

# Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2023)

Agenda item: 3.2

IPHC-2024-AM100-04

(D. Wilson & B. Hutniczak)



# Purpose

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

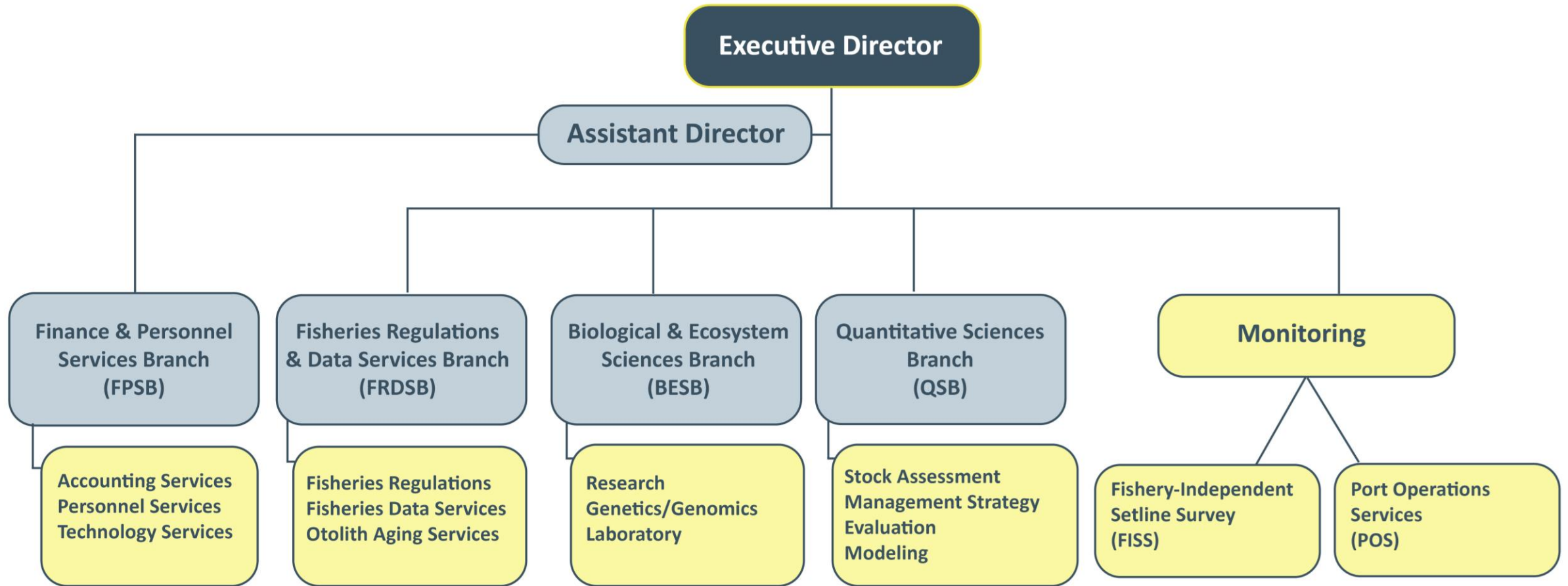


# Secretariat

- The IPHC Secretariat, formed in support the Commission's activities, currently consists of 28 fulltime positions (FTEs) and 24-45 temporary/seasonal positions to staff our ports and research vessels (see Appendix I of IPHC-2024-AM100-04).
- 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.



# Secretariat organization chart



# IPHC Internship program: 2023

The IPHC funds full-time internships each summer. In 2023, the IPHC hosted one undergraduate intern:

- **Mr. William Le**, pursuing a major in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences at the University of Washington (Seattle, WA)
- The internship period runs from 13 June through 31 August 2023.

William has participated in research activities at the Biological and Ecosystem Sciences Branch and has also assisted the Otolith Ageing 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.

# 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.

# IPHC Merit Scholarship for 2022-25

- In 2022, based on academic qualifications, career goals, and relationship to the Pacific halibut industry, the Selection Panel 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.



# Meetings of the Commission and its Subsidiary bodies during 2023

Meeting	No.	Date	Location	Secretariat material
<u>Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)</u>	99 <sup>th</sup>	23 Jan	Victoria, BC, Canada	9 working papers
<u>Annual Meeting (AM)</u>	99 <sup>th</sup>	23-27 Jan	Victoria, BC, Canada	16 working papers, 11 regulatory proposals
<u>Conference Board (CB)</u>	93 <sup>rd</sup>	24-25 Jan	Victoria, BC, Canada	Commission papers
<u>Processor Advisory Board (PAB)</u>	28 <sup>th</sup>	24-25 Jan	Victoria, BC, Canada	Commission papers
<u>Special Session (SS)</u>	13 <sup>th</sup>	18 Apr	Electronic	4 working papers
<u>Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)</u>	18 <sup>th</sup>	24-25 May	Electronic	7 working papers
<u>Scientific Review Board (SRB)</u>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	20-22 June	Seattle, USA & Electronic	9 working papers
<u>Work Meeting (WM)</u>	2023	11-12 Sept	Bellingham, USA	15 working papers
<u>Scientific Review Board (SRB)</u>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	25-27 Sept	Seattle, USA & Electronic	9 working papers
<u>Research Advisory Board (RAB)</u>	24 <sup>th</sup>	28 Nov	Seattle, USA & Electronic	7 working papers
<u>Interim Meeting (IM)</u>	99 <sup>th</sup>	30 Nov – 1 Dec	Electronic	16 working papers



# IPHC Fishery Regulations

Ref. No.	Title	Decision
<b>IPHC Secretariat</b>		
<a href="#">IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA1</a>	Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)	Adopted at the AM099
<a href="#">IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA2</a>	Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9)	Adopted at the AM099
<a href="#">IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA3</a>	Accommodation of the transition of management in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Sect. 14 & Sect. 15)	Adopted at the AM099
<a href="#">IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA4 Rev 1</a>	Minor amendments	Adopted at the AM099
<b>Contracting Parties</b>		
<a href="#">IPHC-2022-AM099-PropB1</a>	Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A (Sect. 29)	Adopted at the AM099
<a href="#">IPHC-2022-AM099-PropB2 Rev 1</a>	Daily bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28)	Adopted at the AM099
<a href="#">IPHC-2022-AM099-PropB3</a>	Onboard consumption (Sect. 29)	Adopted at the AM099
<a href="#">IPHC-2022-AM099-PropB4</a>	Logs requirements (Sect. 20)	Adopted at the AM099

# Interactions with Contracting Parties

## Canada (*selection*)

### Halibut Advisory Board

The Executive Director of the IPHC (or alternate) participates as a Halibut Advisory Board (HAB) member.

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

In May 2022, the Archipelago Management Board approved the application the DFO put forward to permit multi-year approvals for FISS in Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area. This currently covers 2022-2024 FISS.

### Trawl electronic monitoring

Pacific halibut electronic length sampling protocol was developed in collaboration with industry, Archipelago Marine Research, after discussions with IPHC. Pending pilot review, expansion will be considered.

# Interactions with Contracting Parties

## **USA (*selection*)**

### **2A management transition**

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 final rule ([87 FR 74322](#)) implementing the transition became effective on 4 January 2023.

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

The final rule to implement Amendment 123 establishing abundance-based management of Amendment 80 trawl sector ([88 FR 82740](#)) becomes effective on 1 January 2024.

### **North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)**

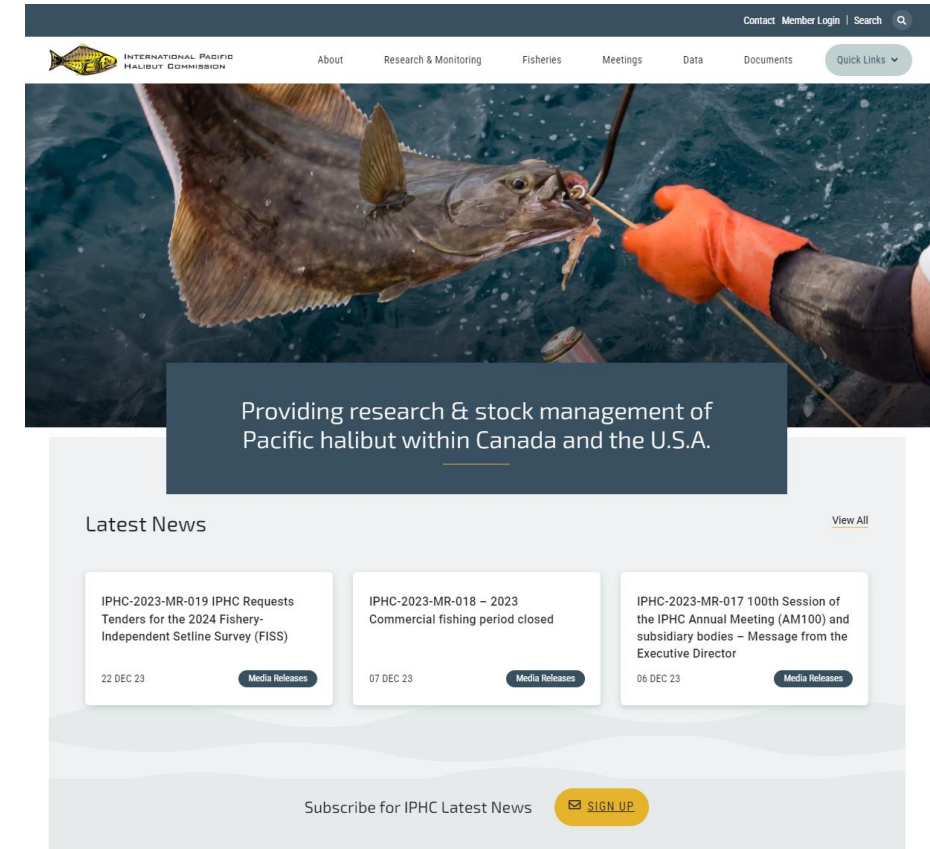
During the December 2023 meeting, the Council recommended a suite of management measures for the charter Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A.

### **Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)**

In December 2023, the Council adopted the 2024 Area 2A Pacific halibut fisheries season structures for recreational fisheries and the 2024 directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery. Additional changes to the CSP include the inclusion of an in-season process to provide more sharing on the Area 2A non-treaty sport allocation.

# IPHC Communications and Outreach

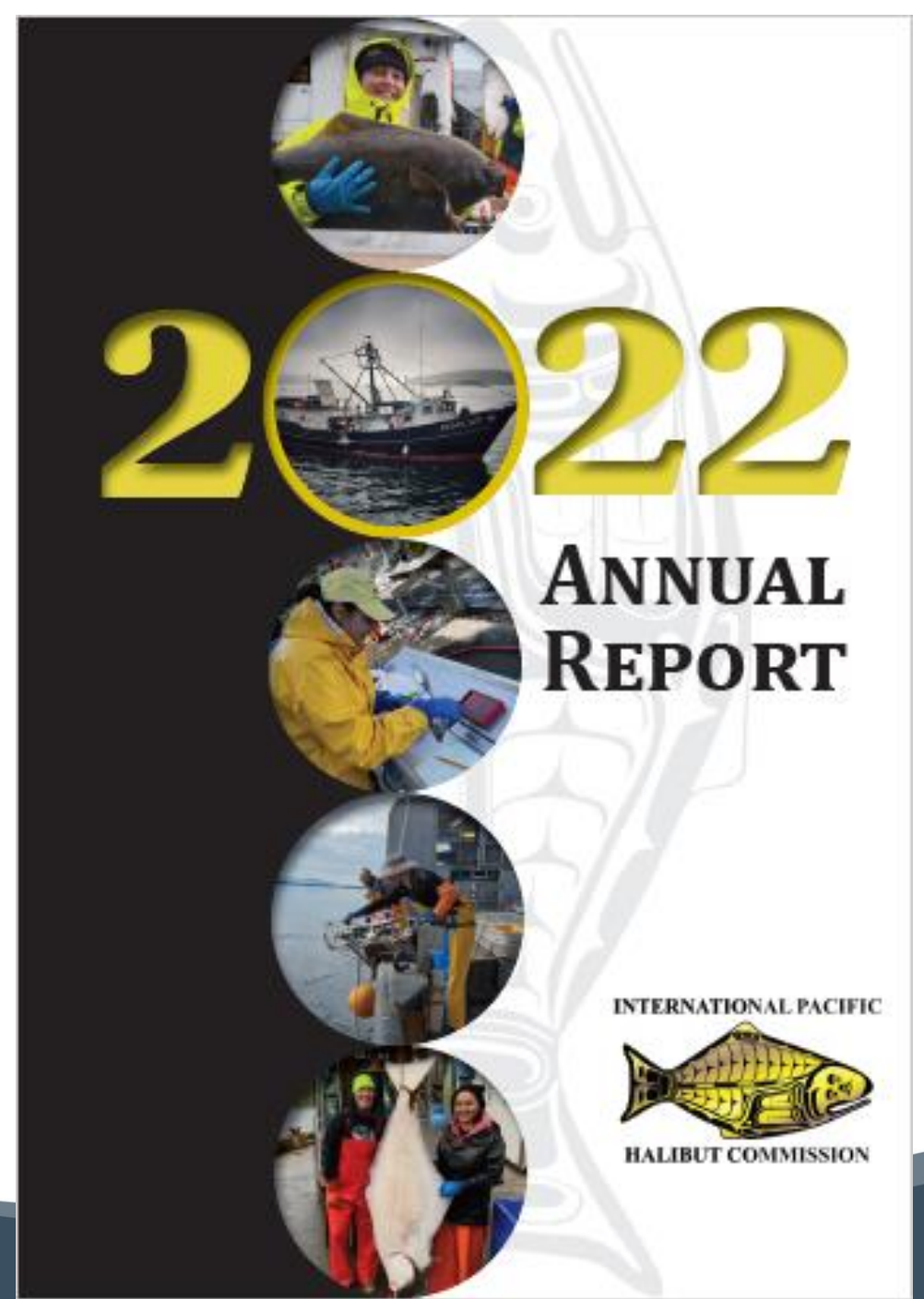
- The IPHC Secretariat continues to develop new ways to display data and statistics for our stakeholders and other interested parties, focusing particularly on the addition of timely and useful visual displays such as those listed in the paper.
- In 2023, the IPHC Secretariat migrated our website to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





# IPHC Communications and Outreach

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



# IPHC Communications and Outreach

## IPHC Circulars and Media Releases

- <https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/circulars>
  - 29 in total
- <https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/media-releases>
  - 19 in total

# IPHC external engagement

## 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

## **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



# Publications

## Published peer-reviewed journal papers

1. 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.
2. **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.
3. 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.

## In press peer-reviewed journal papers

1. **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.

## Submitted peer-review journal papers – In review

1. **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*.
2. 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*.
3. **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*.

# Recommendation

That the Commission **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.



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**100** years  
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