



20 February 2018

IPHC CIRCULAR 2018-003

Dear Commissioners,

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE 94th SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING (AM094)

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 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094), which was adopted via correspondence on the 19 February 2018. Please distribute as you see fit.

The report is also available for download from the IPHC website at the following link:
<https://iphc.int/venues/details/94th-session-of-the-iphc-annual-meeting-am094>

Yours sincerely

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.

Executive Director, IPHC

Attachments:

Attachment I: Report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094)



Report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094)

Portland, Oregon, United States of America, 22-26 January 2018

Commissioners

| Canada | United States of America |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| Paul Ryall | Jim Balsiger, Ph.D. |
| Ted Assu | Robert Alverson |
| Jake Vanderheide | Linda Behnken |

Executive Director

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IPHC Secretariat

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY

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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 | Department of 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 |
| MSL | Minimum Size Limit |
| 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 Fisheries Management Council |
| RAB | Research Advisory Board |
| SB | Spawning Biomass |
| 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

This 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 94th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Annual Meeting (AM094) was held in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. from 22 to 26 January 2018. A total of 21 members (6 Commissioners; 15 advisors/experts) attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 199 members of the public in person and 99 via the webcast. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Dr Jim Balsiger (United States of America) and Vice-Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), who welcomed participants to Portland.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the AM094, which are provided at [Appendix VIII](#).

PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATION 2018

Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 8)

([Para. 49](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2018 as provided below, thereby superseding Section 8 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations:

- a) IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Non-Treaty Direct Commercial): 27 Jun, 11 July, 25 July, 8 August, 22 August, 5 September, 19 September.
- b) IPHC Canadian and U.S.A quota-share fisheries: Opening: 24 March – Closing date: 7 November.

IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

([Para. 52](#)) The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA4 which proposed amendments to ensure clarity and consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, with the following amendments:

- a) Definitions are not necessary at this time;
- b) Sections should not be re-ordered beyond the inclusion of new material at this time;
- c) The amendment to the requirement for landing and reporting Pacific halibut with the head-on is to be based on the revised draft text developed during the AM094, which incorporated elements of IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB3; and
- d) The proposed amendment to Regulatory Area 2B sport fishing regulations should not be included at this time.

Alaska CDQ Leasing in IPHC Regulatory Area 4

([Para. 55](#)) The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB1 Rev_1, which proposed IPHC Regulation changes to allow the use of leased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) by Community Development Quota (CDQ) organizations in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E.

Clarify Alaska Sport Fishery Regulations

([Para. 56](#)) The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB2, which proposed a clarification to the IPHC Regulations regarding retention of Pacific halibut caught in the recreational charter fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A.

Stakeholder regulatory proposals

([Para. 63](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** the text proposed in IPHC-2018-AM094-23, as modified during the AM094, in response to stakeholder proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC5, which proposed a clarification to the IPHC Regulations regarding filleting of Pacific halibut caught recreationally in Alaska.

([Para. 66](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** the text proposed in IPHC-2018-AM094-23 in response to stakeholder proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-C13, which proposed a modification to the IPHC Regulations to allow retention of Pacific halibut taken in long-line or single pot gear in the directed Pacific halibut fishery in Alaska, where such gear is permitted by domestic regulation.

RECOMMENDATIONS***Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive***

- AM094-Rec.01 ([para. 36](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the draft goals, objectives, and performance metrics, as detailed in Appendix IV, IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R be used for ongoing evaluation in the MSE process, and that they may be refined in the future. The objectives should be evaluated in a hierarchal manner, with conservation as the first priority.
- AM094-Rec.02 ([para. 39](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat consider the setline survey WPUE grid across the fishery as well as other biological factors (e.g. habitat configuration, size distribution in the region etc.) and provide alternatives to the current management areas (e.g. biological regions), and that the MSAB consider additional ways to incorporate biological information into TCEY distribution procedures.
- AM094-Rec.03 ([para. 44](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that long- and mid-term performance metrics for conservation objectives be considered in the MSE process for conservation objectives, and that short-term metrics be included for fishery-related objectives in the MSE process, via the MSAB.

Evaluation of the IPHC's 32" minimum size limit

- AM094-Rec.04 ([para. 89](#)) The Commission **NOTED** report IPHC-2018-AM094-14, which indicated that the performance of the management procedure is dominated by management decisions other than the size limit, (e.g. removal of the size limit is likely to result in minimal changes in yield) and **RECOMMENDED** that the size limit remain unchanged.

REQUESTS***Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive***

- AM094-Req.03 ([para. 38](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the proposed TCEY distribution methodology of the Harvest Strategy Policy reflect an understanding of both stock distribution and fishery management distribution procedures.

Stakeholder regulatory proposals

- AM094-Req.06 ([para. 64](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that an IPHC Secretariat led working group, to include appropriate Contracting Party agencies, review IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC8 over the coming year to determine how best to implement it effectively.

Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094)

- AM094-Req.09 ([para. 141](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC *Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2018)* no later than 28 February 2018, **NOTING** that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM094.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 94th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Annual Meeting (AM094) was held in Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. from 22 to 26 January 2018. A total of 21 members (6 Commissioners; 15 advisors/experts) attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 199 members of the public in person and 99 via the webcast. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Dr Jim Balsiger (United States of America) and Vice-Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), who welcomed participants to Portland.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

2. The Commission **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#). The documents provided to the AM094 are listed in [Appendix III](#).

3. UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 93RD ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 93RD INTERIM MEETING

3. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-03 which provided an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093), and 93rd Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM093) in 2017.
4. The Commission **AGREED** to consider and revise as necessary, the actions arising, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from the AM094.

4. REPORT OF THE IPHC SECRETARIAT (2017)

5. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-04 which provided the Commission with an update on the activities of the IPHC Secretariat in 2017.
6. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat launched the new IPHC website on 15 December 2017 (<http://iphc.int/>), which was the culmination of a year-long project. The team's focus was on improving the distribution of public domain information. The new website has five categories of content which include '*The Commission, Science and Research, Fisheries, Data, Meetings, and Documents*'.
7. The Commission **NOTED** the addition of an interactive page for the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) data <http://iphc.int/data/setline-survey-catch-per-unit-effort>, which included a description of the types of interactives currently available on the website and how to locate them, map usage tips, and use cases to demonstrate ways one can work with the interactives.
8. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** the utility of the interactive dataset website pages, and **AGREED** to the IPHC Secretariat's plan to publish each year's fishery-independent setline survey data, via the IPHC website, soon after the setline surveys have been completed and the data have been entered into the applicable database (no later than 1 November).

5. FISHERY STATISTICS (2017)

9. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-05 which provided an overview of the key fishery statistics from fisheries catching Pacific halibut during 2017, including the status of landings compared to catch limits adopted by the Commission.
10. The Commission **CONSIDERED** whether there were any common reasons for continuing overages in recreational removals in Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, such as change in average size, and **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat does not hold detailed data on those removals, but rather, that the Contracting Party agencies may be able to provide insight during their agency reports.

6. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2017) AND HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2018)

6.1 *Fishery Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2017, including current and future expansions*

11. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-06 which provided an overview of the IPHC's fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2017, including current and future expansions.

6.2 *Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; survey expansion results, etc.)*

12. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-07 which provided the results of the fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) expansions in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4B and 2A in 2017, an outline of the space-time modelling methods used to estimate time series of weight- and numbers-per-unit-effort and estimates of stock distribution among Regulatory Areas, and results of an evaluation of previous FISS expansions in Regulatory Areas 2A and 4A including the implications for future expansions in these areas.
13. The Commission **NOTED** that future survey frequency in California of every 3-5 years applies only to the region between 40°N and 42°N, where densities are comparable to elsewhere in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. This component of Regulatory Area 2A appears to be the southern limit of the stock, and relatively high setline survey frequency seems prudent in order to monitor changes in the spatial extent of the Pacific halibut stock. The IPHC Secretariat made no recommendation for the low-density habitat south of 40°N, as this region was only completely surveyed in 2017, and has yet to be fully evaluated.
14. The Commission **NOTED** that the mean setline survey WPUE in Oregon and California was similar in 2017 to 2016, while WPUE in Washington was down considerably. This could imply that the decrease overall of Regulatory Area 2A was attributable to the hypoxic zone off the Washington coast. It is possible, however, that Pacific halibut moved from Washington to Oregon waters, or elsewhere to avoid this zone, and that we would have seen decreased setline survey catch rates in Regulatory Area 2A even if this zone had not been present.
15. The Commission **NOTED** that the hypoxic event off the Washington coast affected the catch rates on the Washington ad-hoc densification expansion grid. It was highlighted that there was a minor effect of the densified expansion grid on overall value and precision of Regulatory Area 2A estimates of WPUE.
16. The Commission **NOTED** that parts of the annual setline survey will be evaluated along with expansion stations to determine if annually sampling these stations is necessary. The IPHC Secretariat intends to undertake a full evaluation of the efficacy of the setline survey design, including annually fished stations, once the expansion program is completed in 2019.

6.3 *Data overview and stock assessment (2017), and draft harvest decision table (2018)*

17. The Commission **NOTED** papers IPHC-2018-AM094-08, 09, and 10, which provided an opportunity to consider the results of the 2017 IPHC stock assessment for Pacific halibut within the Convention Area, including data used in the assessment, and the draft harvest decision table for 2018 ([Table 1](#)).
18. The Commission **NOTED** the following scientific advice from the IPHC Secretariat:
- a) **Sources of mortality:** *In 2017, total removals were below the 100-year average, and have been stable near 42 million pounds (19,050 t) from 2014-17. In 2017, 83% of the total removals from the stock were retained compared to 80% in 2016.*
 - b) **Fishing intensity:** *The 2017 mortality from all sources corresponds to a point estimate of SPR = 40% (there is a 75% chance that fishing intensity exceeded the IPHC's reference level of 46%). In order to reach the interim reference level, catch limits would need to be reduced for 2018. The Commission does not currently have a coastwide limit fishing intensity reference point.*
 - c) **Stock status (spawning biomass):** *Current female spawning biomass is estimated to be just above 200 million pounds (90,700 t), which corresponds to only a 6% chance of being below the IPHC threshold (trigger) reference point of SB_{30%}, and less than a 1% chance of being*

below the IPHC limit reference point of SB_{20%}. Therefore, no adjustment to the target fishing intensity is required, and the stock is not considered to be ‘overfished’. Projections indicate that the target fishing intensity is likely to result in similar, but declining biomass levels in the near future.

d) **Stock distribution:** Regional stock distribution has been stable within estimated credibility intervals over the last five years. Region 2 currently represents a greater proportion, and Region 3 a lesser proportion, of the coastwide stock than observed in previous decades.

19. The Commission **NOTED** that stock projections were conducted using the integrated results from the stock assessment ensemble, summaries of the 2017 directed fisheries and other sources of mortality. The harvest decision table ([Table 1](#)) provides a comparison of the relative risk (in times out of 100), using stock and fishery metrics (rows), against a range of alternative harvest levels for 2018 (columns). The orientation of this table has changed from previous analyses in order to make the comparison of additional metrics easier (the second year of projection is now explicitly included), and to increase consistency with the results produced from the Management Strategy Evaluation. The block of rows entitled “Stock Trend” provides for evaluation of the risks to short-term trend in spawning biomass, independent of all harvest policy calculations. The remaining rows portray risks relative to the spawning biomass reference points (“Stock Status”) and fishery performance identified in the interim management procedure. The alternatives (columns) provided include several coarsely spaced levels of mortality intended to provide for evaluation of stock dynamics including:

- No mortality (useful to evaluate the stock trend due solely to population processes),
- A 10 million pound (~4,500 t) 2018 Total Constant Exploitation Yield (TCEY)
- A 50 million pound (~22,700 t) 2018 TCEY
- A 60 million pound (~27,200 t) 2018 TCEY
- The removals consistent with the reference SPR (F_{46%}) level.

20. The Commission **NOTED** that a finer grid of alternative TCEY values is provided around the column corresponding to the reference level of fishing intensity (SPR=46%; for 2018 a TCEY of 31 million pounds, ~14,060 t).

Table 1. Harvest decision table for 2018. Columns correspond to yield alternatives and rows to risk metrics. Values in the table represent the probability, in “times out of 100” (or percent chance) of a particular risk.

| 2018 Alternative | | No removals | | Reference: SPR=46% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----|--|--|
| | | 0.0 | 11.8 | 21.8 | 28.8 | 29.8 | 30.8 | 31.8 | 32.8 | 33.8 | 34.8 | 35.8 | 37.3 | 41.8 | 51.8 | 61.9 | | | |
| Total removals (M lb) | | 0.0 | 10.0 | 20.0 | 27.0 | 28.0 | 29.0 | 30.0 | 31.0 | 32.0 | 33.0 | 34.0 | 35.5 | 40.0 | 50.0 | 60.0 | | | |
| TCEY (M lb) | | 0.0 | 10.0 | 20.0 | 27.0 | 28.0 | 29.0 | 30.0 | 31.0 | 32.0 | 33.0 | 34.0 | 35.5 | 40.0 | 50.0 | 60.0 | | | |
| Fishing Intensity | | F _{100%} | F _{73%} | F _{58%} | F _{50%} | F _{49%} | F _{48%} | F _{47%} | F _{46%} | F _{45%} | F _{44%} | F _{43%} | F _{42%} | F _{39%} | F _{32%} | F _{27%} | | | |
| Fishing intensity interval | | -- | 61-84% | 45-73% | 37-67% | 36-66% | 36-65% | 35-65% | 34-64% | 33-63% | 32-63% | 32-62% | 31-61% | 28-58% | 23-53% | 19-48% | | | |
| Stock Trend (spawning biomass) | in 2019 | is less than 2018 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 59 | 64 | 69 | 74 | 78 | 81 | 85 | 87 | 91 | 98 | >99 | >99 | | |
| | | is 5% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | <1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 29 | 69 | 96 | | |
| | in 2020 | is less than 2018 | <1 | 1 | 14 | 46 | 52 | 57 | 62 | 67 | 71 | 76 | 80 | 85 | 95 | >99 | >99 | | |
| | | is 5% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 1 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 21 | 25 | 29 | 34 | 41 | 61 | 94 | >99 | | |
| | in 2021 | is less than 2018 | <1 | 2 | 23 | 59 | 63 | 68 | 72 | 76 | 79 | 83 | 86 | 90 | 97 | >99 | >99 | | |
| | | is 5% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 5 | 27 | 32 | 36 | 41 | 46 | 50 | 55 | 59 | 66 | 83 | 99 | >99 | | |
| Stock Status (Spawning biomass) | in 2019 | is less than 30% | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 15 | | |
| | | is less than 20% | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | 1 | | |
| | in 2020 | is less than 30% | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 21 | 32 | | |
| | | is less than 20% | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | 1 | 1 | | |
| | in 2021 | is less than 30% | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 21 | 37 | 54 | | |
| | | is less than 20% | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | | |
| Fishery Trend (TCEY) | in 2019 | is less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 7 | 33 | 38 | 43 | 49 | 55 | 60 | 64 | 68 | 71 | 78 | 89 | 97 | | |
| | | is 10% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 3 | 23 | 26 | 30 | 34 | 38 | 43 | 48 | 53 | 59 | 72 | 82 | 92 | | |
| | in 2020 | is less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 10 | 38 | 43 | 49 | 54 | 59 | 63 | 67 | 70 | 73 | 79 | 91 | 98 | | |
| | | is 10% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 6 | 27 | 31 | 36 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 54 | 59 | 64 | 74 | 84 | 95 | | |
| | in 2021 | is less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 14 | 44 | 50 | 55 | 59 | 63 | 67 | 69 | 72 | 74 | 81 | 93 | >99 | | |
| | | is 10% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 9 | 34 | 38 | 43 | 48 | 52 | 56 | 60 | 63 | 67 | 75 | 86 | 99 | | |
| Fishery Status (Fishing Intensity) | in 2018 | is above F _{46%} | 0 | <1 | 4 | 29 | 33 | 38 | 43 | 50 | 54 | 60 | 64 | 69 | 77 | 87 | 95 | | |

Terms: *Constant Exploitation Yield (CEY):* A specific concept from the IPHC's interim management procedure: the Total CEY (TCEY) is the amount of yield of Pacific halibut greater than 26 inches (66 cm) in length, and Fishery CEY (FCEY), is the amount of yield for the directed Pacific halibut fisheries where applicable. *Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR):* A commonly used 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. Sometimes referred to as SBR, relative Spawning Biomass per Recruit.

21. The Commission **NOTED** that the stock is projected to decrease gradually over the period from 2018-20 for removals around the reference SPR level. The probability of stock decline by 2020 is 67% or greater for TCEYs above 31 million pounds (~14,060 t) ([Table 1](#)). The reference SPR corresponds to a 78/100 (78%) chance of stock decline through 2019, and a 46% chance of at least a 5% decline through 2021 at that constant TCEY. TCEYs of a magnitude fished in recent years have a probability greater than 95% of stock decline over the next one to three years. There is a relatively small chance (<21/100; 21%) that the stock will decline below the threshold reference point (SB30%) in projections for all the levels of TCEY up to 40 million pounds (~18,100 t) evaluated over three years; for TCEYs exceeding that level, the probability is 21% of greater.
22. The Commission **RECALLED** that the 2017 adopted catch limits corresponded to a projected SPR of 45% at the time of adoption. Estimates provided at AM093 indicated that a catch at this level corresponded to a 71% probability that the spawning biomass would decline from 2017 to 2018, and a 70% probability that the FCEY would have to be reduced to maintain the reference SPR (46%) in 2018. Further, there was an estimated 57% probability of at least a 10% decrease in the FCEY from 2017 to 2018 in order to maintain the reference SPR.

6.4 Pacific halibut catch tables (2018)

23. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-11 Rev_1 which provided the Commission with a summary of IPHC Regulatory Area-specific preliminary mortality projections for 2018 based on the interim management procedure and other alternatives.
24. The Commission **NOTED** that the reference projection results in a 2018 TCEY of 31.00 million lb, (~14,060 t; [Table 2](#)). This represents a reduction of 21% from the reference level calculated based on the 2016 stock assessment, and 24% from the catch limits adopted for 2017. Because components within the TCEY have changed since 2016, the Fishery Constant Exploitation Yields (FCEYs), and allocations to specific fisheries based on domestic catch agreements have also changed; however, projected FCEYs are all lower for 2018 than values adopted in 2017.

Table 2. Comparison of TCEY values (Mlbs) among IPHC Regulatory Areas from 2017 and projected for 2018 using the reference SPR (SPR46%) along with the current management procedure for TCEY distribution, and the adopted limits from 2017.

| | 2A | 2B | 2C | 3A | 3B | 4A | 4B | 4CDE | Total |
|-------------------------------------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 2017 Reference SPR (46%) | 0.96 | 6.08 | 6.47 | 13.84 | 4.39 | 1.84 | 1.46 | 4.06 | 39.10 |
| 2017 Adopted SPR (40%) ¹ | 1.47 | 8.32 | 7.04 | 12.96 | 3.98 | 1.80 | 1.34 | 3.84 | 40.74 |
| 2018 Reference SPR (46%) | 0.59 | 3.84 | 5.65 | 12.07 | 2.56 | 1.69 | 1.21 | 3.39 | 31.00 |

¹ This SPR value represents the current estimate, based on the 2017 stock assessment. At the time the 2017 catch limits were adopted, they were predicted to result in an SPR of 45%.

25. The Commission **AGREED** that the Pacific halibut mortality projections for 2018 based on the attainment of full Protected Species Catch (PSC, a.k.a. bycatch) by the non-directed fleets fishing in Alaska, while maintaining the reference SPR of 46%, was not acceptable, as it would result in zero or substantially lower catch limits for directed fleets operating in a number of Regulatory Areas.
26. The Commission **AGREED** that further discussion throughout the course of the AM094 should run on the assumption that bycatch mortality levels from the non-directed fisheries catching Pacific halibut will be at the same level as those estimated for 2017. Thus, the reference projection which results in a 2018 TCEY of 31.00 Mlb, (~14,060 t; [Table 3](#)) should be considered the baseline for further discussion at the AM094.

Table 3. Pacific halibut mortality projected for 2018 based on the reference SPR (46%) and interim management procedure for TCEY distribution. All values reported in millions of net pounds.

| | 2A | 2B | 2C | 3A | 3B | 4A | 4B | 4CDE | Total |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| <u>O26 Non-FCEY</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial discards | 0.01 | 0.07 | NA | NA | 0.13 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.32 |
| Bycatch | 0.11 | 0.23 | 0.02 | 1.01 | 0.45 | 0.29 | 0.20 | 1.96 | 4.26 |
| Recreational (+ discards) | NA | NA | 1.43 | 1.86 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.31 |
| Subsistence | NA | 0.41 | 0.44 | 0.22 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 1.14 |
| Total Non-FCEY | 0.12 | 0.71 | 1.89 | 3.09 | 0.61 | 0.37 | 0.22 | 2.04 | 9.04 |
| <u>O26 FCEY</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial discard | NA | NA | 0.06 | 0.30 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 0.36 |
| Recreational (+ discards) | 0.21 | 0.48 | 0.69 | 1.70 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 3.08 |
| Subsistence | 0.03 | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | 0.03 |
| Commercial Landings | 0.23 | 2.65 | 3.01 | 6.99 | 1.95 | 1.32 | 0.99 | 1.36 | 18.49 |
| Total FCEY | 0.47 | 3.14 | 3.76 | 8.98 | 1.95 | 1.32 | 0.99 | 1.36 | 21.96 |
| TCEY | 0.59 | 3.84 | 5.65 | 12.07 | 2.56 | 1.69 | 1.21 | 3.39 | 31.00 |
| <u>U26</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial discards | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.04 |
| Bycatch | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.42 | 0.44 | 0.11 | 0.01 | 0.79 | 1.79 |
| Total U26 | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.43 | 0.45 | 0.12 | 0.01 | 0.79 | 1.82 |
| Total Mortality | 0.59 | 3.87 | 5.65 | 12.50 | 3.01 | 1.81 | 1.22 | 4.18 | 32.82 |

7. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

7.1 *IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update*

27. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-12 which provided an update on the progress of the IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation process and seeks recommendations for future work, including a review of goals and objectives defined by the MSAB, an overview of the simulation framework to evaluate the fishing intensity and harvest control rules in the IPHC harvest strategy policy, results from the closed-loop simulations, ideas for distributing the TCEY to Regulatory Areas, and a five-year work plan.

28. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the following items:

- a) The simulation framework and assumptions as described, including introducing variability to the Operating Model, simulating weight-at-age and an environmental regime, and allocation of the Total Mortality to sectors;
- b) The long-term results looking at the outcomes of various management procedures and the trade-offs among them;
- c) Management procedures (e.g. values of SPR in combination with a control rule threshold) that would meet the goal and objectives important to the Commission, based on the results shown, and additional procedures that may be of interest to evaluate in 2018;
- d) Whether the clear separation of stock distribution (a scientific product), and distribution procedures (management decision) satisfies the Commission's recommendation to replace apportionment with a more suitable term; and

-
- e) The concept of distributing the TCEY to biological regions defined here as a method to satisfy the Commission’s request to “initiate a process to develop alternative, biologically based stock distribution strategies.”

7.2 *Reports of the 10th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB10)*

29. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 10th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB10) (IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R) which was presented by Mr Adam Keizer (Canada). The MSAB consists of 20 board members, 19 of which attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. A total of five (5) individuals attended the Session as Observers. In addition, two (2) IPHC Commissioners were in attendance, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) and Mr Bob Alverson (U.S.A.).
30. The Commission **AGREED** to the updated Program of Work provided at Appendix VI of IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R.
31. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the MSAB look at SPR values consistent with recent estimated SPR values from the assessment model and lower. This would mean expanding the lower range of SPR values to below 40%.

7.3 *Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive*

32. The Commission **NOTED** the current fishery goals, objectives, and performance metrics identified by the MSAB for the MSE process, as detailed in Appendix IV of the MSAB10 report (IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R).
33. The Commission **NOTED** the summary presentation which was in response to Circular IPHC-2017-CR022 requesting stakeholder feedback on objectives proposed by a USA Commissioner related to distributing the TCEY presented at IM093. These objectives were categorized under the overarching goals defined by the MSAB for AM094.
34. The Commission **NOTED** the other concepts proposed by a USA Commissioner related to distributing the TCEY were not stated as measurable objectives but may be useful when developing management procedures to evaluate.
35. The Commission **NOTED** that:
- a) the Commission objectives related to distributing the TCEY may be presented at MSAB11 for further stakeholder feedback.
 - b) the intent of the “other Commission concepts” could be further clarified and incorporated into the MSAB process, and can be converted to measurable objectives.
 - c) the MSAB may develop measurable outcomes and performance metrics associated with these Commission objectives.
36. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the draft goals, objectives, and performance metrics, as detailed in Appendix IV, IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R be used for ongoing evaluation in the MSE process, and that they may be refined in the future. The objectives should be evaluated in a hierarchal manner, with conservation as the first priority.
37. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the objectives related to distributing the TCEY, as detailed in Circular IPHC-2017-CR022, be presented at MSAB11 for further stakeholder feedback.
38. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the proposed TCEY distribution methodology of the Harvest Strategy Policy reflect an understanding of both stock distribution and fishery management distribution procedures.
39. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat consider the survey WPUE grid across the fishery as well as other biological factors (e.g. habitat configuration, size distribution in the region etc.) and provide alternatives to the current management areas (e.g. biological regions), and that the MSAB consider additional ways to incorporate biological information into TCEY distribution procedures.

40. The Commission **NOTED** that the current procedure to distribute the TCEY could be replaced by an interim procedure to be developed in the near term while the MSAB completes their Program of Work to deliver guidance in 2021 on scale and TCEY distribution.
41. The Commission **AGREED** to meet via an inter-sessional electronic meeting (soon after the AM094), along with the IPHC Secretariat, to discuss TCEY distribution procedures to use in the interim while long-term distribution procedures are being developed by the MSAB. MSAB representatives and the IPHC Secretariat will inform the Commission of what guidance the MSAB may be able to provide to help develop an interim distribution strategy, and how the development of an interim harvest procedure may affect the MSAB's current Program of Work.
42. The Commission **AGREED** that distributing the TCEY to regions does not necessarily need to be the first step of the TCEY distribution procedure, and other biological factors, such as habitat and size distribution, be considered.
43. The Commission **NOTED** that the work the MSAB has already completed on distribution procedures may help to inform the development of an interim distribution strategy. MSAB representatives and the IPHC Secretariat will advise the Commission of how this may affect their current Program of Work, and what guidance they may be able to provide to help develop an interim distribution strategy.
44. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that long- and mid-term performance metrics for conservation objectives be considered in the MSE process for conservation objectives, and that short-term metrics be included for fishery-related objectives in the MSE process, via the MSAB.

8. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2018

8.1 *IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals*

8.1.1 *IPHC Closed Area (Sect. 10)*

45. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA1, which considered the intent, purpose, and effectiveness of the IPHC Closed Area, as defined in IPHC Fishery Regulations (2017) Section 10, which currently excludes directed Pacific “halibut fishing” (i.e. the longline fleet), with the intent of protecting juveniles from extraction.
46. The Commission **NOTED** the IPHC Secretariat’s and Conference Board’s indication that the Closed Area is not currently meeting its intended objective of protecting juvenile Pacific halibut while it is open to non-directed fisheries.
47. The Commission **DEFERRED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA1, which considered the intent, purpose and effectiveness of the IPHC Closed Area, as defined in IPHC Fishery Regulations (2017) Section 10, **NOTING** that the NPFMC is currently undertaking an Abundance-Based Management process aimed at limiting bycatch. The ABM process should be closely monitored and if considered necessary, the IPHC closed area proposal should be reconsidered at subsequent meetings of the Commission, but no later than in 2020.

8.1.2 *Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 8)*

48. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA2, which proposed establishing fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries.
49. The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2018 as provided below, thereby superseding Section 8 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations:
- a) IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Non-Treaty Direct Commercial): 27 Jun, 11 July, 25 July, 8 August, 22 August, 5 September, 19 September.
 - b) IPHC Canadian and U.S.A quota-share fisheries: Opening: 24 March – Closing date: 7 November.

8.1.3 *Removal of exemption for Vessel Monitoring System requirement for IPHC Regulatory Area 4 clearances (Sect. 15)*

50. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA3, which proposed streamlining regulatory requirements and improve monitoring for IPHC Regulatory Area 4 by requiring vessel monitoring systems (VMS) instead of an IPHC Clearance.
51. The Commission **DEFERRED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA3, which proposed streamlining regulatory requirements and improve monitoring for IPHC Regulatory Area 4 by requiring vessel monitoring systems (VMS) instead of an IPHC Clearance. The IPHC Secretariat was directed to undertake further evaluation, in collaboration with appropriate Contracting Party agencies, of the proposal for consideration at the 95th Session of the Commission in 2019, including potential use of electronic monitoring to satisfy the requirement.

8.1.4 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments*

52. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA4 which proposed amendments to ensure clarity and consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, with the following amendments:
- a) Definitions are not necessary at this time;
 - b) Sections should not be re-ordered beyond the inclusion of new material at this time;
 - c) The amendment to the requirement for landing and reporting Pacific halibut with the head-on is to be based on the revised draft text developed during the AM094, which incorporated elements of IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB3; and
 - d) The proposed amendment to Regulatory Area 2B sport fishing regulations should not be included at this time.

8.1.5 *Discussion paper: Frozen-at-sea exemption for head-on requirement (Sect. 13)*

53. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA5, which proposed a discussion on retaining or removing the frozen-at-sea head-on exemption into the future.
54. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat continue to monitor the volume of catch being landed as frozen head-off product. The IPHC Secretariat shall keep the Commission informed of the annual landings from this sector of the fishery.

8.2 *Contracting Party (by agency) regulatory proposals*

8.2.1 *Alaska CDQ Leasing in IPHC Regulatory Area 4*

55. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB1 Rev_1, which proposed IPHC Regulation changes to allow the use of leased Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) by Community Development Quota (CDQ) organizations in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4B, 4C, 4D and 4E.

8.2.2 *Clarify Alaska Sport Fishery Regulations*

56. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB2, which proposed a clarification to the IPHC Regulations regarding retention of Pacific halibut caught in the recreational charter fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A.

8.2.3 *Clarify Head-On Weight Requirement in Alaska Commercial Fisheries*

57. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB3, which proposed clarifications to the IPHC Regulations regarding the landing of Pacific halibut with the head on, and **AGREED** that it would be combined with regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA4.

8.3 Stakeholder regulatory proposals

8.3.1 Commercial Catch Limits (Sect. 11): Proposals

58. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC1, which summarises catch limit proposals received from stakeholders to date. Entries in the table reflect the individual proposals, and unless otherwise noted, proposals are expressed as TCEY (with values in millions of pounds) for particular IPHC Regulatory Areas or as a total for the whole coast. No entries were received for IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC1 prior to the due date for the AM094.
59. The Commission **AGREED** that there is no longer a need for a separate catch limit proposal section from stakeholders, given such proposals are received, considered, and voted upon, via the IPHC subsidiary bodies, and via the ‘Stakeholder statement’ process.

8.3.2 Other stakeholder regulatory proposals

60. The Commission **NOTED** papers IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC2-17, which provided the Commission with 16 regulatory proposals from various stakeholders, for potential adoption and implementation in the 2018 fishing season, as detailed below.
- IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC2 Preserving catch on private live-aboard vessels (A. Cooper)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC3 [reporting] For unguided sport fishing (P. Phillips)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC4 Sport Fishing for Halibut - Cleaning Regulations (S. Riehemann)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC5 Elimination of skin-on regulation (J. Shirk)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC6 Live-aboard processing exemption (D. Robertson)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC7 Eliminate the requirement for a CHP (S. Riehemann)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC8 Allow shellfish pots on board (ALFA)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC9 Processing halibut greater than four filets (M. Cowart)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC10 Halibut length measurement method (R. Yamada)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC11 Long term storage aboard pleasure vessels (L. Thompson)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC12 Long term storage on cruising vessels (W. Cornell)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC13 Halibut in Bering Sea pots (J. Kauffman)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC14 Status Quo Harvest Measures for Guided Anglers in Area 3A (R. Yamada)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC15 Trawler halibut bycatch tender boat program (J. Kearns)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC16 Reduce daily bag limit for all anglers in Area 2C and 3A in times of low abundance (M. Grove)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC17 Recreational sport fishing only allocation (J. Kearns)
61. The Commission **NOTED** that a number of these proposals touched on issues raised by stakeholders in previous years and **DEFERRED** action on the following proposals to an IPHC Secretariat led working group, to include appropriate Contracting Party agencies, for further study with a view to investigating possible new solutions. For IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC2, in particular, the working group could consider annual limits and new technologies among possible solutions.
- IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC2 Preserving catch on private live-aboard vessels (A. Cooper)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC4 Sport Fishing for Halibut - Cleaning Regulations (S. Riehemann)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC6 Live-aboard processing exemption (D. Robertson)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC9 Processing halibut greater than four filets (M. Cowart)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC11 Long term storage aboard pleasure vessels (L. Thompson)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC12 Long term storage on cruising vessels (W. Cornell)
62. The Commission **NOTED** that the following proposals were more appropriate for action by the U.S.A. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), and **REQUESTED** the IPHC notify the proponents that they should communicate their proposals to the NPFMC for its consideration:
- IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC3 For unguided sport fishing (P. Phillips)

- IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC7 Eliminate the requirement for a CHP (S. Riehemann)
- IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC16 Reduce daily bag limit for all anglers in Area 2C and 3A in times of low abundance (M. Grove)
- IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC17 Recreational sport fishing only allocation (J. Kearns)

63. The Commission **ADOPTED** the text proposed in IPHC-2018-AM094-23, as modified during the AM094, in response to stakeholder proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC5, which proposed a clarification to the IPHC Regulations regarding filleting of Pacific halibut caught recreationally in Alaska.

64. The Commission **REQUESTED** that an IPHC Secretariat led working group, to include appropriate Contracting Party agencies, review IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC8 over the coming year to determine how best to implement it effectively.

65. The Commission **AGREED** to take no action on IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC10 and PropC15.

66. The Commission **ADOPTED** the text proposed in IPHC-2018-AM094-23 in response to stakeholder proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-C13, which proposed a modification to the IPHC Regulations to allow retention of Pacific halibut taken in long-line or single pot gear in the directed Pacific halibut fishery in Alaska, where such gear is permitted by domestic regulation.

67. The Commission **NOTED** that IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC14 had been withdrawn by its author.

8.4 Stakeholder statements

68. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-INF04 which provided the Commission with a consolidated document containing submitted ‘*Statements*’ from stakeholders on the range of Regulatory Proposals submitted to the Commission for its consideration at the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting.

9. CONTRACTING PARTY (BY AGENCY) REPORTS

9.1 Regulatory Area 2A (US west coast)

69. The Commission **NOTED** the Contracting Party reports (by agency) for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (west coast U.S.A.), as follows:

- a) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR01 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) update
- b) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR02 NMFS Report: Report on the 2017 Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2a
- c) IPHC-2018-AM094-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 (11th, 13th and 17th Districts)
- d) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR04 NOAA-NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) West coast enforcement division report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission
- e) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR05 Rev_1 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Summary of Washington Pacific Halibut Fisheries Management in 2017
- f) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR06 Rev_1 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW): Report on the 2017 Oregon Recreational and Commercial Pacific Halibut Fisheries
- g) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR07 Oregon State Police Halibut Enforcement Summary
- h) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR08 California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission on 2017 California Fisheries

70. The Commission **NOTED** the PFMC Catch Sharing Plan for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (west coast U.S.A.)

9.2 *Regulatory Area 2B (British Columbia)*

71. The Commission **NOTED** the Contracting Party reports (by agency) for IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (British Columbia, Canada), as follows:
- a) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR09 Fisheries and Oceans Canada 2017 IPHC Annual Report
 - b) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR10 Rev_1 2017 Canadian Recreational Fishery Halibut Catch Report
 - c) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR11 Canadian report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission on 2017 halibut fishery enforcement activities

9.3 *Regulatory Areas 2C/3/4 (Alaska)*

72. The Commission **NOTED** the Contracting Party reports (by agency) for IPHC Regulatory Area 2C/3/4 (Alaska, U.S.A.), as follows:
- a) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR12 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC): Annual management letter
 - b) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR13 Annual Report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission from the Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service
 - c) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR14 Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) Recreation Report
 - d) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR15 Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) Subsistence Report
 - e) IPHC-2018-AM094-AR16 NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE): Alaska enforcement division report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission
73. The Commission **NOTED** the NPFMC Catch Sharing Plans for IPHC Regulatory Area 2C/4/4 (Alaska, U.S.A.).
74. The Commission **NOTED** the Charter Halibut Management plan measures proposed by the NPFMC for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A.

10. IPHC RESEARCH AND 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM

10.1 *IPHC Research Advisory Board – Update*

75. The Commission **NOTED** that the 19th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB19) was moved from November 2017 to 28 February 2018 to align better with the improved IPHC research coordination process, as part of the 5-year research plan as detailed in [Section 10.3](#) below.

10.2 *Report of the 11th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB11)*

76. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 11th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB11) (IPHC-2017-SRB11-R) which was presented by Dr Sean Cox (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada), one of the four (4) SRB members.
77. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the SRB11 and **AGREED** to take them into consideration when deliberating on relevant agenda items throughout the meeting.

10.3 *IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Science research program: update*

78. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-13 which provided an overview of the new and continuing research projects proposed by IPHC Secretariat and contemplated within the 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Program.
79. The Commission **NOTED** the summary of research projects proposed for 2018 and the summary of research projects awarded for external funding in 2017, as detailed in the paper.
80. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat will conduct genetic validation of collected biological samples of sex-marked fish from the 2017 coastwide sex-marking project in order to evaluate its success and possible future implementation, and will therefore not request fishers' participation in 2018.

81. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat was informed about concerns from vessels conducting sex-marking at sea that did not have their offloads sampled due to the random nature of the sampling process and the suggestion that all trips are sampled independently of whether they fall in the randomized sample or not.
82. The Commission **NOTED** that the SRB recommendation on the usefulness of a life-history modeller is under consideration by the IPHC Secretariat and that a first step in that direction is the temporary hire of a modeller to work on Pacific halibut larval connectivity between the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea.
83. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat is working towards clearly demonstrating how biological research objectives and stock assessment are integrated in order to inform the policy decision-making process.
84. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat is undertaking studies on growth in Pacific halibut that by addressing responses to temperature and density could inform on potential changes in overall fitness, as has been observed in the Pacific cod.
85. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat clarified the start date and termination dates of the proposed new and continuing research projects proposed by IPHC.

10.4 *Evaluation of the IPHC’s 32” minimum size limit*

86. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-14 which provided a response to the Commission request made during the 2016 Interim Meeting (IPHC 2016):
IM092–Req.07 (para. 73) “*The Commission REQUESTED that a review of the analysis of the effectiveness of size limits be undertaken by the IPHC Staff throughout 2017, for consideration by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2018.*”
87. The Commission **NOTED** the work of the IPHC Secretariat during 2017, and the challenges to an evaluation of the Minimum Size Limit (MSL).
88. The Commission **AGREED** that consideration of the magnitude of current discard mortality, the potential change in fishery yield, uncertainty in the market value of Pacific halibut below the current MSL and potential changes in fishery practices in response to a change in the MSL represent the primary trade-offs identified.
89. The Commission **NOTED** report IPHC-2018-AM094-14, which indicated that the performance of the management procedure is dominated by management decisions other than the size limit, (e.g. removal of the size limit is likely to result in minimal changes in yield) and **RECOMMENDED** that the size limit remain unchanged.
90. The Commission **AGREED** that the work of the IPHC Secretariat has satisfied the Commission’s request, and directed the IPHC Secretariat to postpone further investigation of the MSL until such time as either additional information or changes in the fishery, markets, or Pacific halibut stock warrant additional work.

11. IPHC PERFORMANCE REVIEW

11.1 *Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 1st IPHC Performance Review recommendations*

91. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-15 which detailed the current status of implementation for each of the recommendations arising from the Report of the 1st IPHC Performance Review Panel (PRIPHC01).
92. The Commission **NOTED** that all but one of the recommendations arising from the 1st Performance Review have now either been fully implemented or addressed in an alternative way. The IPHC remains a world leader in rights-based fisheries management, which is largely due to the high level of productive engagement by all stakeholders, the Commissioners, and the IPHC Secretariat staff.

11.2 *2nd IPHC Performance Review: update*

93. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-16 which provided the Commission with an update on progress regarding the 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPHC02) and an opportunity to direct the IPHC Secretariat regarding its completion.
94. The Commission **AGREED** to defer the 2nd IPHC Performance Review until FY2019 (1 Oct. 2018 to 30 Sept. 2019), due to budget limitations in the current financial year.

12. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

12.1 *Financial Statement for FY2017*

95. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-17 which provided the end-of-year financial statement for the Commission (financial period: 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017, FY2017).
96. The Commission **NOTED** the contributions (in USD) received from Contracting Parties as follows:
- a) *Canadian Contribution* – In FY2017, the Canadian government contributed **\$1,507,000** 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 the Canadian share of pension deficits of **\$563,476**.
 - b) *U.S.A. Contribution* – In FY2017, the U.S. Government appropriated **\$4,160,000** to the IPHC. The U.S. contributions included funding for pension deficits and headquarters lease costs.
97. The Commission **NOTED** that FY2017 preliminary expenses were 96% of the projected budget (Budget: **\$11,738,816**; Expenses: **\$11,320,096**), and income was 104% of the projected budget (Budget: 9,761,992; Income: **\$10,117,619**).
98. The Commission **APPROVED** the financial statement for FY2017, as detailed in paper IPHC-2018-AM094-17.

12.2 *Annual independent auditor's report (2016 and 2017)*

99. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-18 which provided the Commission with the Auditors Reports per Regulation 13 of the IPHC Financial Regulations (Sept. 2014). In addition, the report provides information on past audit costs and recommendation for appointment of the auditor for FY2018.
100. The Commission **NOTED** that due to issues related to the updated financial accounting software and the initial implementation, the audit report was delayed while erroneous FY2016 data were updated. These issues have been resolved and the final data have been submitted to the auditor for review. The report will be available for distribution and approval in the coming weeks.
101. The Commission **NOTED** that the work of the financial software vendor during the upgrade and roll-out has been unacceptable and a new vendor will be selected this year.
102. The Commission **NOTED** that the FY2017 audit is scheduled for February 2018 and the report will be available for distribution and approval inter-sessionally.
103. The Commission **APPROVED** the re-appointment of MKD CPAs PPLC (Seattle, WA) as the IPHC auditor for the FY2018 audit of the IPHC financial statements.

12.3 *Handling of the annual budget carryover*

104. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-19 which reminded the Commission of the endorsed methodology used for parsing the IPHC General and Supplemental Fund carryovers into two distinct accounts. These accounts will be used to independently track annual carryovers related to IPHC Core operations and to the IPHC Fisheries-Independent Setline Survey (FISS).
105. The Commission **RECALLED** that a goal of revenue neutrality for resource use (fish sales) or long-term revenue neutrality for the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) data collections may not be necessary or feasible, particularly given periodic expansion programs into fiscally negatively geared

areas. However, the general objective of aligning resource use to cost recovery for research activities should be maintained.

106. The Commission **APPROVED** the methodology used for parsing the IPHC General and Supplemental Fund carryovers into two distinct accounts, as outlined in paper IPHC-2018-AM094-19.

12.4 Budget estimates for FY2018 and FY2019 for approval, and tentatively for FY2020

107. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-20 which detailed the proposed current (FY2018) budget estimate (financial period: 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018), as well as that for FY2019 and tentatively for 2020.

108. The Commission **NOTED** that Contracting Party contributions (in USD) for FY2018 are still unresolved but currently proposed in paper IPHC-2018-AM094-20 as follows:

- a) Canadian Contribution – In FY2018, the Canadian government contribution is estimated at **\$1,511,508**. The Canadian contributions includes **\$1,453,704** for general contributions (as proposed at the AM093 meeting), as well as an amount of **\$54,000** to cover pension deficit payments.
- b) U.S.A. Contribution – In FY2018, indications are that the U.S. Government will appropriate **\$4,200,000** to the IPHC. As currently constructed, the U.S. contributions included funding for pension deficits and headquarters lease costs.

109. The Commission **NOTED** that FY2018 anticipated income (in USD) is **\$11,876,830** and expenses at **\$12,600,423**. The Commission anticipates using **\$723,593** from the General/Supplemental carryover for expenses in excess of income.

110. **NOTING** Canada's indication that it would not be in a position to contribute more than **\$848,720** in FY2018 and likely for FY2019, the Commission directed the IPHC Secretariat to make the following amendments to the proposed budgets for FY2018 and FY2019:

| GENERAL FUND | | Reductions & deferrals | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| | General Operations | FY2018 | FY2019 | Notes |
| | <i>Personnel</i> | | | |
| | PhD Student Temp. | \$9,813 | \$54,953 | Salary & benefits |
| | Tuition | \$0 | \$18,477 | Tuition for PhD |
| | <i>Programs</i> | | | |
| | Science Meeting Support | \$4,000 | \$10,000 | Reduction and Elimination |
| | Staff/Director Travel | \$17,040 | \$17,040 | 20% reduction |
| | Vendor Contracts | \$35,000 | \$(35,000) | Defer Performance Review |
| | Vendor Contracts | \$45,000 | \$30,000 | Defer IT Projects |
| | Vendor Contracts | \$10,000 | \$0 | MSE Expert |
| | Management Training | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | 20% reduction |
| | Skill Training | \$6,098 | \$(6,098) | 20% reduction |
| | Total Reductions | \$130,951 | \$93,372 | |
| | | | | |
| | Research Programs | FY2018 | FY2019 | Notes |
| | Genome sequencing | \$10,000 | \$0 | Reduce Budget |
| | Genetic Sex Id | \$10,000 | \$0 | Reduce Budget |
| | Captive holding studies | \$58,395 | \$(58,395) | Defer Until 2019 |
| | Whale detection methods | \$37,511 | \$(37,511) | Defer Until 2019 |
| | Total Reductions | \$115,906 | \$(95,906) | |
| | | | | |
| | Budget Management | FY2018 | FY2019 | Notes |
| | General Operations | \$54,621 | \$55,695 | 1.0% under budget |
| | Research Programs | \$57,930 | \$34,913 | 5.0% under budget |
| | Total available funds | \$112,551 | \$90,608 | |

| | Budget Additions | FY2018 | FY2019 | Notes |
|--|------------------|------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| | MSE Researcher | \$(30,751) | \$(126,694) | Adding to Budget; Delayed 3 Months |

111. The Commission **ADOPTED** the FY2018 budget, a summary of which is provided at [Appendix IV](#).
112. The Commission **ADOPTED** the FY2019 budget, a summary of which is provided at [Appendix V](#).
113. The Commission **NOTED** the statement from the IPHC Secretariat which indicated that:
“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”.
114. The Commission **AGREED** that, in the event of the expected contributions not being realised, the IPHC Secretariat shall be required to pare back its personnel and operating expenses in 2018 and 2019 to compensate.
115. The Commission **NOTED** the preliminary budget estimates for FY2020 ([Appendix VI](#)) and that they include assumed increases in contributions from the Contracting Parties.

12.5 IPHC Financial Regulations (2018)

116. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-21 which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider proposed amendments to the IPHC Financial Regulations (2014) and the IPHC Finance and Investment Policy (2014).
117. The Commission **ADOPTED** the revised IPHC Financial Regulations (2018) by consensus, and **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.
118. The Commission **REQUESTED** the IPHC Secretariat review the IPHC Financial Regulations and develop suitable text for consideration at the IM094, which would permit the transfer of funds between the General and Supplemental Funds.

13. REPORT OF THE 88TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB088)

119. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 88th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB088) (IPHC-2018-CB088-R) which was presented by the Co-Chairpersons of the CB, Mr Jeff Kauffman (U.S.A.) and Mr Martin Paish (Canada). A total of 78 members from the two Contracting Parties (85 in 2017) were represented at the Session.
120. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the CB088 from its 2018 report (IPHC-2018-CB088-R) and provided comment or endorsement as specified below.
121. The Commission **NOTED** the CB proposed fishing period (season) dates for the commercial fishery:
a) Opening: 10 March 2018
b) Closing: no earlier than 7 November, with emphasis on the longest season possible.
122. The Commission **NOTED** the CB proposed TCEY catch limits for the 2018 fishing period as provided in [Table 4](#).

Table 4. Conference Board (CB) recommended TCEY catch limits for 2018.

| IPHC Regulatory Area | Catch limit (TCEY) (Mlbs) | Votes |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 2A | 1.47 | USA: In favour 42, Against 4 Canada: Abstained |
| 2B | 7.25 | Canada: In favour 31, Against 0 USA: In favour 0, Against 44, 3 Abstained |
| 2C | 6.58 | USA: In favour 42, Against 4 Canada: Abstained |
| 3A | 12.66 | USA: In favour 42, Against 4 |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| | | Canada: Abstained |
| 3B | 3.51 | USA: In favour 42, Against 4 Canada: Abstained |
| 4A | 1.76 | USA: In favour 42, Against 4 Canada: Abstained |
| 4B | 1.30 | USA: In favour 42, Against 4 Canada: Abstained |
| 4CDE | 3.69 | USA: In favour 42, Against 4 Canada: Abstained |
| Total (IPHC Convention Area) | 38.22 | |

14. REPORT OF THE 23RD SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB023)

123. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 23rd Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB023) (IPHC-2018-PAB023-R) which was presented by the Chairperson of the PAG, Mr Robert Fraumeni (Canada). A total of 20 member companies (19 in 2017) attended the Session (7 from Canada and 12 from the U.S.A.).

124. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the PAB023 from its 2018 report (IPHC-2018-PAB023-R) and provided comment or endorsement as specified below.

125. The Commission **NOTED** the PAB proposed fishing period (season) dates for the commercial fishery:

- a) Opening: 24 March 2018
- b) Closing: 01 November
- c) IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Directed Commercial: 27 June, 11 July, 25 July, 8 August, 22 August, 5 September, and 19 September.

126. The Commission **NOTED** the PAB proposed TCEY catch limits for the 2018 fishing period as provided in [Table 5](#).

Table 5. Processor Advisory Board (PAB) recommended TCEY catch limits for 2018 [In favour=10; Against=7; Abstain=1]

| IPHC Regulatory Area | Catch limit (TCEY) (mlbs) |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2A | 1.47 |
| 2B | 6.08 |
| 2C | 6.35 |
| 3A | 12.07 |
| 3B | 3.27 |
| 4A | 1.75 |
| 4B | 1.28 |
| 4CDE | 3.62 |
| Total (IPHC Convention Area) | 35.89 |

15. OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Catch limits

127. The Commission **AGREED** that due to the lack of agreement on catch limits for 2018, that the status quo catch limits set for the 2017 fishing periods will apply for 2018, until such a time as the Contracting Parties apply more restrictive measures as permitted in the IPHC Convention.

128. The Commission **AGREED** that:

- a) that a meeting of Commissioners be convened as soon as possible to initiate discussion of alternatives to the current method of stock distribution modelling (formerly apportionment).
- b) to consider how any such work will be linked to the MSAB.

129. The Commission **NOTED** the following statements from Canada (see [Table 6](#) for Canada's 2018 **suggested** catch limits for their respective IPHC Regulatory Area):

“There was general agreement between Canada and the United States that we needed to reduce harvest levels in 2018 and that we should be targeting a fishing intensity at the IPHC’s reference level of SPR 46% by 2019. Canada and the United States agreed that we should take an initial step in 2018 in moving from the realized 2017 SPR level of 40% to a lower level of fishing intensity. There was not agreement though on how much to reduce fishing intensity, nor was there agreement on how the reductions should occur in each Regulatory Area.

It is clear that not all Regions have responded in the same manner to changes in fishing intensity. Since 2006 total removals in Region 2 (Regulatory Areas 2A, 2B, and 2C) declined by 46% while Region 3 removals (Areas 3A, and 3B) declined by 62%. Despite notable reductions in Region 3 removals, the Secretariat estimates that the coast-wide proportion of biomass in Region 3 has decreased by 18%. In contrast, Region 2’s proportion of biomass has increased by 15% during the same time period (Table 6A, IPHC-2018-AM094-09).

In response to the 2017 stock assessment Canada has agreed to take a significant initial step in reducing the 2018 TCEY in Area 2B from 8.3 million pounds to 7.1 million pounds. Canada is taking this step in reducing its impact on the resource primarily due a lack of recruits entering the population from a number of year classes. This lack of recruits is very concerning to Canada. Canada anticipates that further reductions of the catch limit will be required across all Regulatory Areas in 2019.

Canada is very concerned that the US will only be reducing its 2018 catch limits 7% (2.3 million pounds) from 2017 levels, while Canada intends to reduce catch limits by 15% (1.2 million pounds). Canada represents 19% of the coast-wide harvest; reductions must be more widespread.

Over the years Canada has identified a number of reasons that it has not accepted the coast-wide stock distribution modelling methodology as a biologically defensible or acceptable method for defining Regulatory Area allocations. Canada notes that apportionment values have never served as the adopted catch limit in 2B (and several other regulatory areas due in large part to the lack of support from Canada and some US constituents for this methodology.;

Canada recommends that use of the current stock distribution modelling methodology for generating advice on Regulatory Area catch limits be discontinued, and that a more appropriate alternative can be found.

Canada agrees that the MSE Program of Work should deliver recommendations on alternate stock distribution strategies by the 2021 Annual Meeting.

It is proposed that, as an interim measure, reference catch limits generated by staff for Regulatory Areas be based on proportions derived from the FCEY values that the Commission has negotiated and agreed to in recent years. It is proposed to use the 2013 – 2017 period as the basis of determining interim proportions. This period is the most recent reflection of fishery dynamics and is also the point from which catch sharing plans in Alaska were established, meaning that what is included in the FCEYs agreed to during that period is stable.

This is the first year that the each Regulatory Area will be managing to a TCEY limit. As both Area 2C and 3A have substantial recreational fisheries that was not previously included in FCEY limits it may require in-season monitoring of these recreational fisheries to ensure that the total TCEY is not exceeded.

Canada’s Commissioners looks forward to working with their United States colleagues as we have done in the past to resolve this issue. It is very unfortunate that Canada and the United States were not able to agree upon TCEY catch limits for 2018. We view this as a failure in the process and hope that in the future that we will be able to reach a consensus on harvest levels as the Parties have done historically.”

130. The Commission **NOTED** the following statements from the United States of America (see [Table 6](#) for the USA 2018 **suggested** catch limits for their respective IPHC Regulatory Areas):

“The US has been conservative in setting catch limits below or at reference levels in recent years, but since the switch to the coastwise model Canada has repeatedly set catch limits above staff recommendations, the blue line or the Commission identified reference level-derived catch limits—by 11 million total over the past seven years. We understand that Canada rejects the current apportionment strategy, but surveyed distribution identifies that 11.3% of the coastwise spawning biomass is in Area 2B, yet Canada supports setting the Area 2B catch limit at 20% of the coastwise total. The disproportional harvest out of Area 2B cannot be good for the resource, nor is it equitable to harvesters in other areas. Area 2 has a high abundance of large fish—the spawners needed to rebuild the stock—and being conservative in 2B is important for the health of the stock overall.

We can argue about the scientific basis to apportionment, but there is no basis for arguing that the survey is not science, and again—Canada’s harvest out of 2B is not proportional to the surveyed abundance of O32 biomass in the 2B area.

Both sides agree that reductions are necessary. The US suggests a coast wide policy (with the exception of 2A, where the survey was to some degree influenced by a hypoxia event and the change of survey period timing) of setting the 2018 TCEY half way between the 2017 adopted catch limits and the catch limits associated with the 2018 SPR46 reference level. Canada rejects this approach and wants larger reductions in some Alaska areas. Because Canada’s catch limits have been chronically over the limits associated with reference levels and are disproportionate to the abundance of O32 biomass in Area 2B (20% vs 11.3%), and because indices in the various areas reflect very different stock responses, the US does not support the approach suggested by Canada. We also note that the majority of stakeholders on the PAB and the CB adopted a coastwise approach similar to what the US Commissioners are proposing.”

131. The Commission **NOTED** that the **suggested** national catch limits for a total TCEY of 37.2 Mlbs (39.0 Mlbs total mortality) in 2018 ([Table 6](#)) would be considered a “fish-down” strategy, with a 93% risk of a further decline over the coming year ([Table 7](#)). This level of harvest is estimated to correspond to an SPR of 41%, a higher level of fishing intensity than corresponding to the reference level (46%), but slightly less fishing intensity than the value estimated to have occurred during 2017 (40%).

Table 6. Catch table projected for the 2018 **suggested** catch limits introduced separately by each Contracting Party for their respective IPHC Regulatory Areas at the AM094. All values reported in millions of net pounds. Table produced following the IPHC Annual Meeting on 26 January 2018.

| | 2A | 2B | 2C | 3A | 3B | 4A | 4B | 4CDE | Total |
|---------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| <u>O26 Non-FCEY</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial discards | 0.02 | 0.15 | NA | NA | 0.18 | 0.06 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.46 |
| Bycatch | 0.11 | 0.23 | 0.02 | 1.01 | 0.45 | 0.29 | 0.20 | 1.96 | 4.26 |
| Recreational (+ discards) | NA | NA | 1.43 | 1.86 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.31 |
| Subsistence | NA | 0.41 | 0.44 | 0.22 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 1.14 |
| Total Non-FCEY | 0.13 | 0.78 | 1.89 | 3.09 | 0.65 | 0.37 | 0.23 | 2.04 | 9.18 |
| <u>O26 FCEY</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial discard | NA | NA | 0.07 | 0.32 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 0.39 |
| Recreational (+ discards) | 0.48 | 0.97 | 0.81 | 1.79 | NA | NA | NA | NA | 4.05 |
| Subsistence | 0.03 | NA | 0.03 |
| Commercial Landings | 0.69 | 5.35 | 3.57 | 7.35 | 2.62 | 1.37 | 1.05 | 1.58 | 23.57 |
| Total FCEY | 1.19 | 6.32 | 4.45 | 9.45 | 2.62 | 1.37 | 1.05 | 1.58 | 28.04 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| TCEY | 1.32 | 7.10 | 6.34 | 12.54 | 3.27 | 1.74 | 1.28 | 3.62 | 37.21 |
| U26 | | | | | | | | | |
| Commercial discards | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.05 |
| Bycatch | 0.00 | 0.02 | 0.00 | 0.42 | 0.44 | 0.11 | 0.01 | 0.79 | 1.79 |
| Total U26 | 0.00 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.43 | 0.46 | 0.12 | 0.01 | 0.79 | 1.83 |
| Total Mortality | 1.32 | 7.13 | 6.34 | 12.97 | 3.73 | 1.86 | 1.29 | 4.41 | 39.04 |

Table 7. Final decision table of 2018 yield alternatives (columns) and risk metrics (rows). Values in the table represent the probability, in “times out of 100” of a particular risk. Table produced following the IPHC Annual Meeting on 26 January 2018.

| 2018 Alternative | | No removals | | Reference: SPR=46% | | | | | | | | | | Suggested | | Status quo | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|--------|------------|--------|--------|-----|
| Total removals (M lb) | | 0.0 | 11.8 | 21.8 | 28.8 | 29.8 | 30.8 | 31.8 | 32.8 | 33.8 | 34.8 | 35.8 | 37.3 | 39.0 | 41.8 | 42.6 | 51.8 | 61.9 | |
| TCEY (M lb) | | 0.0 | 10.0 | 20.0 | 27.0 | 28.0 | 29.0 | 30.0 | 31.0 | 32.0 | 33.0 | 34.0 | 35.5 | 37.2 | 40.0 | 40.8 | 50.0 | 60.0 | |
| Fishing intensity | | F100% | F73% | F58% | F50% | F49% | F48% | F47% | F46% | F45% | F44% | F43% | F42% | F41% | F39% | F38% | F32% | F27% | |
| Fishing intensity interval | | -- | 61-84% | 45-73% | 37-67% | 36-66% | 36-65% | 35-65% | 34-64% | 33-63% | 32-63% | 32-62% | 31-61% | 30-60% | 28-58% | 27-57% | 23-53% | 19-48% | |
| Stock Trend (spawning biomass) | in 2019 | is less than 2018 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 59 | 64 | 69 | 74 | 78 | 81 | 85 | 87 | 91 | 93 | 98 | >99 | >99 | >99 |
| | | is 5% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | <1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 19 | 29 | 34 | 69 | 96 |
| | in 2020 | is less than 2018 | <1 | 1 | 14 | 46 | 52 | 57 | 62 | 67 | 71 | 76 | 80 | 85 | 88 | 95 | 98 | >99 | >99 |
| | | is 5% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 1 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 18 | 21 | 25 | 29 | 34 | 41 | 48 | 61 | 68 | 94 | >99 |
| | in 2021 | is less than 2018 | <1 | 2 | 23 | 59 | 63 | 68 | 72 | 76 | 79 | 83 | 86 | 90 | 92 | 97 | 99 | >99 | >99 |
| is 5% less than 2018 | | <1 | <1 | 5 | 27 | 32 | 36 | 41 | 46 | 50 | 55 | 59 | 66 | 72 | 83 | 89 | 99 | >99 | |
| Stock Status (Spawning biomass) | in 2019 | is less than 30% | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 11 | 15 | |
| | | is less than 20% | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | |
| | in 2020 | is less than 30% | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 21 | 32 |
| | | is less than 20% | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | 1 | 1 |
| | in 2021 | is less than 30% | 1 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 15 | 17 | 21 | 23 | 37 | 54 |
| is less than 20% | | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | <1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 7 | |
| Fishery Trend (TCEY) | in 2019 | is less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 7 | 33 | 38 | 43 | 49 | 55 | 60 | 64 | 68 | 71 | 73 | 78 | 80 | 89 | 97 |
| | | is 10% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 3 | 23 | 26 | 30 | 34 | 38 | 43 | 48 | 53 | 59 | 63 | 72 | 76 | 82 | 92 |
| | in 2020 | is less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 10 | 38 | 43 | 49 | 54 | 59 | 63 | 67 | 70 | 73 | 75 | 79 | 81 | 91 | 98 |
| | | is 10% less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 6 | 27 | 31 | 36 | 40 | 45 | 50 | 54 | 59 | 64 | 67 | 74 | 77 | 84 | 95 |
| | in 2021 | is less than 2018 | <1 | <1 | 14 | 44 | 50 | 55 | 59 | 63 | 67 | 69 | 72 | 74 | 76 | 81 | 83 | 93 | >99 |
| is 10% less than 2018 | | <1 | <1 | 9 | 34 | 38 | 43 | 48 | 52 | 56 | 60 | 63 | 67 | 70 | 75 | 78 | 86 | 99 | |
| Fishery Status (Fishing intensity) | in 2018 | is above F _{46%} | 0 | <1 | 4 | 29 | 33 | 38 | 43 | 50 | 54 | 60 | 64 | 69 | 72 | 77 | 80 | 87 | 95 |

15.2 IPHC meetings calendar (2018-20)

- 132. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-22 which provided an opportunity to consider the draft IPHC meetings calendar (2018-20).
- 133. The Commission **NOTED** the offer by the United States of America to host the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting in 2020 in Sitka, Alaska, U.S.A. The IPHC Secretariat shall work with the hosts to determine the likely financial and logistical implications and for these to be reported back to the Commission for inter-sessional endorsement.
- 134. The Commission **ADOPTED** the proposed dates and places for the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as provided in [Appendix VII](#).

15.3 News release

- 135. **NOTING** the IPHC Secretariat’s proposal for two news releases subsequent to the 94th Annual Meeting the Commission **AGREED** to the release of an initial news release on 26 January 2018 announcing the 2018 catch limits and fishing periods, and a subsequent, more detailed news release within 14 days of the close of the Session.

15.4 Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

- 136. The Commission **NOTED** that the term of the current Chairperson, Dr James Balsiger (U.S.A.) is due to expire at the closing of the current Session, and as per Rule 9 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2017) the Commission is required to elect a new Chairperson for the next year.

-
137. **NOTING** Rule 9 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2017), the Commission **CALLED** for nominations for the newly vacated position of Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year. Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) was nominated, seconded, and **ELECTED** as Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year.
138. The Commission **NOTED** that the term of the current Vice-Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) is due to expire at the closing of the current Session, and as per Rule 9 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2017) the Commission is required to elect a new Vice-Chairperson for the next year.
139. **NOTING** Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure (2017), the Commission **CALLED** for nominations for the newly vacated position of Vice-Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year. Dr James Balsiger (U.S.A.) was nominated, seconded, and **ELECTED** as Vice-Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year.

16. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM094)

140. The Commission **AGREED** that the Draft Report of the AM094 shall be distributed to the Contracting Parties for a 10-day comment period, before being recirculated for a further 10-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.
141. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC *Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2018)* no later than 28 February 2018, **NOTING** that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM094.
142. The report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (IPHC-2018-AM094-R) was **ADOPTED** via correspondence on 19 February 2018, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from AM094, provided at [Appendix VIII](#).

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM094)

Commission Officers

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

Commissioners

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

Advisors/experts

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| Mr Neil Davis – Policy Advisor | Dr Christopher Rogers - Alternate |
| Mr Adam Keizer – Policy Advisor | Dr C. Colin Brinkman – Financial Advisor |
| Mr Allen (Rob) Kronlund – Scientific Advisor | Ms Rachel Baker – Policy Advisor |
| Mr Shane Petersen – Policy Advisor | Mr John Lepore – Legal Advisor |
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APPENDIX II

AGENDA FOR THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM094)

Date: 22–26 January 2018

Location: Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

Venue: Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

Time: 22nd: 09:00-17:30; 23-26: 09:00-17:00 daily

Chairperson: Dr. James Balsiger (United States of America)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr. Paul Ryall (Canada)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**
- 3. UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 93rd ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 93rd INTERIM MEETING**
- 4. REPORT OF THE IPHC SECRETARIAT (2017)**
- 5. FISHERY STATISTICS (2017)**
- 6. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2017) & HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2018)**
 - 6.1 Fishery Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2017, including current and future expansions
 - 6.2 Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; survey expansion results, etc.)
 - 6.3 Data overview and Stock assessment (2017), and draft harvest decision table (2018)
 - 6.4 Pacific halibut catch tables (2018)
- 7. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**
 - 7.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update
 - 7.2 Report of the 10th IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB10)
 - 7.3 Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive
- 8. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2018**
 - 8.1 IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals
 - 8.2 Contracting Party (agency) regulatory proposals
 - 8.3 Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals
 - 8.4 Stakeholder statements
- 9. CONTRACTING PARTY (BY AGENCY) REPORTS**
 - 9.1 Regulatory Area 2A (US west coast)
 - 9.2 Regulatory Area 2B (British Columbia)
 - 9.3 Regulatory Areas 2C/3/4 (Alaska)
- 10. IPHC RESEARCH AND 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM**
 - 10.1 IPHC Research Advisory Board – Update
 - 10.2 Report of the 11th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB11)
 - 10.3 IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Science research program: update
 - 10.4 Evaluation of the IPHC’s 32” minimum size limit
- 11. IPHC PERFORMANCE REVIEW**
 - 11.1 Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 1st IPHC Performance Review recommendations
 - 11.2 2nd IPHC Performance Review: Update

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- Discussion of Legal Review of the IPHC Convention

12. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 12.1 Financial Statement for FY2017
- 12.2 Annual independent auditor's report (2016 and 2017)
- 12.3 Handling of the annual budget carryover
- 12.4 Budget estimates for FY2018 and FY2019 for approval, and tentatively for FY2020
- 12.5 IPHC Financial Regulations (2018): Draft

13. REPORT OF THE 88th SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB088)**14. REPORT OF THE 23rd SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB023)****15. OTHER BUSINESS**

- 15.1 IPHC meetings calendar (2018-20)
- 15.2 News release
- 15.3 Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

16. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 94th SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM094)

APPENDIX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM094)

| Meeting documents | Title | Availability |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| IPHC-2018-AM094-01 | Agenda & Schedule for the 94 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) | ✓ 24 Oct 2017 ✓ 22 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-02 | List of Documents for the 94 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) | ✓ 24 Oct 2017 ✓ 22 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-03 | Update on actions arising from the 93 rd Annual Meeting (AM093), and the 93 rd Interim Meeting (IM093) (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 20 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-04 | Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2017) (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 21 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-05 | Fishery statistics (2017) (J. Goen & L. Erikson) | ✓ 20 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-06 | Fishery Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2017, including current and future expansions (J. Goen, T. Geernaert, E. Henry, E. Soderlund, A.M. Ranta, T.M. Kong, & J. Forsberg) | ✓ 20 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-07 | Space-time modelling of IPHC fishery-independent setline survey data (R. Webster) | ✓ 19 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-08 | Summary of the data, stock assessment, and harvest decision table for Pacific halibut (<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>) at the end of 2017 (I. Stewart, A. Hicks, R. Webster & D. Wilson) | ✓ 19 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-09 | Overview of data sources for the Pacific halibut stock assessment, harvest strategy policy, and related analyses (I. Stewart & R. Webster) | ✓ 21 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-10 | Assessment of the Pacific halibut (<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>) stock at the end of 2017 (I. Stewart & A. Hicks) | ✓ 21 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-11 Rev_1 | Final Pacific halibut catch tables for 2018 (I. Stewart) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 ✓ 10 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-12 | IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): update (A. Hicks & I. Stewart) | ✓ 02 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-13 | IPHC 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science research program: update (J. Planas) | ✓ 06 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-14 | Evaluation of the IPHC's 32" minimum size limit (I. Stewart & A. Hicks) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-15 | Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 1 st IPHC Performance Review recommendations (S. Keith & D. Wilson) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-16 | 2 nd IPHC Performance Review: Update (D. Wilson) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-17 | Financial Statement for FY2017 (M. Larsen) | ✓ 04 Jan 2018 |

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| IPHC-2018-AM094-18 | Independent auditor's reports (FY2016 & FY2017) (M. Larsen) | ✓ 19 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-19 | Handling of the annual budget carryover (M. Larsen & D. Wilson) | ✓ 20 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-20 | Budget estimates for FY2018 and 2019 (for approval) and tentatively for 2020 (M. Larsen) | ✓ 05 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-21 | Amendment of the IPHC Financial Regulations (2014) (M. Larsen, S. Keith & D. Wilson) | ✓ 21 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-22 | IPHC meetings calendar (2018-20) (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 12 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-23 | Implementation notes: 2018 Regulatory proposals (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 23 Dec 2017 |
| <i>Contracting Party (by agency) reports</i> | | |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR01 | Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) update | ✓ 12 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR02 | NMFS Report: Report on the 2017 Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2a | ✓ 22 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-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) | ✓ 28 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR04 | NOAA-NMFS Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) West coast enforcement division report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission | ✓ 02 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR05 Rev_1 | Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW): Summary of Washington Pacific Halibut Fisheries Management in 2017 | ✓ 21 Dec 2017 ✓ 27 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR06 Rev_1 | Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW): Report on the 2017 Oregon Recreational and Commercial Pacific Halibut Fisheries | ✓ 22 Dec 2017 ✓ 04 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR07 | Oregon State Police Halibut Enforcement Summary | ✓ 11 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR08 | California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW): Report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission on 2017 California Fisheries | ✓ 22 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR09 | Fisheries and Oceans Canada 2017: IPHC Annual Report | ✓ 20 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR10 Rev_1 | 2017 Canadian Recreational Fishery Halibut Catch Report | ✓ 20 Dec 2017 ✓ 11 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR11 | Canadian report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission on 2017 halibut fishery enforcement activities | ✓ 20 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR12 | North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC): Annual management letter | ✓ 21 Dec 2017 |

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| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR13 | Annual Report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission from the Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service | ✓ 08 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR14 | Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) Recreation Report | ✓ 20 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR15 | Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) Subsistence Report | ✓ 20 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR16 | NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (OLE): Alaska enforcement division report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission | ✓ 09 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-AR17 | Alaska State Troopers Department of Public Safety Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers Report to the International Pacific Halibut Commission | Withdrawn |
| <i>Regulatory proposals for 2018</i> | | |
| <i>IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals for 2018</i> | | |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA1 | IPHC Closed Area (Sect. 10) (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 19 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA2 | Fishing Periods (Sect. 8) (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA3 | Vessel Monitoring System requirement for IPHC Regulatory Area 4 clearances (Sect. 15) (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA4 | IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA5 | Discussion paper: Frozen-at-sea exemption for head-on requirement (Sect. 13) (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 |
| <i>Contracting Party (by agency) regulatory proposals for 2018</i> | | |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB1 Rev_1 | Leasing IFG to CDQ groups in IPHC Regulatory Area 4 (U.S.A. - NOAA-Fisheries) | ✓ 23 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB2 | Clarify sport fishing regulations in Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A (U.S.A. - NOAA-Fisheries) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB3 | Clarify head-on requirement in Alaska Commercial Fisheries (U.S.A. - NOAA-Fisheries) | ✓ 01 Dec 2017 |
| <i>Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals for 2018</i> | | |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC1 | Catch limit proposals (Sect. 11) (Various) | ✓ 1 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC2 | Preserving catch on private live-aboard vessels (A. Cooper) | ✓ 16 Aug 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC3 | For unguided sport fishing (P. Phillips) | ✓ 14 Sept 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC4 | Sport Fishing for Halibut - Cleaning Regulations (S. Riehemann) | ✓ 22 Sept 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC5 | Elimination of skin-on regulation (J. Shirk) | ✓ 16 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC6 | Live-aboard processing exemption (D. Robertson) | ✓ 17 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC7 | Eliminate the requirement for a CHP (S. Riehemann) | ✓ 20 Oct 2017 |

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| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC8 | Allow shellfish pots on board (ALFA) | ✓ 23 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC9 | Processing halibut greater than four filets (M. Cowart) | ✓ 24 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC10 | Halibut length measurement method (R. Yamada) | ✓ 26 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC11 | Long term storage aboard pleasure vessels (L. Thompson) | ✓ 26 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC12 | Long term storage on cruising vessels (W. Cornell) | ✓ 26 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC13 | Halibut in Bering Sea pots (J. Kauffman) | ✓ 27 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC14 | Status Quo Harvest Measures for Guided Anglers in Area 3A (R. Yamada) | ✓ 27 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC15 | Trawler Halibut Bycatch Tender boat program (J. Kearns) | ✓ 22 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC16 | Reduce daily bag limit for all anglers in Area 2C and 3A in times of low abundance (M. Grove) | ✓ 23 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC17 | Recreational sportsfishing only allocation (J. Kearns) | ✓ 22 Dec 2017 |
| <i>Reports from IPHC subsidiary bodies (2017/18)</i> | | |
| IPHC-2017-SRB10-R | Report of the 10 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB10) | ✓ 4 July 2017 |
| IPHC-2017-SRB11-R | Report of the 11 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB11) | ✓ 29 Sept 2017 |
| IPHC-2017-MSAB09-R | Report of the 9 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB09) | ✓ 22 May 2017 |
| IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R | Report of the 10 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB10) | ✓ 27 Oct 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-CB088-R | Report of the 88 th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB088) | ✓ 25 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-PAB023-R | Report of the 23 rd Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB023) | ✓ 25 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2017-IM093-R | Report of the 93 rd Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM093) | ✓ 2 Dec 2017 |
| <i>Information papers</i> | | |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-INF01 | Understanding the IPHC harvest decision table (2018) (I. Stewart) | ✓ 1 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-INF02 | IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery management overview and fishing period options (2- and 5-days) (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 19 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-INF03 | Bycatch data summary (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 21 Dec 2017 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-INF04 | Stakeholder statements on regulatory proposals for 2018 (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 28 Dec 2017 |

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| IPHC-2018-AM094-INF05 | The Magnuson-Stevens Act: Continuing our nation's legacy of strong, science-based fisheries management (ALFA) | ✓ 08 Jan 2018 |
| IPHC-2018-AM094-INF06 | 2017 2A Treaty Tribal Halibut Season Summary (Anon) | ✓ 17 Jan 2018 |
| <i>Other supporting documents</i> | | |
| IPHC-2017-RARA27-R | Report of Assessment and Research Activities: 2017 (IPHC Secretariat) | ✓ 20 Dec 2017 |

APPENDIX IV
FY2018 BUDGET

(1 Oct. 2017 to 30 Sept. 2018)

IPHC Income and Expenses
Consolidated General & Supplemental

| Income | | Expenses | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Contributions | | Core IPHC Activities | |
| United States of America | \$ 4,200,000 | Administration | \$ 1,868,081 |
| Canada | \$ 902,720 | Scientific | \$ 3,491,057 |
| | | Catch Sampling | \$ 598,244 |
| Fish Sales Income | | Survey Expenses | |
| FISS Program | \$ 5,768,463 | FISS Program | \$ 5,552,072 |
| Other Research | \$ 320,428 | | |
| Other Income | | Research Activities | |
| Grants & Contracts | \$ 811,672 | Field Research | \$ - |
| Interest Income | \$ 16,125 | Other Research | \$ 1,019,516 |
| Misc. Income | \$ - | | |
| | | Transfer to Restricted Accounts | \$ - |
| Total FY2018 Income | \$ 12,019,408 | Total FY2018 Expenses | \$ 12,528,970 |

Total General & Supplemental FY2018 \$ (509,562)

Total as % of Income -4.2%

Unrestricted Funds Balance \$ 3,412,770

APPENDIX V

FY2019 BUDGET

(1 Oct. 2018 to 30 Sept. 2019)

IPHC Income and Expenses

Consolidated General & Supplemental

| <i>Income</i> | | <i>Expenses</i> | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Contributions | | Core IPHC Activities | |
| United States of America | \$ 4,400,000 | Administration | \$ 1,974,859 |
| Canada | \$ 902,720 | Scientific | \$ 3,695,611 |
| | | Catch Sampling | \$ 603,313 |
| Fish Sales Income | | Survey Expenses | |
| FISS Program | \$ 5,575,086 | FISS Program | \$ 5,813,748 |
| Other Research | \$ 43,428 | | |
| Other Income | | Research Activities | |
| Grants & Contracts | \$ 598,488 | Field Research | \$ - |
| Interest Income | \$ 16,125 | Other Research | \$ 557,049 |
| Misc. Income | \$ - | | |
| | | Transfer to Restricted Accounts | \$ - |
| Total FY2018 Income | \$ 11,553,847 | Total FY2018 Expenses | \$ 12,644,580 |

Total General & Supplemental FY2018 \$ (1,090,733)

Total as % of Income -9.4%

Unrestricted Funds Balance \$ 1,741,478

APPENDIX VI
FY2020 PROPOSED BUDGET
(1 Oct. 2019 to 30 Sept. 2020)

IPHC Income and Expenses
Consolidated General & Supplemental

| <i>Income</i> | | <i>Expenses</i> | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Contributions | | Core IPHC Activities | |
| United States of America | \$ 4,532,000 | Administration | \$ 1,988,967 |
| Canada | \$ 1,618,270 | Scientific | \$ 3,504,831 |
| | | Catch Sampling | \$ 618,082 |
| Fish Sales Income | | Survey Expenses | |
| FISS Program | \$ 5,010,861 | FISS Program | \$ 5,540,217 |
| Other Research | \$ - | | |
| Other Income | | Research Activities | |
| Grants & Contracts | \$ 516,029 | Field Research | \$ - |
| Interest Income | \$ 26,125 | Other Research | \$ 575,000 |
| Misc. Income | \$ - | | |
| | | Transfer to Restricted Accounts | \$ - |
| Total FY2018 Income | \$ 11,703,285 | Total FY2018 Expenses | \$ 12,227,097 |

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|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Total General & Supplemental FY2018 | \$ (523,812) |
| Total as % of Income | -4.5% |
| Unrestricted Funds Balance | \$ 1,884,489 |

APPENDIX VII
IPHC MEETINGS CALENDAR (2018-20)

| Meeting | 2018 | | | 2019 | | | 2020 | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| | No. | Date | Location | No. | Date | Location | No. | Date | Location |
| Annual Meeting (AM) | 94th | 22-26 Jan | Portland, USA | 95th | 28 Jan-1 Feb | Victoria, Canada | 96th | 27-31 Jan | Sitka, USA |
| Conference Board (CB) | 88 th | 23-24 Jan | Portland, USA | 89 th | 29-30 Jan | Victoria, Canada | 90 th | 28-29 Jan | Sitka, USA |
| Processor Advisory Board (PAB) | 23 rd | 23-24 Jan | Portland, USA | 24 th | 29-30 Jan | Victoria, Canada | 25 th | 28-29 Jan | Sitka, USA |
| Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) | 94 th | 22 Jan | Portland, USA | 95 th | 28 Jan | Victoria, Canada | 96 th | 27 Jan | Sitka, USA |
| Scientific Review Board (SRB) | 12 th | 19-21 June | Seattle, USA | 14 th | 18-20 June | Seattle, USA | 16 th | 23-25 June | Seattle, USA |
| | 13 th | 25-27 Sept | Seattle, USA | 15 th | 24-26 Sept | Seattle, USA | 17 th | 22-24 Sept | Seattle, USA |
| Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) | 11 th | 7-10 May | Seattle, USA | 13 th | 6-9 May | Seattle, USA | 15 th | 11-14 May | Seattle, USA |
| | 12 th | 15-18 Oct | Seattle, USA | 14 th | 21-24 Oct | Seattle, USA | 16 th | 19-22 Oct | Seattle, USA |
| Work Meeting (WM) | -- | 19-20 Sept | Bellingham, USA | -- | 18-19 Sept | Bellingham, USA | -- | 16-17 Sept | Bellingham, USA |
| Research Advisory Board (RAB) | 19 th | 28 Feb | Seattle, USA | 20 th | 27 Feb | Seattle, USA | 21 st | 26 Feb | Seattle, USA |
| Interim Meeting (IM) | 94th | 27-28 Nov | Seattle, USA | 95th | 25-26 Nov | Seattle, USA | 96th | 1-2 Dec | Seattle, USA |

APPENDIX VIII

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 94TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM094) (22-26 JANUARY 2018)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive

- AM094-Rec.01 ([para. 36](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the draft goals, objectives, and performance metrics, as detailed in Appendix IV, IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R be used for ongoing evaluation in the MSE process, and that they may be refined in the future. The objectives should be evaluated in a hierarchical manner, with conservation as the first priority.
- AM094-Rec.02 ([para. 39](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat consider the setline survey WPUE grid across the fishery as well as other biological factors (e.g. habitat configuration, size distribution in the region etc.) and provide alternatives to the current management areas (e.g. biological regions), and that the MSAB consider additional ways to incorporate biological information into TCEY distribution procedures.
- AM094-Rec.03 ([para. 44](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that long- and mid-term performance metrics for conservation objectives be considered in the MSE process for conservation objectives, and that short-term metrics be included for fishery-related objectives in the MSE process, via the MSAB.

Evaluation of the IPHC's 32" minimum size limit

- AM094-Rec.04 ([para. 89](#)) The Commission **NOTED** report IPHC-2018-AM094-14, which indicated that the performance of the management procedure is dominated by management decisions other than the size limit, (e.g. removal of the size limit is likely to result in minimal changes in yield) and **RECOMMENDED** that the size limit remain unchanged.

REQUESTS

Reports of the 10th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB10)

- AM094-Req.01 ([para. 31](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the MSAB look at SPR values consistent with recent estimated SPR values from the assessment model and lower. This would mean expanding the lower range of SPR values to below 40%.

Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive

- AM094-Req.02 ([para. 37](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the objectives related to distributing the TCEY, as detailed in Circular IPHC-2017-CR022, be presented at MSAB11 for further stakeholder feedback.
- AM094-Req.03 ([para. 38](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the proposed TCEY distribution methodology of the Harvest Strategy Policy reflect an understanding of both stock distribution and fishery management distribution procedures.

Discussion paper: Frozen-at-sea exemption for head-on requirement (Sect. 13)

- AM094-Req.04 ([para. 54](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat continue to monitor the volume of catch being landed as frozen head-off product. The IPHC Secretariat shall keep the Commission informed of the annual landings from this sector of the fishery.

Stakeholder regulatory proposals

- AM094-Req.05 ([para. 62](#)) The Commission **NOTED** that the following proposals were more appropriate for action by the U.S.A. North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), and **REQUESTED** the IPHC notify the proponents that they should communicate their proposals to the NPFMC for its consideration:
- IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC3 For unguided sport fishing (P. Phillips)

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- IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC7 Eliminate the requirement for a CHP (S. Riehemann)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC16 Reduce daily bag limit for all anglers in Area 2C and 3A in times of low abundance (M. Grove)
 - IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC17 Recreational sport fishing only allocation (J. Kearns)

AM094–Req.06 ([para. 64](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that an IPHC Secretariat led working group, to include appropriate Contracting Party agencies, review IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC8 over the coming year to determine how best to implement it effectively.

IPHC Financial Regulations (2018)

AM094–Req.07 ([para. 117](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** the revised IPHC Financial Regulations (2018) by consensus, and **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.

AM094–Req.08 ([para. 118](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** the IPHC Secretariat review the IPHC Financial Regulations and develop suitable text for consideration at the IM094, which would permit the transfer of funds between the General and Supplemental Funds.

Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094)

AM094–Req.09 ([para. 141](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC *Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2018)* no later than 28 February 2018, **NOTING** that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM094.