



**Update on actions arising from the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096),
96th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM096) and 2020 Intersessional decisions**

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON; 15 DECEMBER 2020)

PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096), 96th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM096) and 2020 Intersessional decisions.

BACKGROUND

At the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096), Contracting Parties agreed on a series of actions to be taken by Commissioners, subsidiary bodies, and the IPHC Secretariat on a range of issues as detailed in [Appendix A](#).

In addition, following amendments to the IPHC Rules of Procedure in 2019 and again in 2020, the Commission possesses a clear process for inter-sessional decision making and tracking. Throughout 2020, the Commission made a number of inter-sessional decisions with the aim of improving governance and responsiveness of the organisation, as detailed in [Appendix B](#).

At the 96th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM096), Contracting Parties agreed on an additional series of actions to be taken by Commissioners, subsidiary bodies, and the IPHC Secretariat on a range of issues as detailed in [Appendix C](#).

DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned to the IPHC Secretariat by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that any recommendations for action are carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific Contracting Party, the IPHC Secretariat staff, a subsidiary body of the Commission, or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time frame for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next session of a subsidiary body, or other date).

This involves numbering and tracking all action items from the Commission, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2021-AM097-03, which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual

Meeting (AM096), 96th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM096) and 2020 Intersessional decisions.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Update on actions arising from the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting \(AM096: February 2020\)](#)

Appendix B: [2020 Inter-sessional decisions of the Commission](#)

Appendix C: [Update on actions arising from the 96th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting \(IM096: November 2020\)](#)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096: February 2020)

96 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)		
Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
AM096– Rec.01 (para. 31)	<p>Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that for the 2020 FISS season, the IPHC Secretariat shall employ the proposed subarea design for Regulatory Areas 2A, 4A, 4B, 4CDE, and an enhanced randomised subsampling FISS design in Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, and 3B to meet the primary design objective, while also considering secondary and tertiary objectives (Table 2). The IPHC Secretariat shall determine the number of skates at each FISS station with the secondary objective in mind (Table 2). A demonstration of this design is provided at Fig. 2.</p>	<p>Lead: Lara Erikson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-IM096-06 IPHC Fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) (2020): Preliminary update (L. Erikson, R. Webster)</p> <p>Also note IPHC-2020-ID011 in Appendix B</p>
AM096– Rec.02 (para. 32)	<p>The Commission RECOMMENDED the following specific additions to the new 2020 FISS design, on the basis of the tertiary objective specified in Table 2 on a cost recovery basis. Any other tertiary sampling objective shall be at the discretion of the IPHC Secretariat unless specifically directed by the Commission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Regulatory Area 2A: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - rockfish sampling; b) Regulatory Area 2B: DFO-Canada - rockfish sampling. 	<p>Lead: Lara Erikson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, neither of the two tertiary sampling activities were possible in 2020.</p> <p>They will be revisited as options for 2021 on a cost-recovery basis.</p>
REQUESTS		
AM096– Req.01 (para. 33)	<p>Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED the 2020 consultation process in preparation for the 2021 FISS and beyond be enhanced to include input from the IPHC subsidiary bodies, particularly the Research Advisory Board and the Scientific Review Board, as well as from stakeholders who have performed survey work for the IPHC, with a view to finalizing the FISS sampling design for the coming year as early as possible in the annual planning cycle.</p>	<p>Lead: Ray Webster</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>FISS design work was presented for discussion to both the RAB021 in February, and, in more detail, to the SRB016 in June 2020, and again in more detail at SRB017 in September 2020 (see agenda item 7.2 for the SRB's advice).</p> <p>Further stakeholder engagement was obtained at IM096 and via direct vessel owner/captain engagement throughout 2020.</p> <p>The IPHC Secretariat intends on seeking further input at the IPHC meeting series in January 2021.</p>

96 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)		
Action No.	Description	Update
AM096– Req.02 (para. 52)	Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2019), and harvest decision table (2020) The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC MSE process continue to evaluate status quo management related to discard mortality for non-directed fisheries (bycatch) under the current program of work for delivery of full MSE results at AM097 in 2021, noting that this source of mortality is currently modelled as a fixed component of the total (with variability).	Lead: Allan Hicks Status/Plan: Completed The current framework continues to model non-directed commercial mortality with a fixed average that is dependent on the total simulated biomass and random variability. See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-11
AM096– Req.03 (para. 89)	Reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013 and MSAB014) The Commission REQUESTED the MSAB to confirm the proposed topics of work beyond the 2021 deliverables in time for the Interim Meeting (IM096), including work to investigate and provide advice on approaches for accounting for the impacts of bycatch in one Regulatory Area on harvesting opportunities in other Regulatory Areas.	Lead: Allan Hicks Status/Plan: Completed The MSAB has expressed interest in data-based approaches (e.g. less reliance on stock assessment models) and multi-year decision-making process as highlighted in the 2 nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPCH02). See agenda item 8.2 for the latest MSAB advice arising from MSAB016 (19-22 October 2020)
AM096– Req.04 (para. 110)	Stakeholder statements The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat organise and synopsise stakeholder statements by topic, in order to insert the stakeholder written inputs into public comment at appropriate points in the agenda for the Commission's consideration.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-INF01
AM096– Req.05 (para. 113)	Contracting Party National Reports - United States of America The Commission NOTED that the NOAA Fisheries Observer Program has increased observer fees and has received increased government funding, and REQUESTED that NOAA Fisheries provide a synopsis of observer coverage rates over time and how coverage rates are expected to change in 2020 and beyond.	Lead: NOAA-Fisheries Status/Plan: Pending NOAA-Fisheries have indicated they will provide a response via their the National Report from the USA, at AM097. See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-NR02
AM096– Req.06 (para. 135)	IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020) The Commission ADOPTED the revised IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020) by consensus, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020) was published on 7 February 2020.
AM096– Req.07 (para. 139)	Report of the 2nd IPHC Performance Review The Commission REQUESTED that paper IPHC-2020-AM096-14 be reviewed intersessionally by each Contracting Party, with the intention of providing edits/additions, for endorsement. The IPHC Secretariat will	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed

96 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)		
Action No.	Description	Update
	facilitate this request by proposing intersessional meeting dates.	Intersessional meeting held 17 March 2020 where the Commission endorsed the recommendations. See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-13 <i>Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 2nd IPHC Performance Review recommendations</i> (D. Wilson)
AM096– Req.08 (para. 158)	Size limits The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat prepare an updated discussion of the costs and benefits of removing or adjusting the current minimum size limit and/or adding a maximum size limit. This analysis would be presented during the 2020 Work Meeting and IM096.	Lead: Ian Stewart Status/Plan: Completed See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-09 <i>Evaluation of directed commercial fishery size limits in 2020</i> (I. Stewart, A. Hicks & B. Hutniczak)
AM096– Req.09 (para. 159)	Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC <i>Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2020)</i> no later than 28 February 2020, NOTING that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM096.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed Published on 7 February 2020.

APPENDIX B

2020 Inter-sessional Decisions of the Commission

2020 Inter-sessional decisions		
Action No.	Description	Update
IPHC-2020-ID001	<p>Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the primary coastwide and area-specific objectives outlined in Table 1 of Appendix A be used for evaluating MSE results conditional on future consideration of the objectives after preliminary MSE results are presented at MSAB015 in May 2020.</p>	<p>Lead: Allan Hicks</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>See agenda item 8.2 for the latest MSAB advice arising from MSAB016 (19-22 October 2020)</p>
IPHC-2020-ID002	<p>The Commission RECOMMENDED a reference SPR fishing intensity of 43% with a 30:20 control rule be used as an updated interim harvest policy consistent with MSE results pending delivery of the final MSE results at AM097, noting the additional components intended to apply for a period of 2020 to 2022 as defined in IPHC-2020-AM096-R paragraphs 97 b, c, d, and e. Specifically, these additional components are allocations to 2A and 2B, accounting for some impacts of U26 non-directed discard mortality, and the use of a rolling three-year average for projecting non-directed fishery discard mortality.</p>	<p>Lead: Allan Hicks</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The reference SPR fishing intensity of 43% with a 30:20 control rule is being used in the 2020 stock assessment and harvest advice for 2021 and will be presented at AM097</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-08)</p>
IPHC-2020-ID003	<p>IPHC Performance Review: 2nd IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC02)</p> <p>The Commission ENDORSED the recommendations, priorities, responsibilities, timelines and updates provided at Appendix B, and AGREED that these would be reported on at each IPHC meeting.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-13</p>
IPHC-2020-ID004	<p>IPHC Financial Regulations (2020)</p> <p>The Commission ADOPTED by consensus, the IPHC Financial Regulations (2020), and directed the IPHC Secretariat to finalise and publish accordingly.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>IPHC Financial Regulations (2020) was published on 17 March 2020.</p>
IPHC-2020-ID005	<p>Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)</p> <p>NOTING paper IPHC-2020-SS06-INF01 which provided a description of the benefits of selling Pacific halibut less than 32 inches in length that is captured and sampled on the 2020 FISS, the Commission ENDORSED the sale of this portion of the FISS catch.</p>	<p>Lead: Lara Erikson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The sale of U32 fish that could not be returned to the sea alive were landed and sold throughout the 2020 FISS season.</p> <p>As of 12 September 2020, U32 fish sales yielded US\$65,669.63 in revenue, at an average price of US\$4.15/lb.</p>

2020 Inter-sessional decisions		
Action No.	Description	Update
IPHC-2020-ID006	NOTING paper IPHC-2020-SS06-INF02 which provided details of the 2020 FISS design, including the number of skates to be deployed at each FISS station by IPHC Regulatory Area, the Commission ENDORSED the design (Appendix C).	Lead: Lara Erikson Status/Plan: Completed Note that the design endorsed here, was subsequently amended (see IPHC-2020-ID011 below) following the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.
IPHC-2020-ID007	<i>Alaska Charter Sector Allocation – IPHC Regulatory Areas 2c And 3a</i> The Commission NOTED and ADOPTED regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS07-PropA1, which amends Sect. 29 of the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E. The amendments (provided at Appendix III) are to: a) Regulatory Area 2C - implement a reverse slot limit with a lower limit of 45 inches (increased from 40 inches) for recreational charter anglers for the remainder of the 2020 season; b) Regulatory Area 3A – modify the lower limit from 26 inches to 32 inches; No annual limit and no daily closures, for the remainder of the 2020 season.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed IPHC Fishery Regulations (2020) was published on 20 May 2020.
IPHC-2020-ID008	<i>Pacific Halibut Bycatch In The Washington Sablefish Fishery</i> The Commission NOTED and ADOPTED regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS07-PropA2, which amended the deadline for when a vessel operating in the incidental catch fishery during the sablefish fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A must have submitted its “Application for Vessel License for the Pacific Halibut Fishery” form. The amendments (provided at Appendix IV) modify the deadline for submission from 15 March to 29 May 2020. The extension was made based solely on the potential negative impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic may have had on the licencees and does not set a precedent for future years.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed IPHC Fishery Regulations (2020) was published on 20 May 2020.
IPHC-2020-ID009	<i>Intersessional meeting formats</i> The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat prepare draft guidelines for intersessional meetings to compliment those already contained with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020), given the potential ongoing COVID-19 impacts.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed See paper IPHC-2021-FAC097-09 for draft amendments

2020 Inter-sessional decisions		
Action No.	Description	Update
IPHC-2020-ID010	<p>IPHC Fishery Regulations – May 2020</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC <i>Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2020)</i> within 24 hours, NOTING that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the SS07.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The Report of the 7th Special Session (IPHC-2020-SS07-R) was published on 20 May 2020.</p> <p>IPHC Fishery Regulations (2020) was published on 20 May 2020.</p>
IPHC-2020-ID011	<p>Revised 2020 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation</p> <p>The Commission ENDORSED the 2020 FISS design provided in Appendix I, which includes 898 stations in a reduced footprint within IPHC Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A and 3B.</p>	<p>Lead: Lara Erikson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-06</p>
IPHC-2020-ID012	<p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the 2020 FISS commence on or near 1 July 2020, with a completion target of 31 August 2020.</p>	<p>Lead: Lara Erikson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The 2020 FISS commenced on 27 June 2020, 4 days ahead of schedule. The FISS was completed on 9 September 2020.</p>
IPHC-2020-ID013	<p>Independent External Auditor's Report for FY2018 & FY2019</p> <p>The Commission ENDORSED the Independent External Auditor's Report for FY2018 & FY2019.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p>
IPHC-2020-ID014	<p>Fishing period extension for the directed commercial fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B</p> <p>The Commission NOTED and ADOPTED regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1, which amends Sect. 9, of the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations, by extending the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B to 7 December 2020. The amended text shall read as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>9. Commercial Fishing Periods</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(3) All commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas shall cease for the year at 1200 local time on 15 November, with the exception of IPHC Regulatory Area 2B which shall cease at 1200 local time on 7 December 2020.</i></p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>IPHC Fishery Regulations (2020) was published on 17 September 2020.</p>

2020 Inter-sessional decisions		
Action No.	Description	Update
IPHC-2020-ID015	<p>External Auditors appointment</p> <p>The IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) RECOMMENDED, and the Commission APPOINTED the external auditor 'Moss Adams' to audit the accounts of the Commission for FY2020, FY2021, and FY2022.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson/Keith Jernigan</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The auditors were contracted on 9 November 2020. The auditors have also completed the FY2020 audit which is available on the FAC097 meeting page.</p>
IPHC-2020-ID016	<p>IPHC 2021 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat proceed with an '<i>optimised</i>' version of the '<i>minimum 2021 FISS design</i>', involving adding an additional ~398 stations within the areas covered by the '<i>minimum 2021 FISS design</i>' and where feasible, adding additional skates on each station (Fig. 2). The Commission reserved the right to make ad-hoc adjustments to the 2021 FISS at the 97th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM097), based on updated information to be provided by the IPHC Secretariat on IPHC Regulatory Areas 4B and 2A.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress</p> <p>The IPHC Secretariat has commenced operationalising the 2021 FISS. This included the RFT, contracting Setline Survey Specialists (vessel staff), bait purchases and all associated contracts.</p> <p>At AM097, a re-costing of IPHC Regulatory Area 4B and 2A will be provided for Commissioner review.</p>

APPENDIX C

Update on actions arising from the 96th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM096: November 2020)

96 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM096)		
Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
IM096-Rec.01 (para. 35)	<i>FISS redesign discussion</i> The Commission NOTED some existing opportunities for stakeholder engagement in the FISS design review process and RECOMMENDED that additional formalised opportunities should be added to the review timeline for future presentations. An option is to hold the annual RAB meeting in November or December of each year.	Lead: Lara Erikson Status/Plan: In Progress The IPHC Secretariat will provide an updated schematic at AM097 for consideration. See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-07
IM096-Rec.02 (para. 46)	<i>FISS design endorsement (2021-23)</i> The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC 2021 FISS design be considered for decision at the 9 th Special Session of the Commission (SS09), at a date and format to be agreed upon intersessionally. The IPHC Secretariat will develop necessary material to support the decision making process.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed The 9 th Special Session was held on 8 December 2020. Outcomes are provided on the meeting page: https://www.iphc.int/venues/details/9th-special-session-of-the-iphc-ss09
IM096-Rec.03 (para. 47)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat provide the Commission, at AM097, an expanded schematic of the rationalisation of the FISS following the 2014-19 expansion series. The intent is to show all the steps from design to implementation of a FISS.	Lead: Lara Erikson Status/Plan: Completed See paper IPHC-2021-AM097-06
IM096-Rec.04 (para. 74)	<i>IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation</i> The Commission RECOMMENDED that a Special Session of the Commission be held prior to the AM097 meeting in January, to look at potential modifications to existing MPs as part of the IPHC Secretariat's MSE program of work. The IPHC Secretariat will seek to establish agreeable dates, and publish the meeting invitation accordingly, noting that all meetings of the Commission are public unless otherwise decided by the Commission.	Lead: David Wilson/Allan Hicks Status/Plan: Completed The Commission is scheduled to hold the 10th Special Session of the IPHC (SS010) on 08 January 2021. The outcomes will be further discussed at AM097.
IM096-Rec.05 (para. 90)	<i>IPHC Fishery regulations: Proposals for the 2020-21 process</i> The Commission RECOMMENDED that interested stakeholders note the deadline for submission of IPHC Fishery Regulation proposals, for consideration at the 97 th Session of the Annual Meeting (AM097), of 26 December 2020 . Late proposals will not be considered at AM097.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed Media release calling for proposals communicated on 3 December 2020. IPHC-MR-2020-035

96 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM096)		
Action No.	Description	Update
REQUESTS		
IM096-Req.01 (para. 58)	<p>Size limit review</p> <p>NOTING the indication from some Commissioners that there may be regulatory compliance concerns to be considered, the Commission REQUESTED that relevant Contracting Party agencies, led by NOAA and DFO, consider and present those concerns (if applicable) at AM097.</p>	<p>Lead: NOAA and DFO</p> <p>Status/Plan: Pending</p> <p>See papers:</p> <p>IPHC-2021-AM097-NR01: Canada</p> <p>IPHC-2021-AM097-NR02: USA</p>