



Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2023)

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1 PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with a report on the activities of the IPHC Secretariat in 2023, not already contained within other papers before the Commission.

2 IPHC SECRETARIAT 2023

The IPHC is a public international organization so designated via Presidential Executive Order 11059 and established by a Convention between Canada and the United States of America. The IPHC Convention was signed on 2 March 1923, ratified on 21 July 1924, and came into effect on **21 October 1924** upon exchange.

The basic texts of the Commission are available on the IPHC website: <https://www.iphc.int/the-commission>, and prescribe the mission of the organization as:

“..... to develop the stocks of [Pacific] halibut in the Convention waters to those levels which will permit the optimum yield from the fishery and to maintain the stocks at those levels.” IPHC Convention, Article I, sub-article I, para. 2).

The IPHC Secretariat, formed in support the Commission’s activities, is based in Seattle, WA, U.S.A. (Fig. 1) and currently consists of 29 fulltime positions (FTEs) and ~24-45 temporary/seasonal positions to staff our ports and research vessels (Appendix I). As our shared vision, ***the IPHC Secretariat aims to deliver positive economic, environmental, and social outcomes for the Pacific halibut resource for Canada and the U.S.A. through the application of rigorous science, innovation, and the implementation of international best practice.***

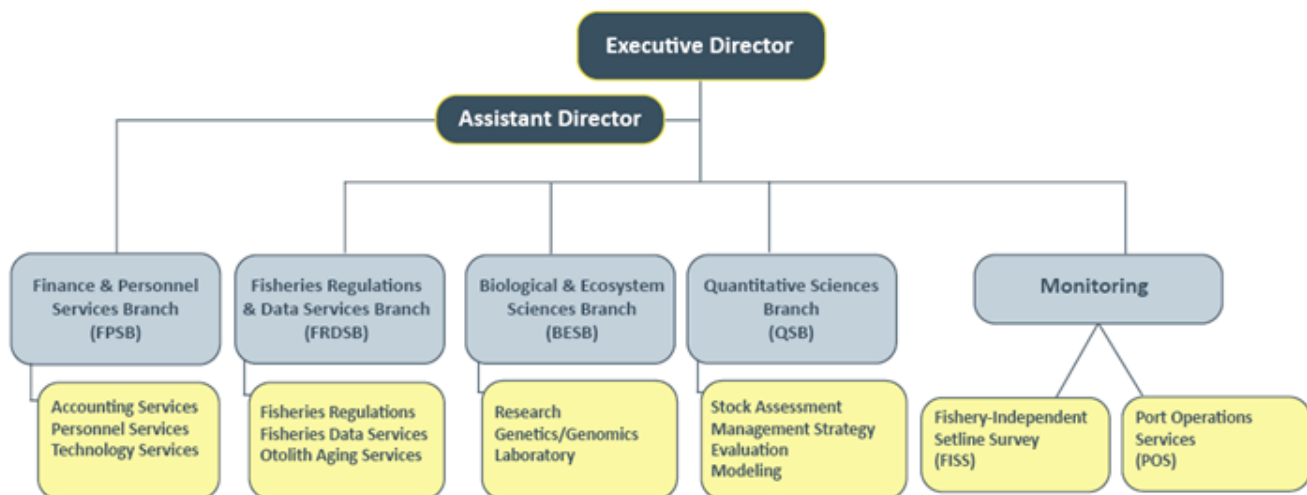


Figure 1. IPHC Secretariat organisation chart (2023).

3 IPHC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: 2023

The IPHC funds full-time internships each summer. In 2023 the IPHC hosted one (1) undergraduate intern, Mr William Le, pursuing a major in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the

University of Washington (Seattle, WA). William has participated in research activities at the Biological and Ecosystem Sciences Branch and has also assisted the Otolith Services team. In addition, William has participated in the FISS and was deployed in the F/V Star Wars. In terms of his research activities, William has contributed to the research project entitled “Mapping the juvenile Pacific halibut” by mining data sources from surveys conducted in the early to mid 1990’s by researchers at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. These data will be incorporated into a large database of juvenile habitat coastwide currently being compiled by the IPHC and that will be used in connectivity and population dynamics studies. The internship period runs from 13 June through 31 August 2023.

4 IPHC MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2022-25

The IPHC funds several Merit Scholarships to support university, technical college, and other post-secondary education for students from Canada and the United States of America who are connected to the Pacific halibut fishery. Generally, a single new scholarship valued at US\$4,000 per year is awarded every two years. The scholarships are renewable annually for the normal four-year period of undergraduate education, subject to maintenance of satisfactory academic performance.

Since the scholarships inception in 2002, the IPHC has awarded over US\$150,000 in scholarship funds to 19 recipients.

In 2022, the IPHC Merit Scholarship Selection Panel reviewed applications and selected an outstanding candidate from a very strong application pool, based on academic qualifications, career goals, and relationship to the Pacific halibut industry.

The Selection Panel consists of the following five (5) panelists:

- Robert Alverson (USA Commissioner)
- Peter DeGreef (Canadian Commissioner)
- Patrick DePoe
- Angel Drobnica
- Christa Rusel

The Selection Panel unanimously awarded Lucy Hankins (Seward, AK, USA) 2022 IPHC Merit Scholarship. The current recipients and their expected years of receipt are provided below.

Name	2022	2023	2024	2025
Hahlen Behnken-Barkhau (Sitka, AK, USA)	\$4,000	\$4,000	-	-
Lucy Hankins (Seward, AK, USA)	-	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000

2024 Merit Scholarship: The Secretariat will launch the 2024 Merit Scholarship process in March 2024, seeking applications for qualified candidates by mid-June 2024. It is expected that the process will be completed by August 2024.

5 MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES DURING 2023

Meeting	No.	Date	Location	Secretariat material
Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)	99 th	23 Jan	Victoria, BC, Canada	7 working papers
Annual Meeting (AM)	99 th	23-27 Jan	Victoria, BC, Canada	14 working papers, 11 regulatory proposals
Conference Board (CB)	93 rd	24-25 Jan	Victoria, BC, Canada	Commission papers
Processor Advisory Board (PAB)	28 th	24-25 Jan	Victoria, BC, Canada	Commission papers
Special Session (SS)	13 th	18 Apr	Electronic	2 working papers
Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)	18 th	24-25 May	Electronic	5 working papers
Scientific Review Board (SRB)	22 nd	20-22 June	Seattle, USA & Electronic	7 working papers
Work Meeting (WM)	2023	11-12 Sept	Bellingham, USA	12 working papers
Scientific Review Board (SRB)	23 rd	25-27 Sept	Seattle, USA & Electronic	7 working papers
Research Advisory Board (RAB)	24 th	28 Nov	Seattle, USA & Electronic	6 working papers
Interim Meeting (IM)	99 th	30 Nov – 1 Dec	Electronic	14 working papers

6 IPHC PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS ADOPTED IN 2023

In 2023, the Commission adopted **eight (8)** fishery regulations proposals ([IPHC-2023-AM099-R](#)) in accordance with Article III of the Convention, as follows:

6.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Morality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)

([par. 89](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2022-AM099-PropA1](#), which provides the mortality and fishery limits framework for population at AM098 ([Appendix IV](#)).

([par. 90](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** the distributed mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by IPHC Regulatory Area, ([Table 4](#)) and sector, as provided in [Appendix IV](#). [Unanimous]

Table 4. Adopted TCEY mortality limits for 2023

Contracting Party IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (metric tonnes)
Canada Total: 2B	6.78	3,075
USA: 2A	1.65	748
USA: 2C	5.85	2,654
USA: 3A	12.08	5,479
USA: 3B	3.67	1,665
USA: 4A	1.73	785
USA: 4B	1.36	617
USA: 4CDE	3.85	1,746
United States of America Total	30.19	13,694
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	36.97	16,769

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)

([par. 97](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2023 as provided below, thereby superseding the relevant portions of Section 9 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations ([Appendix V](#)) by specifying that commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas may begin no earlier than 1200 (noon) local lime on **10 March 2023** and must cease at 1200 (noon) local time on **07 December 2023**. [Unanimous]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Fishing Period Limits (Sect. 14) & Licensing Vessels for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Sect. 15) – Accommodation of the transition of management in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

([par. 98](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA3](#), to accommodate the transition of management in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A from the IPHC to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and NOAA Fisheries ([Appendix VI](#)). [Unanimous]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

([par. 99](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA4 Rev 1](#), which proposed minor amendments to the existing IPHC Fishery Regulations, improving their clarity and consistency ([Appendix VII](#)). [Unanimous]

6.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals

Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut—IPHC Regulatory areas 2c, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e (Sect. 29) – Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A

([par. 100](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB1](#), that proposed IPHC Regulation changes for charter recreational Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A ([Appendix VIII](#)), in order to achieve the charter Pacific halibut allocation under the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. [Unanimous]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) - Daily bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B

([par. 101](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB2_Rev_1](#), that proposed IPHC Regulation changes to allow the daily bag limit of up to three fish per day per person in the recreational fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B beginning on or after August 1 of each year until 2025 unless extended by a vote of the Commission ([Appendix IX](#)). [Unanimous]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29) - Onboard consumption

([par. 102](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB3](#), that proposed adding flexibility to existing recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing regulations in Alaska Regulatory Areas and allow limited consumption of recreationally-caught Pacific halibut on board charter vessels and pleasure craft, while retaining existing regulations that provide effective enforcement of daily bag limits and possession limits ([Appendix X](#)). [Unanimous]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect. 20) – Logs requirements

([par. 103](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB4](#), that proposed updates to IPHC regulatory language regarding the qualifying logbooks in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A ([Appendix XI](#)). [Unanimous]

7 INTERACTIONS WITH CONTRACTING PARTIES

7.1 Contracting Party reports

The IPHC Secretariat engages annually with agency representatives from both Contracting Parties regarding comprehensive reporting of all forms of Pacific halibut removals. The IPHC Secretariat is working to identify and address data gaps in reporting. In 2023, the focus was on additional sources of information on whale interactions.

7.2 Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Multiyear permit for the IPHC survey in Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area

In May 2022, the Archipelago Management Board (AMB) approved the application the DFO put forward to permit multi-year approvals for the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) in Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA). What this means is that the IPHC has approval to fish the FISS stations within Gwaii Haanas for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 FISS without having to annually apply for these permissions when they apply for their Canadian scientific licences.

Areas of conservation concern

The IPHC Secretariat continues to work with the DFO representatives to address gaps in coverage for the IPHC FISS in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. Currently, the FISS license excludes Marine Protected Areas as described by Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound Glass Sponge Reefs Marine Protected Areas Regulations, and Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs).

Memorandum of Understanding/Collective Agreement – Rockfish

In collaboration with DFO, Pacific Halibut Management Association of BC and Archipelago Marine Research (AMR), IPHC tagged Yelloweye, Quillback and Rougheye rockfish aboard both 2B FISS vessels for dockside sampling by AMR staff. This collaboration was formed to replace prior collective agreement involving rockfish caught aboard 2B FISS vessels. 545 Yelloweye, 139 Quillback and 178 Rougheye rockfish were sampled so far throughout the 2B coast during the 2023 FISS.

Northern Shelf Bioregion

The action plan for the development of a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Northern Shelf Bioregion is a collaborative partnership between the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia and First Nations. The action plan supports implementation of the Reconciliation Framework Agreements. The MPA Network zones have been organized into three implementation categories with category 1 zones targeted for establishment by 2025. The [What We Heard report](#) summarizes feedback from the public on the policy direction presented in the Coastal Marine Strategy for British Columbia Policy Intentions Paper. While detailed management plans for individual MPAs within the network remain in the planning phase, the Secretariat follows the process in relation to network's overlap with FISS (see [Fig. 2](#)). Proposed extension of the network covers 29 FISS stations.

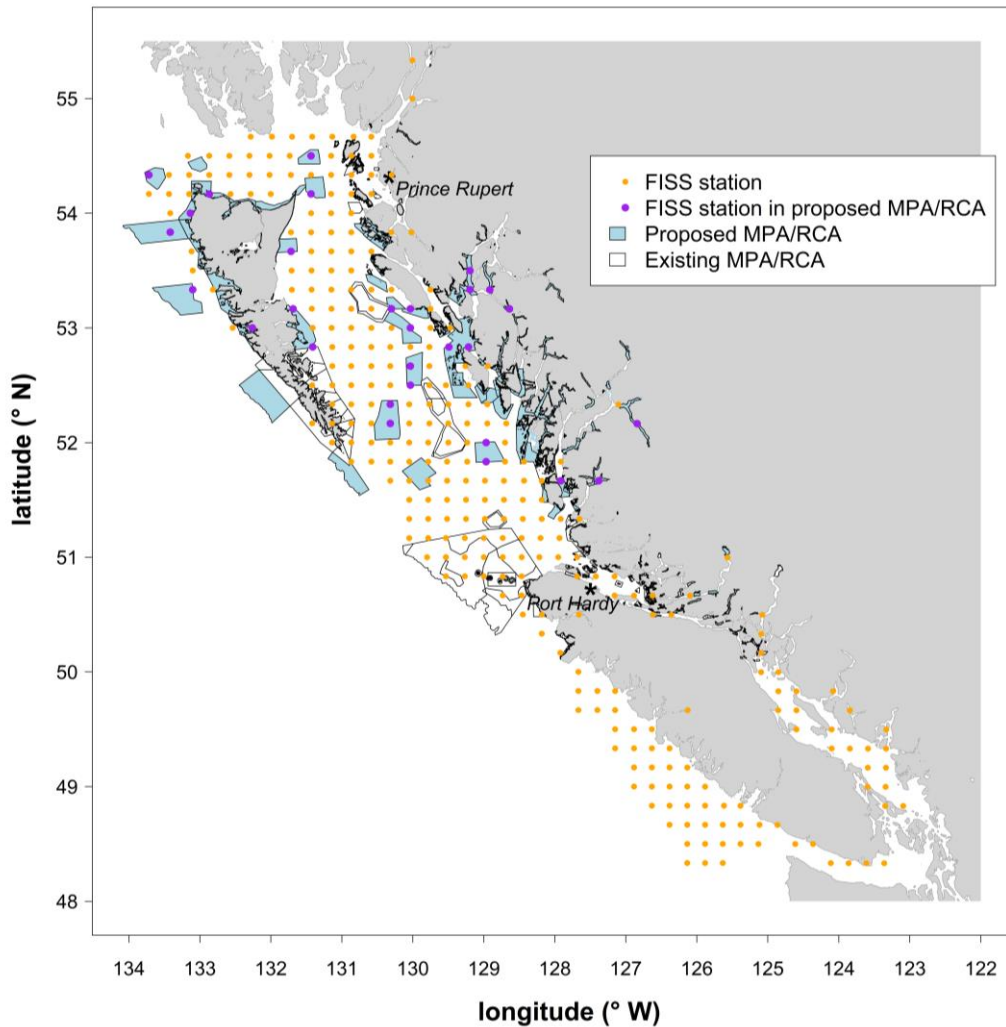


Figure 2: Overlap between locations of FISS stations and proposed area of the Northern Shelf Bioregion.

Trawl electronic monitoring

Pacific halibut length sampling protocol was developed in collaboration with industry, AMR, after discussions with IPHC. Pilot began on 3 vessels late September and will continue until fishing is complete. Data will be sent to IPHC and pending pilot review, expansion will be considered.

Halibut Advisory Board (HAB)

The Executive Director (Dr. Wilson) participates as a HAB member, with the Fisheries Regulations and Data Services Branch manager (Dr. Hutniczak) as the IPHC alternate. This relationship is expected to continue into the future given the HAB's contributions to the Canadian decision-making process.

7.3 United States of America

NOAA Fisheries

Management in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

For the first time, the annual management measures for the non-tribal directed commercial fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A were implemented by NOAA Fisheries. The process of transitioning management authority from the IPHC to NOAA Fisheries was initiated in 2019. The final rule ([87 FR 74322](#)) implementing the transition was published on 5 December 2022 and became effective on 4 January 2023. Details about the fishing periods and vessel limits were announced via [NOAA Fisheries website](#). The IPHC Secretariat actively supported setting the measures by providing relevant data and sharing past experience.

The Secretariat has also established a [data sharing agreement with NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region to access confidential data](#), including:

- All non-trawl logbook data submissions that include landings or discards of Pacific halibut, either sourced from the electronic application (FishVue Float) or paper logbooks, which are currently located in a data system maintained by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PacStates); and
- All permit data for directed commercial fishery, recreational charter fishery, incidental salmon troll, and incidental longline sablefish fishery permits for Pacific halibut, which are currently located in a data system maintained by NOAA Fisheries.

These data are essential for efficient fulfilment of tasks related to collection of biological sampling and compiling log data for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. Agreement has been signed on 16 October 2023 and is valid for five years.

Nomination of the Alaġum Kanuuġ (Heart of the Ocean) for consideration as a new national marine sanctuary

In June 2022, NOAA announced nomination of the Alaġum Kanuuġ (Heart of the Ocean) for consideration as a new national marine sanctuary ([87 FR 34851](#)), which was the first phase of the of the Pribilof Island Marine Island Ecosystem (PRIME) initiative. The IPHC will monitor the progress of the designation for potential implications for FISS survey.

Final Rule for Abundance-Based Management of Pacific halibut in the Bering Sea

On 24 November 2023, NOAA Fisheries issued a final rule to implement Amendment 123 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area ([88 FR 82740](#)). The final rule establishes abundance-based management of Amendment 80 trawl sector prohibited species catch limit for Pacific halibut. The rule becomes effective on 1 January 2024.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

At the meeting in February 2023, the IPHC presented to the Council the outcomes of the 99th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099) ([B8 PPT](#)).

At the meeting in February 2023, the Council adopted for final action to remove vessel cap limitations specified at 50 CFR Section 679.42(h)(1) for IFQ halibut harvested in Areas 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D through the 2027 fishing season. If the Council takes subsequent action to modify vessel cap limits in area 4, such action will supersede if implemented before 2027.

At the same meeting, the Council also moved to rescind the February 2022 [D1 Halibut CSP Review Motion](#). The motion proposed a review of the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and the consideration of alternatives to address the impacts of charter management measures on the charter sector during times of lower abundance. It also noted that the preferred approach is compensated reallocation through the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE). The final action on establishing a fee collection program for charter vessel operators to fund the RQE was taken at the meeting in April 2022 ([C2 CM](#)).

At the meeting in October 2023, the Council requested ([C3 CM](#)) the Interagency [Pacific] Halibut DMR [discard mortality rates] workgroup review methods used to estimate halibut mortality with a particular focus on marine mammal feeding on discards per their recommendation, for all fisheries with marine mammal interactions in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) and the Gulf of Alaska (GOA).

During the December 2023 meeting, the Council recommended a suite of management measures (such as bag limits, size restrictions, and day-of-the-week closures) for the charter Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A ([C7 CM](#)). These measures, intended for implementation in 2024, are designed to ensure compliance with the sector's allocation under the NPFMC Catch Sharing Plan following from the final decision by the Commission on the mortality limits. Details are presented in the regulatory proposal B1 ([IPHC-2024-AM100-PropB1](#)).

PACIFIC Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

Incidental Catch Limits for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries

Adopted in March 2023, the Council's final recommendation for the 2023 incidental Pacific halibut catch restrictions in the fixed gear fishery north of Point Chehalis beginning April 1 is 150 pounds of dressed weight halibut for every 1,000 pounds dressed weight of sablefish, plus 2 additional halibut in excess of the ratio, which was consistent with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel recommendations.

Incidental Catch Limits for Salmon Troll Fishery

In April 2023, the Council adopted final incidental Pacific halibut catch limits as follows: Open May 16, 2023, through the end of the 2023 salmon troll fishery, and beginning April 1, 2024, until modified through in-season action or superseded by the 2024 management measures. License holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut landed per trip.

Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and regulation changes

In response to the scoping topics [report](#) from June 2023 the Council asked for additional analysis on the following items:

- 1) Update and improve, where needed, the management objectives in the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan for each sector or sub-area with a specific allocation.
- 2) Request California review their fishery objectives to achieve a longer season (e.g., delay opening, open fewer days per week).
- 3) Expand the PFMC Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan's flexible in-season management provisions to allow transfer of projected unused quota between all WA, OR, and CA recreational sub-areas and commercial sectors after August 15.
- 4) Move 0.5 percent of the WA sport allocation and 1.0 percent of the OR sport allocation to the California sport sector in years when the 2A FCEY is 1.5 (option 1) or 1.3 (option 2) million pounds or greater.
- 5) Move 1 percent from the non-tribal WA sport allocation and 2 percent from the non-tribal OR sport allocation to the CA sport sector when the 2A FCEY is 1.5 (option 1) or 1.3 (option 2) million pounds or greater.
- 6) Regulatory changes as recommended by the Enforcement Consultants (Agenda Item E.1.a, [Supp EC Report 1](#), June 2023).

At its September 2023 meeting, the Council continued their discussion from the June 2023 scoping exercise on potential changes to the Pacific Halibut CSP and adopted for public review options for the 2024 Pacific halibut non-tribal directed commercial fishery season structure (see [decision summary document](#)).

In December 2023, the Council adopted the 2024 Area 2A Pacific halibut fisheries season structures for Oregon, Washington, and California sport fisheries and the 2024 directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery. Additional changes to the CSP included minor updates and clarifications throughout the CSP, and the inclusion of an in-season process to provide more sharing on the Area 2A non-treaty sport allocation. The Council made no changes to the fixed allocations assigned to the sport fishery for each state. The Council did agree to continue work on the three regulatory items and on the in-season flexibility process as described in the meeting [Decision Summary Document](#).

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) offshore wind planning activities

On 15 August 2023, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced a 60-day public comment period on two draft Wind Energy Areas located in the existing Call Areas offshore southern Oregon. The Call was published in early 2022 to assess commercial interest in -- and obtain public input on -- potential wind energy leasing activities in federal waters off the coast of Oregon. The currently proposed area would total 219,568 acres, a reduction of 81% from BOEM's original Call. The IPHC reviewed the revised area in relation to its overlap with FISS (see [Fig. 3](#)). While the original Call encompassed eight stations, the currently proposed area does not overlap with any FISS station. There were also no Pacific halibut catches recorded in this area between 2013 and 2022.

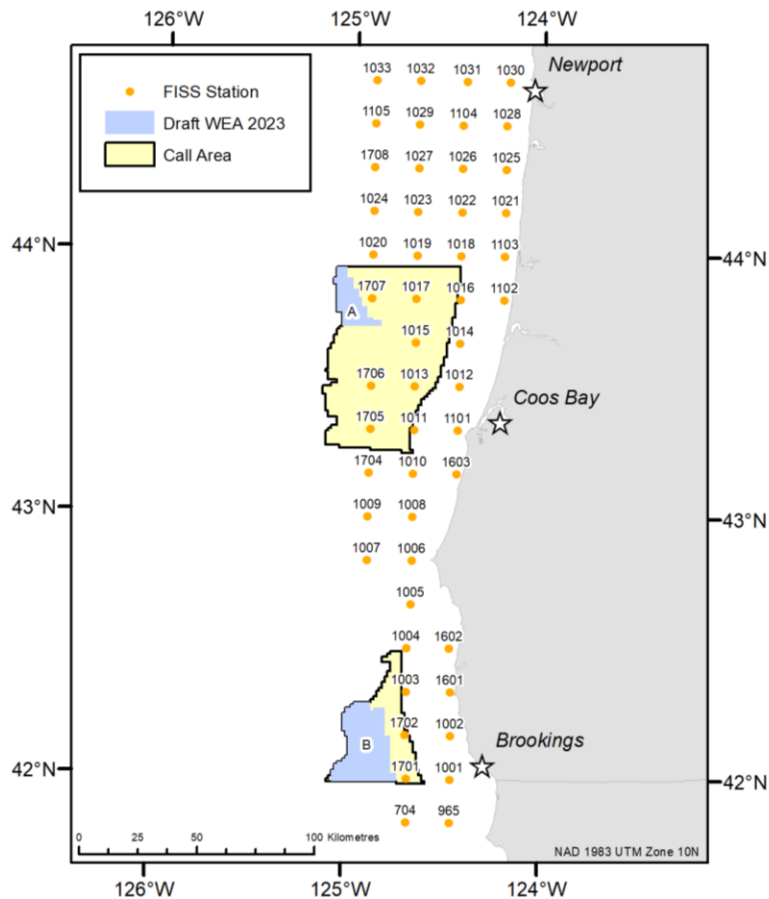


Figure 3. Overlap between locations of FISS stations and proposed area for offshore wind energy development off the Oregon Coast.

Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC)

Pacific cod and Pacific spiny dogfish sampling agreement

NOAA Fisheries, through the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), requested sex and length data from Pacific spiny dogfish and length data from Pacific cod from all FISS stations surveyed in 2023. The IPHC has been collecting these data from Pacific spiny dogfish since 2011, from Pacific cod in the Bering Sea since 2007 and from Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) since 2017. In 2023, the IPHC FISS team collected so far 2,041 lengths of Pacific cod and 1,358 lengths/sex of Pacific spiny dogfish as a part of this agreement.

[Data sharing agreement with the Fisheries Monitoring Division](#)

The Secretariat has a standing data sharing agreement with the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Monitoring Division to obtain confidential information from commercial fisheries observers and electronic monitoring systems, including haul information: fishing gear, location, date and time, lengths of specimens and species composition.

Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)

The Secretariat has a standing data sharing agreement with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center to obtain confidential data from commercial fishing vessels observed by the West Coast

Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) or the At-sea Hake Observer Program (A-SHOP). This includes haul-level observer data: fishing vessel information, gear used, Pacific halibut catch, catch of other species, species biological data (e.g. length, weight, sex), mortality assessments, haul locations, tow or soak time duration, depth, date, and time.

State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

The Secretariat has an active [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) which objective is to provide a framework in which the IPHC's commercial Pacific halibut landing record data may be utilized and published by CFEC.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG)

On 16 December 2022, an [ADFG emergency order](#) closed and immediately re-opened the fishing season for directed groundfish and Pacific halibut fisheries in the Prince William Sound Area and established limits on the amount of groundfish which may be legally retained and sold by permit holder as bycatch during a directed fishery. The order expires on 31 December 2023.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

[Memorandum of Understanding – Rockfish](#)

The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding with the WDFW is to 1) collect and utilize catch and biological sample data from species caught during FISS; 2) agree on how proceeds from the sale of Pacific halibut, rockfish and Pacific cod will be disbursed; and 3) lay forth the financial obligations associated with undertaking additional FISS stations, as requested by the WDFW, to survey rockfish populations off the Washington coastline.

In 2023, the IPHC sampled eight (8) additional stations at the request of the WDFW. The IPHC tagged 230 rockfish at sea, which were then sampled by WDFW staff during the offloads in Port Angeles, and Westport, WA. The costs incurred by these activities are 100% cost-recovered from the WDFW.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

[Data sharing agreement with California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)

The IPHC and the CDFW entered into a data sharing agreement for the purpose of tracking all Pacific halibut removals from within Convention waters. The agreement provides the Secretariat with access to commercial landing receipt data from California. The agreement, effective 16 June 2023, is valid for two years.

8 IPHC PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH

8.1 IPHC Website

The IPHC Secretariat continues to develop new ways to display data and statistics for our stakeholders and other interested parties, focusing particularly on the addition of timely and useful visual displays such as those listed below. In 2023, the IPHC Secretariat migrated our website to a new platform with added and simplified updating and design features.

- 1) **Directed commercial fisheries:**
<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/commercial-fisheries>
- 2) **Fishery-independent setline survey (FISS):**
<https://www.iphc.int/data/datatest/fishery-independent-setline-survey-fiss>
- 3) **Non-Directed Commercial Discard Mortality Fisheries:**
<https://www.iphc.int/data/datatest/non-directed-commercial-discard-mortality-fisheries>
- 4) **Geospatial Data:**
<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/data/geospatial-data>
- 5) **Recreational Fisheries:**
<https://www.iphc.int/data/datatest/pacific-halibut-recreational-fisheries-data>
- 6) **Time Series Data Sets:**
<https://www.iphc.int/data/time-series-datasets>
- 7) **Subsistence Fisheries:**
<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/subsistence-fisheries>
- 8) **Water Column Profiler Data:**
<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/data/water-column-profiler-data>

8.2 Annual Report

The 2022 Annual Report (1 January to 31 December 2022) was published on 28 March 2023 and is available for download from the IPHC website at the following link:
<https://www.iphc.int/uploads/pdf/ar/iphc-2023-ar2022-r.pdf>

8.3 IPHC Circulars and Media Releases

2023 IPHC Circulars continue to serve as the formal inter-sessional communication mechanism for the Commission. Circulars are used to announce meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as well as inter-sessional decisions made by the Commission. The following are those published in 2023, and a full list may be accessed via the following weblink:
<https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/circulars>

Circular	Title/Subject	Date published
IPHC-2023-CR-001	Reports of the 99 th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC099); 93 rd Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB093); 28 th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB028); and 99 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)	13 Feb 2022
IPHC-2023-CR-002	IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023)	13 Feb 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-003	Invitation to the 13 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS013)	22 Feb 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-004	Invitation to the 18 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB018)	11 Mar 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-005	Invitation to the 22 nd Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB022)	23 Mar 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-006	Publication of the IPHC Annual Report 2022 (IPHC-2023-AR2022-R)	28 Mar 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-007	Intersessional Decision & Report of the 13 th Special Session of the Commission (SS013)	16 May 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-008	For Decision - 2023 FISS Design Amended	24 May 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-009	For Decision - Selection of Auditor for FY2023, FY2024 and FY2025 Statement Audits	25 May 2023

IPHC-2023-CR-010	Report of the 18 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB018)	25 May 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-011	For Decision - Contracting Party Contributions for FY2024	26 May 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-012	Intersessional Decisions ID002-ID003 (For Information)	5 Jun 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-013	Intersessional Decisions ID004-ID006 (For Information)	5 Jun 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-014	Invitation to the 2023 Session of the IPHC Work Meeting (WM2023)	21 Jun 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-015	Report of the 22 nd Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB022)	22 Jun 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-016	Invitation to the 23 rd Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB023)	26 Jun 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-017	Intersessional Decision ID007 (bait calibration study) (for information)	31 Jul 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-018	FOR DECISION – FY2024 Budget	4 Aug 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-019	Intersessional Decision ID008 – FY2024 Budget (For Information)	11 Aug 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-020	Invitation to the 24 th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB024)	28 Aug 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-021	Invitation to the 99 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM099)	1 Sep 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-022	Report of the 23 rd Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB023)	26 Sep 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-023	IPHC Circular 2023-023 Invitation to the 100 th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administrative Committee (FAC100), and the 100 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100)	24 Oct 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-024	IPHC Circular 2023-024 Invitation to the 94 th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB094), and the 29 th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB029)	25 Oct 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-025	For Decision – IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023)	26 Oct 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-026	FOR INFORMATION – Intersessional decision ID009 - IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023)	31 Oct 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-027	FOR INFORMATION - 2023 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey data interactives	31 Oct 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-028	Report of the 24 th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB024)	29 Nov 2023
IPHC-2023-CR-029	Report of the 99 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM099)	01 Dec 2023

2023 IPHC Media Releases are the primary informal communication with all stakeholders. <https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/media-releases>

Circular	Title/Subject	Date published
IPHC-2023-MR-001	IPHC Media Release 2023-001 Call for Members to the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB)	5 Jan 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-002	IPHC Media Release 2023-002 IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Pacific halibut fishery - new permit requirements for commercial and charter vessels from NOAA Fisheries	5 Jan 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-003	IPHC Media Release 2023-003 IPHC Requests Tenders for the 2023 Catch Protection Pilot Study (CPS)	11 Jan 2023

IPHC-2023-MR-004	IPHC Media Release 2023-004 Call for Members to the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB) (In-person and remote electronic participation possible)	13 Jan 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-005	IPHC Media Release 2023-005 Completion of the 99 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)	9 Feb 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-006	IPHC Media Release 2023-006 IPHC Requests Tenders for the 2023 Catch Protection Pilot Study (CPS)	28 Feb 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-007	IPHC Media Release 2023-007 Notification of Potential Pacific Halibut Sales in 2023, Seeking Buyers Interested in Fish Sales from the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	9 Mar 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-008	IPHC Media Release 2023-008 Notification of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) 2023 Contract Awards	13 Apr 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-009	IPHC Media Release 2023-009 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (2023 FISS) Request for Tender	13 Apr 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-010	IPHC Media Release 2023-010 Fall 2023 Gear Comparison Study Request For Tender	9 Jun 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-011	IPHC Media Release 2023-011 First fishing period in the non-tribal directed commercial fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A	26 Jun 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-012	IPHC Media Release 2023-012 Fall 2023 Bait Comparison Study Request for Tender	31 Jul 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-013	IPHC Media Release 2023-013 Call for proposals: IPHC 2023-24 Fishery Regulations process	25 Sep 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-014	IPHC Media Release 2023-014 Attention Salmon Processors - Chum and Pink Salmon Needed for the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	4 Oct 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-015	IPHC Media Release 2023-015 100 th Year of the International Pacific Halibut Commission	24 Oct 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-016	Pacific halibut stock assessment 2023 – Presentation and Q&A Sessions	28 Nov 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-017	100 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100) and subsidiary bodies – Message from the Executive Director	06 Dec 2023
IPHC-2023-MR-018	2023 Commercial fishing period closed	07 Dec 2023

All interested persons are encouraged to request that their email addresses be added to IPHC distribution lists at the following link: <https://www.iphc.int/media-news-subscription/>.

8.4 IPHC external engagement

There is a considerable amount of effort put into public outreach, attending conferences and meetings that enhance knowledge, contributing expertise to the broader scientific community through participation on boards and committees, and seeking further education and training.

Committees and external organisation appointments

North America:

- 1) *Technical Subcommittee (TSC) of the Canada-United States Groundfish Committee*
- Dr. Josep Planas

Canada:

- 1) *Halibut Advisory Board (Canada)* - Dr. David Wilson (Dr. Basia Hutniczak – Alternate)
- 2) *Status Update of Pacific Cod (Gadus macrocephalus) for West Coast Vancouver Island in 2023, Science Response Process - Pacific Region* - Dr. Ian Stewart

United States of America:

- 1) *Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Plan Team* - Dr. Allan Hicks
- 2) *Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team* - Dr. Ian Stewart
- 3) *NPFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee* - Dr. Ian Stewart
- 4) *North Pacific Research Board Science Panel* - Dr. Josep Planas
- 5) *Pacific Council STAR Panel Review for Copper Rockfish in California, Rex Sole, and Shortspine Thornyhead* - Dr. Allan Hicks
- 6) *Fisheries Monitoring Science Committee (NOAA-Alaska)* – Dr. Ray Webster
- 7) *Interagency electronic reporting system for commercial fishery landings in Alaska (eLandings) Steering Committee* – Dr. Basia Hutniczak

Academic affiliations 2023**Affiliate Faculty:**

- 1) Dr. Allan Hicks - University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2) Dr. Ian Stewart - University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 3) Dr. Josep Planas - Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK, USA

Graduate student committee member:

- 1) Dr. Allan Hicks - University of Massachusetts School for Marine Science & Technology, Dartmouth, MA, USA
- 2) Dr. Allan Hicks - University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 3) Dr. Ian Stewart - University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 4) Dr. Josep Planas - Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK, USA

Taught courses:

- 1) *Principles & applications of fisheries-independent surveys*. University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences. Winter 2023. - Dr. Ray Webster and Dr. Allan Hicks
- 2) *Age-structured models in fisheries stock assessment*. University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences. Spring 2023. - Dr. Ian Stewart and Dr. Allan Hicks

9 IPHC PUBLICATIONS IN 2023**9.1 Published peer-reviewed journal papers**

Lomeli, M.J.M., Wakefield, W.W., Abele, M., **Dykstra, C.L.**, Herrmann, B., **Stewart, I.J.**, and G.C. Christie. 2023. Testing of hook sizes and appendages to reduce yelloweye rockfish bycatch in a Pacific halibut longline fishery. *Ocean & Coastal Management* 241.

<https://doi:10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2023.106664>.

Planas, J.V., Rooper, C.N., Kruse, G.H. 2023. Integrating biological research, fisheries science and management of Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) across the North Pacific Ocean. *Fisheries Research*. 259: 106559.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2022.106559>.

Thomas, R.E., Gauthier, S., Grandin, C., **Hicks, A.**, Parker-Stetter, S. 2024 To trawl or not to trawl: Questioning core assumptions of trawl placement choice in fisheries acoustic surveys. *Fisheries Research*. 270: 106897. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2023.106897>

9.2 *In press peer-reviewed journal papers*

Simchick, C., Simeon, A., Bolstad, K., Planas, J.V. 2023. Endocrine patterns associated with ovarian development in female Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*). General and Comparative Endocrinology. In Press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ygcen.2023.114425>.

9.3 *Submitted peer-review journal papers – In review*

Dykstra, C., Wolf, N., Harris, B.P., **Stewart, I.J., Hicks, A.,** Restrepo, F., **Planas, J.V.** Relating capture and physiological conditions to viability and survival of Pacific halibut discarded from commercial longline gear. Ocean & Coastal Management.

Ritchie, B., Smeltz, T.S., **Stewart, I.J.,** Harris, B., Wolf, N. Exploring spatial and temporal patterns in the size-at-age of Pacific halibut in the Gulf of Alaska. Ecosphere.

Sadoris, L. L., Webster, R. A. and Sullivan, M. Environmental conditions on the Pacific halibut fishing grounds obtained from a decade of coastwide oceanographic monitoring, and the potential application of these data in stock analyses. Marine and Freshwater Research.

10 RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2024-AM100-04 which provides the Commission with an update on activities of the IPHC Secretariat in 2023 not detailed in other papers before the Commission.

11 APPENDICES

[Appendix I](#): IPHC Secretariat positions – Effective 1 October 2023.



Appendix I
IPHC Secretariat positions – Effective 1 October 2023

(<https://www.iphc.int/locations/map>)

Branch	Sub-Section	Position	Current Employee
Executive	-	Executive Director	Dr Wilson, David
Executive	-	Assistant Director	Keikkala, Andrea
-	Port Operations Services	Port Operations Coordinator	Thom, Monica
-	Port Operations Services	Fisheries Data Specialist (Field)	Multiple Employees (9-10)
-	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Coordinator	Ualesi, Kayla
-	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Specialist	Rillera, Rachel
-	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Specialist	Jack, Tyler
-	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Specialist	Coll, Kevin
-	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Specialist (Field)	Multiple Employees (15-35)
Quantitative Sciences	-	Quantitative Scientist (Stock Assessment)	Dr Stewart, Ian
Quantitative Sciences	-	Quantitative Scientist (Management Strategy Evaluation)	Dr Hicks, Allan
Quantitative Sciences	-	Quantitative Scientist (Biometrician)	Dr Webster, Raymond
Finance and Personnel Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Specialist (Snr)	Chapman, Kelly
Finance and Personnel Services	Personnel Services	Administrative / Communications Specialist	Coluccio, Tara
Finance and Personnel Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Specialist	Wietecha, Ola
Finance and Personnel Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Specialist	Burkhalter, Lorissa
Finance and Personnel Services	Accounting Services	Accountants	Sommerville & Associates

Finance and Personnel Services	Technology Services	Systems Administrator	Tynes, Robert
Finance and Personnel Services	Technology Services	Information Technology Specialist (Application Developer)	Taheri, Afshin
Finance and Personnel Services	Technology Services	Information Technology Specialist (Application Developer)	Outsourced
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Branch Manager (BES)	Dr Planas, Josep
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Research Biologist (Mortality and Survivorship)	Dykstra, Claude
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Research Biologist Genetics	Jasonowicz, Andrew
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Research Biologist (Life History)	Jones, Colin
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Biological Science Laboratory Technician	Simchick, Crystal
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	-	Branch Manager (FRDS)	Dr Hutniczak, Barbara
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Fisheries Data Services	Fisheries Data Coordinator	Tran, Huyen
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Fisheries Data Services	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ-GIS)	Kong, Thomas
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Fisheries Data Services	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ) & Otolith Technician	Sawyer Van Vleck, Kim
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Fisheries Data Services	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ) & Otolith Technician	Magrane, Kelsey
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Otolith Aging Services	Otolith Laboratory Technician (Snr)	Forsberg, Joan
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Otolith Aging Services	Otolith Laboratory Technician	Johnston, Chris