



INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION (IPHC) STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC):

RECALLING Article III.3 of the 1979 *Protocol Amending the Convention Between the United States and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the North Pacific Ocean and the Bering Sea* acknowledges that “the purpose of developing the stocks of halibut of the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea to levels which will permit the optimum yield from that fishery, and of maintaining the stock at those levels”;

RECOGNISING international initiatives to address the impacts of climate change including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement;

NOTING the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;

MINDFUL of the work of the IPHC Secretariat and the Contracting Parties in assessing the impacts of climate change on Pacific halibut, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent or associated with the target stocks in the Convention Area;

CONVINCED of the importance of addressing the potential impacts of climate change on Pacific halibut, non-target species, and species belonging to the same ecosystem or dependent or associated with Pacific halibut in the IPHC Convention Area;

BEARING IN MIND that the Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (UNFSA) was adopted in cognisance of the need to avoid adverse impacts on the marine environment, preserve biodiversity, maintain the integrity of marine ecosystems and minimise the risk of long-term or irreversible effects of fishing operations;

RECALLING that Article 5 of the UNFSA requires States to assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon the target stocks and to adopt, where necessary, conservation and management measures for species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon the target stocks, with a view to maintaining or restoring populations of such species above levels at which their reproduction may become seriously threatened;

CONCERNED by the findings of the 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change with high confidence that climate change is causing the redistribution of marine fish stocks, increasing risk of transboundary management conflicts among fisheries users, and negatively affecting equitable distribution of food provisioning services as fish stocks shift from lower to higher latitude regions, thereby increasing the need for climate-informed transboundary management and cooperation;

ADOPTS the following:

1. The Commission shall in its deliberations, to the extent possible, including in the development of fisheries regulations, take into account the best available scientific information on the potential impacts of climate change on Pacific halibut, including effects on other species and other fisheries that may have implications for Pacific halibut.
2. The Commission shall consider the potential impacts of climate change on Pacific halibut fisheries and stocks in its research, including research to inform potential measures to mitigate and/or adapt to climate change impacts.
3. The IPHC Secretariat and Scientific Review Board shall consider and advise on the potential implications of climate change for the conservation and management of Pacific halibut, and any related impacts on the Contracting Parties.
4. The IPHC Secretariat shall seek, on an ongoing basis, to reduce the carbon footprint of the IPHC activities related to headquarters and field operations, and meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, and shall propose such measures for endorsement by the Commission.