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## OUTCOMES OF THE 98<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM098)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON, 6 MAY 2022)

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### PURPOSE

To provide the SRB with the outcomes of the 98<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098) relevant to the mandate of the SRB.

### BACKGROUND

The agenda of the Commission's Annual Meeting (AM098) included several agenda items relevant to the SRB:

5. **STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2021) & HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2022)**
  - 5.1 *IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2021 (K. Ualesi, D. Wilson, C. Jones & R. Rillera)*
  - 5.2 *Space-time modelling of survey data (R. Webster)*
  - 5.3 *2022-24 FISS designs (R. Webster)*
  - 5.4 *Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2021), and harvest decision table (2022) (I. Stewart, A. Hicks, R. Webster, D. Wilson, & B. Hutniczak)*
  - 5.5 *Pacific halibut mortality projections using the IPHC mortality projection tool (2022) (I. Stewart)*
6. **IPHC SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**
  - 6.1 *IPHC 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Plan (2017-21): update (J. Planas)*
7. **MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**
  - 7.1 *IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update (A. Hicks)*
8. **PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY ECONOMICS – PROJECT REPORT**
  - 8.1 *Pacific Halibut Multiregional Economic Impact Assessment (PHMEIA) (B. Hutniczak)*

### DISCUSSION

During the course of the 98<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098) the Commission made a number of specific recommendations and requests for action regarding the stock assessment, MSE process, and 5-year research program. Relevant sections from the report of the meeting are provided in [Appendix A](#) for the SRB's consideration.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the SRB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2022-SRB020-04 which details the outcomes of the 98<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098) relevant to the mandate of the SRB.

### APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Excerpts from the 98<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098) Report ([IPHC-2022-AM098-R](#)).

**APPENDIX A**  
**Excerpt from the 98<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098) Report**  
**(IPHC-2022-AM098-R)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Management Strategy Evaluation***

AM098–Rec.01 ([para. 69](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that an MSE agenda item be added to the upcoming special session to discuss and provide direction on elements of the MSE workplan, including distribution procedures to incorporate in the management procedures being simulated in 2022 and evaluated at the 99<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099).

***12<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Commission (SS012)***

AM098–Rec.02 ([para. 116](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the 12<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the Commission be held electronically in late February or early March 2022 and include the following agenda items: 1) FY2023 budget review and adoption; 2) Management Strategy Evaluation; 3) IPHC Fishery Regulations: Daily bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) ([IPHC-2022-AM098-PropB4](#)). [*see below for outcomes*]

***Length-Weight***

AM098–Rec.03 ([para. 121](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the adoption of the updated length-weight relationship as detailed in paper [IPHC-2022-AM098-INF07](#), and its dissemination to the appropriate domestic management agencies.

**REQUESTS**

***Management Strategy Evaluation***

AM098–Req.02 ([para. 61](#)) The Commission **RECALLED** SS011-Rec.01 and **REQUESTED** that the current size limit (32 inches), a 26 inch size limit, and no size limit be investigated. to understand the long-term effects of a change in the size limit.

AM098–Req.03 ([para. 63](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat work with the SRB and others as necessary to identify potential costs and benefits of not conducting an annual stock assessment. This will include a prioritized list of work items that could be accomplished in its place.

AM098–Req.04 ([para. 64](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that multi-year management procedures include the following concepts:

- a) The stock assessment occurs biennially (and possibly triennial if time in 2022 allows) and no changes would occur to the FISS (i.e. remains annual);
- b) The TCEY within IPHC Regulatory Areas for non-assessment years:
  - i. remains the same as defined in the previous assessment year, or
  - ii. changes within IPHC Regulatory Areas using simple empirical rules, to be developed by the IPHC Secretariat, that incorporate FISS data.

AM098–Req.05 ([para. 66](#)) The Commission **NOTED** that a distribution procedure is necessary to evaluate the size limit and multi-year assessment management procedures, and **REQUESTED** that a range of distribution procedures be used to highlight potential differences in the performance of size limits and multi-year assessments.

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AM098–Req.06 ([para. 68](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that work continue on methods to evaluate MSE outcomes, including providing new alternative methods to quickly evaluate large sets of management procedures, which may involve ranking them in various ways.

***Pacific halibut fishery economics – Project Report***

AM098–Req.07 ([para. 73](#)) The Commission **AGREED** that it wished to see the Commission improve its knowledge of key inputs into the Pacific halibut stock assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) processes, thereby providing the best possible advice for management decision making processes. Accordingly the Commission **REQUESTED** that no additional economic analyses be undertaken and that the Commission instead dedicate its efforts and funds to core areas of responsibility.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 12<sup>TH</sup> SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS012)  
(25 February 2022)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Management Strategy Evaluation***

SS012-Rec.01 ([para. 10](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the following five distribution procedures to be used in the management strategy evaluation of size limits and multi-year assessments, noting that these distribution procedures are for analytical purposes only and are not endorsed by both parties, thus would be reviewed in the future if the Commission wishes to evaluate them for implementation.

- a) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3A, relative harvest rates of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 3B-4, and no application of the current interim agreements for 2A and 2B;
- b) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3A, relative harvest rates of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 3B-4, and current interim agreements for 2A and 2B;
- c) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results with 1.65 Mlbs to 2A and 20% of the coastwide TCEY to 2B;
- d) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3, 4A, and 4CDE, a relative harvest rate of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Area 4B, and no agreements for 2A and 2B;
- e) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3, 4A, and 4CDE, a relative harvest rate of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Area 4B, and current interim agreements for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 2B.