsistent with current assessment results, and that numerous elements of the current harvest policy are reliant on Ebio, and that the Commission has agreed that the current harvest policy is considered to be outdated (IPHC–2016–IM092–R, items 21, 22), the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that reference to all elements of the current harvest policy reliant on Ebio, as well as the use of the Blue line, be eliminated subsequent to the close of the 93rd Session of the Commission. The “*status quo* SPR” (F_{46%}) may serve as an interim “hand rail” that allows all participants to gauge this and future years’ catch limit discussions in comparison to previous years.

AM093–Rec.05 ([para. 30](#)) **NOTING** that the Commission has indicated its interest in clearer accounting for all mortality, and that Canada has put forward catch limit allocation principles proposing that catch limits include all sources of mortality for each regulatory area, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the presentation of harvest advice be changed to be based on the TCEY, which includes all O26 commercial, sport, personal use/subsistence, bycatch and wastage removals, for the 2018 Annual Meeting cycle, as a step towards more comprehensive and responsible management of the resource that will result in the negotiation of Regulatory Area-specific catch limits based on TCEYs.



IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation

AM093–Rec.06 ([para. 38](#)) **NOTING** that the term “apportionment” has connotations broader than stock distribution that are not reflective of its meaning in the IPHC context, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that it be replaced with the terms “stock distribution” or “stock distribution model(ing)”.

AM093–Rec.07 ([para. 39](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process be accelerated so that more of the elements contained within the current Program of Work are delivered at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Commission in 2018. The IPHC Secretariat is directed to mobilise carryover funds from “core operations” to ensure the accelerated delivery schedule.

IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations 2017

AM093–Rec.08 ([para. 73](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat prepare the draft IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations for 2017, based on the decisions of the AM093, for review and final approval by the Commission, prior to submission to the Contracting Parties for implementation.

Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) updates

AM093–Rec.09 ([para. 110](#)) **NOTING** that the Commission had previously requested the IPHC Secretariat to examine bycatch reduction by the Amendment 80 sector versus other sectors in the Bering Sea, by regulatory area (see AM92.10), which was yet to be undertaken, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a detailed examination of changes in bycatch levels among all gears/sectors, and for results to be presented to the Commission at its 93rd Interim Meeting (in November 2017).

Report of the 18th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB18): Best practices handling guidelines

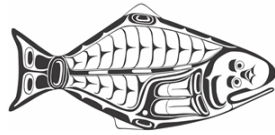
AM093–Rec.10 ([para. 128](#)) The Commission recalled its **RECOMMENDATION** from the 92nd Interim Meeting, that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a project to develop ‘*Best practice handling guidelines*’ for each of the primary gear types which catch Pacific halibut, both directed and non-directed.

Proposed budget for FY2017, 2018 and tentatively for 2019

AM093–Rec.11 ([para. 142](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** two supplementary budget items at the Annual Meeting, whose expenses would be drawn from the IPHC carryover, and not the regular budget.

- a) Area 2A fishery-independent setline survey ad-hoc expansion (densification) of the Washington region. The IPHC Secretariat shall provide a proposal to the Commission for inter-sessional decision, which details the scientific, logistical and budget implications.
- b) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) supplemental support – The IPHC Secretariat shall provide a proposal to the Commission for inter-sessional decision, detailing any additional resources that could be used to expedite, enhance and supplement the MSE Program of Work.

AM093–Rec.12 ([para. 144](#)) **NOTING** that in the current IPHC annual budgeting process, the budget is approved several months after the fiscal year has begun, the Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat propose modifications to the IPHC Financial Regulation (2014) to address this issue, for consideration at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Commission in 2018.



IPHC Performance Review: Planning for the 2nd IPHC Performance Review

AM093-Rec.13 ([para. 153](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise the draft performance review terms of reference and criteria to conduct the review, and implement the 2nd Performance Review throughout 2017, for presentation to the Commission at its 94th Annual Meeting in 2018.

REQUESTS

Survey expansion through 2019

AM093-Req.01 ([para. 18](#)) **NOTING** the potential positive implications of periodic survey expansion on the stock assessment model and apportionment arising from the survey, and that the IPHC Secretariat will be developing an information paper associated with the survey expansion (see IPHC-2016-IM092-R, item 38), and that there are implications of survey expansion in Regulatory Area 2B for species of conservation concern and protected areas, and that Canada would like to better understand the value of the additional survey information, the Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat work with domestic agencies and interests to explore options to the proposed survey expansion to minimise impacts on species of conservation concern and area closures before proceeding with planning any survey expansion in 2B.

IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation

AM093-Req.02 ([para. 40](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat initiate a process to develop alternative, biologically based stock distribution strategies for consideration by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. This should also be incorporated into the MSE Program of Work.

Regulatory proposals for 2017

IPHC-2017-AM093-PropB: IPHC Closed Area - removal

AM093-Req.03 ([para. 51](#)) **NOTING** the detailed information gathered and presented to the Commission in support of the removal of the IPHC Closed Area (PropB), as detailed in paper IPHC-2017-AM093-INF03 on the following topics:

- Past considerations
- History of boundaries
- Bycatch
- Nursery grounds
- Other nearby closed areas
- Impacts of allowing directed Pacific halibut fishing

the Commission **REQUESTED** further information be provided on whether the area is a nursery ground for Pacific halibut, by examining juvenile abundance from data sources including but not limited to observer programs and the NMFS trawl surveys, and comparing this information with the impact of the directed fishery operating in nearby areas, as well as the non-directed fisheries currently operating within the Closed Area.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) 2016: Annual report

AM093-Req.04 ([para. 89](#)) **NOTING** that the proposed change to the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations was made in Session, rather than in accordance with the IPHC rules relating to proposal submission, the Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat work with DFO Staff in an attempt to implement electronic logbooks for Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2B in 2017, including but not limited to:



- a) Any necessary updates to IPHC Regulations such as Section 16, Paragraphs (5) through (7) on Canadian logs to reflect both electronic and paper logbooks;
- b) Coordination with the IPHC Secretariat on the data fields captured in the electronic logbook to ensure inclusion of the information listed in IPHC Regulations 16(6) noted below and any other necessary fields as mutually agreed;
 - i. the name of the vessel and the DFO vessel registration number;
 - ii. the date(s) upon which the fishing gear is set and retrieved;
 - iii. the latitude and longitude coordinates for each set;
 - iv. the number of skates deployed or retrieved, and number of skates lost; and
 - v. the total weight or number of halibut retained for each set.
- c) Coordination with the IPHC Secretariat on the logistics of data delivery to IPHC, including the timing of and security of data delivery to IPHC and the access to electronic logbooks by IPHC port samplers at the time of landing.
- d) Should this not be possible in 2017, a Regulatory Proposal would be submitted by Canada for consideration at the 94th Session of the Annual meeting in 2018, in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure.

North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC)

AM093–Req.05 ([para. 99](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the NMFS provide a report of juvenile Pacific halibut catch rates in the commercial fisheries versus scientific trawl surveys. The IPHC Secretariat shall facilitate this request for presentation at the 93rd Interim Meeting in November 2017.

Reports of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB)

AM093–Req.06 ([para. 123](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that, in response to the SRB recommendation that the Ebio calculation be phased out in favour of alternatives, the SRB recommend specific alternatives that the IPHC Secretariat can explore.