



31 July 2023

**IPHC CIRCULAR 2023-017**

**SUBJECT: INTERSESSIONAL DECISION ID007 (FOR INFORMATION)**

Dear Commissioners,

In accordance with Rule 11, paragraphs 4-10 ‘*Intersessional decision-making*’ of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2023\)](#), I am pleased to provide you with the following intersessional Commission decision for your information. The decision was **adopted** by consensus (*In favour=6; Against=0; No response=0*). No further action is required by Commissioners at this time.

**BACKGROUND**

It was proposed that the Commission consider replacing the 2023 gear calibration study with a bait calibration study. The primary purpose of the study would be to compare the catch rates of Pacific halibut between two bait types: Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) and Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*). The study would provide a direct comparison of catch rates for the two baits that would then be combined with results from the 2012 bait calibration study (Webster et al. 2013) and be used to develop an IPHC Regulatory Area-specific calibration for future FISS sampling. Depending on the results, a change in bait could be made in some charter regions within IPHC Regulatory Area 2C as soon as 2024.

*Justification:* The cost of Chum salmon continues to increase and is now a significant component of the total FISS budget each year. In addition, the availability of Chum salmon has declined making it challenging to source sufficient bait at a reasonable price each year. Additional study details and draft bid specifications were provided via a direct briefing to Commissioners.

**DECISION**

**2023 IPHC BAIT CALIBRATION STUDY**

**IPHC-2023-ID007:** The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a bait calibration study using two bait types (Chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*) and Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)) in fall 2023.

Please consider the date of this IPHC Circular to be the official ‘*date of notification*’ of the decisions detailed above, in accordance with Rule 11, paragraph 10 of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2023\)](#).

Yours sincerely

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, IPHC

**Attachments:** Nil