



Report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB094)

Anchorage, Alaska, USA, 23-25 January 2024

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ACRONYMS

AM	Annual Meeting, of the IPHC
CB	Conference Board
FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
FISS	Fishery-independent setline survey
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
TCEY	Total Constant Exploitation Yield
WPUE	Weight Per Unit Effort

DEFINITIONS

A set of working definitions are provided in the IPHC Glossary of Terms and abbreviations: <https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/glossary-of-terms-and-abbreviations>

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

- Level 1: RECOMMENDED; RECOMMENDATION; ADOPTED** (formal); **REQUESTED; ENDORSED; ACCEPTED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary (advisory) body of the Commission and/or the IPHC Secretariat.
- Level 2: AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be elevated in the Commission's reporting structure.
- Level 3: NOTED/NOTING; CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED:** General terms to be used for consistency. Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference. Any other term may be used to highlight to the reader of an IPHC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. Other terms may be used but will be considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 94th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Conference Board (CB094) was held in Anchorage, Alaska, USA from 23-25 January 2024. A total of 62 (56 in 2023) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by Ms. Linda Behnken (U.S.A.) and Mr. Jim Lane (Canada) (Co-Chairpersons), who welcomed participants.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the CB094, which are provided at [Appendix IV](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

FISS 2024

CB094-Rec.01 ([para. 18](#)) The CB **ACKNOWLEDGED** the importance of FISS data in the Bering Sea and **RECOMMENDED** prioritizing FISS survey in the Bering Sea in 2024 and regularly in the years to come [*Canada: no objections; 3=abstain*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

CB094-Rec.02 ([para. 28](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** change to the fishing period opening hour to 06:00 hrs. [*Canada: In favour=20; against=0 abstain=1*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]. In support of changing the opening time, CB members **NOTED** that allowing a full day facilitated access to markets and improved fishing efficiency and opportunity.

CB094-Rec.03 ([para. 29](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** the fishing period closing date on 7 December [*Canada: In favour=19; against=0; abstain=0*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=22; against=1; abstain=3*].

CB094-Rec.04 ([para. 30](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** change to the fishing closing hour to 23:59 hrs. [*Canada: In favour=16; against=0 abstain=1*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=26; against=0, abstain=8*] In support of changing the closing times, CB members **NOTED** that allowing a full day facilitated access to markets and improved fishing efficiency and opportunity.

TCEY Recommendations

CB094-Rec.05 ([para. 35](#)) The USA CB members **RECOMMENDED** the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2024 fishing period as provided in [Table 2](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat, [Appendix III](#)), and an SPR of 52%. [*Canada: In favour=0; against=20 abstain=0*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=30; against=0, abstain=1*]

Table 2. USA CB members recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2024. See previous paragraphs for voting.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mt)
2A	1.65	748.43
2B	6.00	2,721.55
2C	5.79	2,626.30
3A	11.72	5,316.10
3B	3.56	1,614.79
4A	1.63	739.36
4B	1.28	580.60
4CDE	3.70	1,678.29
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	35.33	16,025.42

CB094-Rec.06 ([para. 40](#)) The Canadian CB members **RECOMMENDED** the TCEY mortality limits for the 2024 fishing period representing the 10% reduction from 2023 TCEYs distributed equally between Contracting Parties as provided in [Table 3](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat, [Appendix III](#)), and an SPR of 54%. [*Canada, in favour=22, against=0, abstain=0*][*USA: In favour – 1, against=30, abstain=1*]

Table 3. Canadian CB members recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2024. See previous paragraphs for voting.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mt)
USA Regulatory Areas	27.17	12,324.10
2B	6.10	2,766.91
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	33.27	15,091.02

CB094-Rec.07 ([para. 43](#)) The USA CB **RECOMMENDED** Commissioners initiate a stakeholder driven committee focused on identifying a formalized distribution strategy for Alaska regulatory areas and request Secretariat support to be completed prior to the AM101:

- a) Using as a starting point the biological distribution;
- b) To safeguard stakeholders from the potential shortfalls of ad-hoc distribution methods and inconsistent weighting of socioeconomic needs;
- c) To allow consideration to shift harvest distribution between USA Regulatory Areas.

IPHC Fishery Regulations: IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect 19)

CB094-Rec.08 ([para. 50](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA3 Rev_1](#) updating and align logs requirements for Contracting Parties in the IPHC Fishery Regulations. [*Canada: In favour=1; against=0 abstain=16*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=30; against=0; abstain=1*]

Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut—IPHC Regulatory areas 2c, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e (Sect. 28) – Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A

CB094-Rec.09 ([para. 51](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropB1 Rev_1](#), that proposed IPHC Regulation changes for charter recreational Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, in order to achieve the charter Pacific halibut allocation under the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan: [*Canada: abstain*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]

Incidental catch (Bycatch)

CB094-Rec.10 ([para. 61](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission acknowledge that groundfish [as referred to in the USA] fisheries encounter and take Pacific halibut incidentally as bycatch. Pacific halibut bycatch minimization remains a high priority of CB members, along with full and robust monitoring measures to quantify Pacific halibut removals and mortality [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=31; against=0; abstain=1*]

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 94th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Conference Board (CB094) was held in Anchorage, Alaska, USA from 23-25 January 2024. A total of 62 (56 in 2023) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by Ms Linda Behnken (U.S.A.) and Mr. Jim Lane (Canada) (Co-Chairpersons), who welcomed participants.

1.1 Accreditation of CB Membership (2021-25): new members

2. The CB **ENDORSED** the accreditation of 4 new members in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), Appendix IV, Section II, paras. 4 and 5, for participation in the 2024 Conference Board proceedings, as detailed in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Accredited new CB members.

Number	CB Member	Representative	Initial accreditation date	5-year accreditation expiry
Canada				
1	Finest At Sea Seafoods	Ben Cameron	23 Jan 2024	CB in 2026
2	A-Tlegay Fisheries LP	Christa Rusel	23 Jan 2024	CB in 2026
3	Active Guiding and Tackle	Deryk Krefting	23 Jan 2024	CB in 2026
USA				
1	American Sport Fishing Association	Larry Phillips	23 Jan 2024	CB in 2026

3. The CB **ENDORSED** the re-accreditation of 58 members (Canada: 23; USA: 35) in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), appendix IV, Section II, paras. 4 and 5, for participation in the 2024 Conference Board proceedings, as detailed in [Appendix I](#).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The CB **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#) with the following additions:
 - discussion on the adoption of electronic logbooks in Alaska;
 - discussion on the hour of opening and closing of the fishing season;
 - discussion on monitoring of catch in commercial fisheries;
 - update on the Pacific halibut abundance-based management (ABM) of Pacific halibut in the Bering Sea and the associated lawsuit.
5. The CB **NOTED** that the documents provided to the CB094 are those submitted for the 100th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100). To assist the CB in navigating its meeting, all documents relevant to the agenda were posted as links on the CB webpage: <https://www.iphc.int/meetings/94th-session-of-the-iphc-conference-board-cb094/>.

3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

3.1 Mortality Limits and TCEY

6. The CB **NOTED** the presentation and questions and answers session provided by Dr. Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
7. The CB **NOTED** with appreciation for the stock assessment preview presented by Dr. Stewart on 16 January 2024, and **AGREED** that this should continue as an annual process.
8. The CB **NOTED** the advice provided on:
 - a) the accounting of whale depredation when processing logbook data;
 - b) the importance of the 2012 year class to the condition of the Pacific halibut stock;

- c) the use of data from fixed gear as primary index in the stock assessment in Alaska vs. snap gear being the primary driver for the estimates in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 2B;
- d) impact of adding end of season logbook data on the stock trend;
- e) quality of information available on the 2016 year class from the trawl survey;
- f) possible stock decline within next 3 years if another good year class does not materialize; and
- g) possibility of incorporation of sport creel survey data as input to understand recruitment.

3.2 *MSE update*

9. The CB **NOTED** the presentation and question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Allan Hicks (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
10. The CB **NOTED** that:
 - a) relative spawning biomass was above 36% in 2023;
 - b) 2022 FISS & Commercial WPUE lowest observed since 1993;
 - c) to achieve MSY, the stock status would be less than 30%;
 - d) the long-term TCEY in a high PDO regime may be 1.6 times the long term TCEY in the low PDO regime, highlighting the importance of environmental effects on changes in recruitment and movement and therefore yield;
 - e) the PDO may be more variable and possibly less coupled to Pacific halibut recruitment strength; and
 - f) in a no-fishing scenario in MSE simulations, the relative spawning biomass would go to 100%, but absolute biomass would continue to vary.
11. The CB **NOTED** the discussion of identifying a harvest policy that included criteria for and conditions when moving away from a formulaic approach could be justified, particularly focusing on additional factors that might necessitate a more precautionary approach, such as variations in catch rates and socioeconomic considerations.
12. The CB **NOTED** the new potential for adding an additional objective in the MSE of maintaining or increasing catch rates and how that might address stakeholders needs.
13. The CB **NOTED** appreciation for the extensive information aiding simulations and decision-making processes,
14. The CB **NOTED** the redesign of FISS for revenue goals and its consequent impact on the MSE process, highlighting the necessity to account for this added uncertainty in the management process.

3.3 *FISS 2024*

15. The CB **NOTED** the question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Ray Webster (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
16. The CB **NOTED** that stock assessment still relies heavily on the FISS and expressed concern over the lack of more consistent fishery-independent data collected from Region 4 and the reduction of information from some areas in in Region 3 and 2 areas.
17. The CB **NOTED** the need for IPHC Fisheries-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4CDE, highlighting the difference in the size of fish that are captured by the FISS vs. NOAA trawl surveys.
18. The CB **ACKNOWLEDGED** the importance of FISS data in the Bering Sea and **RECOMMENDED** prioritizing FISS survey in the Bering Sea in 2024 and regularly in the years to come [*Canada: no objections; 3=abstain*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]
19. The CB **NOTED** concern with increasing the TCEY in a Regulatory Area in the absence of FISS or trawl survey data.

20. The CB **NOTED** rationale for the recommendation on FISS prioritization:

- a) The Bering Sea is the IPHC Regulatory Area undergoing the most rapid ecosystem changes including substantial changes in the distribution of commercially important species. The IPHC's Scientific Review Board recommended that the Secretariat prioritize sampling in this area to monitor for potential changes in Pacific halibut distribution and biology;
- b) Historically there was an important amount of Pacific halibut biomass on the shelf-slope edge, an area not well surveyed by the NOAA Fisheries trawl survey and therefore requiring direct sampling by the FISS. In addition, there is very little commercial effort on the edge break in 4D – so the IPHC is not obtaining sufficient data from the fleet;
- c) At this point, a 2024 Bering Sea FISS is not guaranteed. Given the importance of FISS data in the ABM PSC index, the CB stresses the importance of having an annual FISS in the Bering Sea;
- d) While the NOAA trawl survey is helpful and covers a large area of the BSAI, it is important to have data from the edge and island stations to have more representative and comprehensive coverage;
- e) An accurate estimate in Regulatory Area 4 is necessary if using stock distribution to distribute TCEY;
- f) Regulatory Area 4 is an area with impactful allocations between sectors, especially when TCEY is small – Sector splits and reduced bycatch limits become very difficult to achieve without appropriate data – and the ABM program must have the FISS data as one of its indices of abundance;
- g) Regulatory Area 4 is a source area that feeds other Regulatory Areas (movement from west to east). The Bering Sea is known as a net emigration area for Pacific halibut – so understanding what is happening in the Bering Sea is important to all IPHC Regulatory Areas.

21. The CB **NOTED** the follow-up comments supportive of prioritizing the FISS in the Bering Sea, but members also noted the importance of the FISS in other areas, highlighting the need for sources of external funding (e.g. domestic agencies) to conduct comprehensive surveys, and the option to use the FISS reserve to fund the Bering Sea component of the FISS in 2024.

22. The CB **NOTED** discussion initiated by the Adak Community Development Corporation (ACDC) on the motion to prioritize the FISS in the Bering Sea and that (1) ACDC reluctantly supports the motion; (2) 4B has been leaving fish in the water for a multiple of reasons; (3) this has resulted in 4B contributing to Balancing the Bank; and (4) ACDC supports the research priority in attempts to acquiring the data necessary to manage area 4B. In this context, ACDC highlighted page 25 of the 5-Year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring stating:

“Tagging and genetic analyses have indicated the potential for Area 4B to be demographically isolated. An alternative to current assessment and management structure would be to treat Area 4B separately from the rest of the coast. This would not likely have a large effect on the coastwide stock assessment as Area 4B represents approximately 5% of the surveyed stock. However, it would imply that the specific mortality limits for Area 4B could be very important to local dynamics and should be separated from stock-wide trends. Therefore, information on the stock structure for Area 4B has been identified as a top priority.”

4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

23. The CB **NOTED** the NOAA Fisheries comment that the agency does not support a season start date earlier than 10 March. There are logistical challenges that make it difficult for the agency from supporting an earlier date.

24. The CB **NOTED** a motion from USA on fishing period opening date of 7 March. The motion passed among members from USA: [U.S.A.: In favour=13; against=6; abstain=11].

25. The CB **NOTED** a motion from Canada on fishing period opening date on 1 March. The motion passed among members from Canada. [Canada: In favour=17; against=0; abstain=1].

26. The CB **NOTED** that longer season would provide additional opportunity for producers, consumers and direct marketers.

- 27. The CB **NOTED** minority USA support for both earlier (1 March) and later (15 March) season opening date.
- 28. The CB **RECOMMENDED** change to the fishing period opening hour to 06:00 hrs. [*Canada: In favour=20; against=0 abstain=1*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]. In support of changing the opening time, CB members **NOTED** that allowing a full day facilitated access to markets and improved fishing efficiency and opportunity.
- 29. The CB **RECOMMENDED** the fishing period closing date on 7 December [*Canada: In favour=19; against=0; abstain=0*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=22; against=1; abstain=3*].
- 30. The CB **RECOMMENDED** change to the fishing closing hour to 23:59 hrs. [*Canada: In favour=16; against=0 abstain=1*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=26; against=0, abstain=8*] In support of changing the closing times, CB members **NOTED** that allowing a full day facilitated access to markets and improved fishing efficiency and opportunity.

5. MORTALITY LIMITS

5.1 Coastwide perspectives

- 31. The CB **RECALLED** the full decision table provided in paper [IPHC-2024-AM100-12](#).
- 32. The CB **NOTED** the following perspectives shared by Canada: CB members from Canada supported equal cuts between Contracting Parties of 10% from 2023 levels.
- 33. The CB **NOTED** the following perspectives shared by U.S.A: members from USA support distribution that aligns with FISS estimates of O32 Pacific halibut abundance and area specific metrics.

5.2 TCEY Recommendations

- 34. The CB **NOTED** a motion from the USA CB members to reduce the coastwide TCEY by 4.5% from adopted 2023 levels to 35.22 million pounds based on the rationale that this level of reduction represents additional reduction to the significant reductions made in some areas and to the coastwide TCEY in 2023, to the lower level of directed commercial fishery landings relative to the fishery limit in 2023 with similar outcomes expected for 2024, and that this proposed reduction is responsive to short- and long-term expected changes in the stock. USA CB members stressed that the coastwide TCEY and the distribution of the TCEY should be scientifically based and follow a consistent policy across all areas. US CB members also identified the need for better genetic data on Pacific halibut in IPHC Regulatory Area 4B to determine if a separate management approach may be needed in this area.
- 35. The USA CB members **RECOMMENDED** the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2024 fishing period as provided in [Table 2](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat, [Appendix III](#)), and an SPR of 52%. [*Canada: In favour=0; against=20 abstain=0*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=30; against=0, abstain=1*]

Table 2. USA CB members recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2024. See previous paragraphs for voting.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mt)
2A	1.65	748.43
2B	6.00	2,721.55
2C	5.79	2,626.30
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3B	3.56	1,614.79
4A	1.63	739.36
4B	1.28	580.60
4CDE	3.70	1,678.29
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	35.33	16,025.42

36. The USA CB members **NOTED** the rationale for coastwide and area-specific mortality limits:

a) Coastwide:

- i. 3% drop in survey WPUE
- ii. Compromise - big cuts in the US last year and those are carrying forward, with additional reductions.
- iii. Compromise position until a Harvest Policy can be established. Takes us a step closer to having TCEYS based on biological stock distribution.
- iv. Coastwide indicators are concerning and suggest taking a cautious approach
- v. The fishery is currently bridging a gap in recruitment, is fishing predominantly on the 2012 year class that was less than 50% mature in 2023 and we do not see any new big year classes coming in yet
- vi. Individual area decreases proposed are a compromise between areas to achieve a coastwide decrease of 4.5%
- vii. The proposed reduction is partially based on the uncertainties that will become more clear in the next three years
- viii. The coastwide harvest in 2023 was 86% of the TCEY, and it is likely that fish will be left in the water again in 2024
- ix. This motion is responsive to short term changes as well as long term historical trends within O32 stock distribution

b) 2C:

- i. O32 FISS WPUE 0% change, All Sizes WPUE -1%, all sizes WPUE -1%
- ii. 2C has often taken the burden of conservation for all of area 2, giving up fish to make the 2b numbers work.
- iii. has the highest catch per unit effort of any area and this has been a consistent trend
- iv. The FISS showed 0% change from the 2023 survey
- v. Area 2C agrees to a 1% drop as a concession to achieve coastwide goals

c) 3A:

O32 WPUE -5%, All sizes WPUE -8%, all sizes NPUE -8%

- i. 3A took a 17% reduction in 2023
- ii. 3a took large cuts last year but the 2023 FISS did not indicate as drastic of cuts for 2024
- iii. In recent history 3a has seen large swings in their quota and recognize the need for a coastwide cut, but want the cut to be more moderate rather than the large swings that have been occurring recently.
- iv. A 3% reduction feels safe when looking at the risk assessment table
- v. This motion reflects waiting on the 2014-18 recruitment to be better known over the next three years

d) 3B:

- i. O32 WPUE -8%, All Sizes WPUE -7%, All sizes NPUE -3%
- ii. 3B is currently propping up other regions by giving up more than 2 million pounds of its O32 distribution
- iii. Cutting 3B based on 1 yr survey results is double dipping
- iv. 3b saw smallest decrease in Fishery performance in 2023

- v. 3b has 2nd highest WPUE in the fishery
 - vi. 2023 TCEY's resulted in the Largest Deficit between reference TCEY and adopted TCEY of all Areas. Resulting in 2.61 million pounds of lost yield to 3B stakeholders in 2023
 - vii. 2nd highest O32 FISS WPUE
 - viii. Smallest Decrease in Commercial WPUE in 2023 indicates stability in the area.
 - ix. O32 Distribution trend has increased over 5 years is estimated to be 17.8%, But area removals were less than 10% of Coastwide TCEY.
 - x. To have continued large cuts in 3b would continue to put a disproportionate burden on that specific area, rather than spreading the cuts further through the coast.
 - xi. Fishery data has not indicated a need for cuts to 3B in the same way the FISS does.
- e) 4A:
- i. O32 WPUE -8, All sizes WPUE -7, All sizes NPUE -3%
 - ii. Areas 4A is typically underrepresented in comparison to other areas which shouldn't mean a land grab to bolster the TAC in other Areas
- f) 4B:
- i. O32 WPUE has increased 4%, All sizes WPUE has increased 5%, All sizes NPUE has increased 5%
 - ii. No Survey conducted in 23, relies on the space-time modelling, so caution is necessary
 - iii. Low percentage of quota landed
 - iv. Estimated stock distribution increasing since 2021
 - v. Because no sampling occurred in 4B in 2023, the degree of variability in these modelled estimates may be higher relative to better sampled areas and should be used cautiously.
 - vi. In 2023, there continued to be considerable underutilization of TCEY in 4B due to a combination of biological and socioeconomic factors
 - vii. the western Aleutians are very remote, and with the lack of processing activity fewer vessels have been fishing in 4B.
 - viii. Commercial WPUE was down -8% for fixed hook and down -45% for snap gear.
 - ix. The Aleutians have also been experiencing warm water conditions for the past decade, and temperatures have not shown signs of normalizing as they have in the Bering Sea.
 - x. 4B had the worst catch rate this season followed by 4A compared to other halibut areas which certainly warrants a decrease. However, the poor catch rates may partly be attributed to socio economic restraints such as distance and fuel costs.
- g) 4CDE:
- i. While there wasn't a FISS hook survey in 4CDE in 2023, NMFS trawl survey data was used in the space-time modelling for 4CDE
 - ii. Dr. Stewart noted that the NMFS trawl survey has been the primary source of information for 4CDE
 - iii. Modelled FISS numbers are stable - O32 WPUE 0%, All sized WPUE +1%, and All sizes NPUE +1%
 - iv. Stock distribution in Area 4 is stable to slightly increasing
 - v. EBS Trawl Survey +14%. It has been increasing since 2020
 - vi. Harvest Rate - still be penalized by lower harvest rates that move quota to other areas

- vii. Area 4 harvests the youngest fish of all areas, but the average fishery WPUE is the second highest next to 2C
 - viii. O26 bycatch down by down 14.4% or 248,000 lbs
 - ix. Should see additional bycatch reduction again in 2024 based on expected change in behaviour by the A80 fleet.
37. A minority of USA CB members **NOTED** that they do not support starting with last years negotiated TCEY’s and adjusting the TCEYs based on one year survey data. Also, their concern with coastwide TCEY being too high given that “stock is at lowest absolute population level in the last 30 years” and that SB30 is a percent of a declining number and might not be a reliable trigger for additional conservation measures. Additionally, the Risk Tables reflect a great deal of uncertainty, and combined with environmental uncertainty, a more precautionary approach is warranted. The minority thinks the current stock level is too low and that less fish should be taken out of the water to increase chances of the stock going up.
38. The CB **NOTED** a comment from Canadian delegates indicating that the US motion does not result in a large enough reduction in the coastwide TCEY. The motion considers survey and commercial catch rates in 2023 compared to 2022 but fails to acknowledge the overall changes in survey results over the full time period presented, as well as the magnitude of the decline coastwide and in some Regions and IPHC Regulatory Areas. It is also important to remember that the IPHC Secretariat has advised there is no biological basis from the IPHC Regulatory Areas, so some metrics at the Biological Region level may be more meaningful. The motion also fails to take into account Canada’s historic share. As outlined in a past IPHC paper, O32 biomass distribution is a scientific exercise while TCEY distribution is a policy decision that incorporates socioeconomic considerations. Further, the MSE process evaluated a management procedure that demonstrated a 20% national share for Canada met all conservation objectives – it would not create a conservation issue. Canada and USA have deviated from O32 distribution when setting TCEYs between Contracting Parties as well as USA IPHC Regulatory Areas.
39. The CB **NOTED** a motion from the Canadian CB members recommending a 10% reduction in the coastwide TCEY for 2024 (33.3 million lbs coastwide TCEY for 2024) with the contracting parties each taking a 10% reduction. For Canada this would mean a 2024 TCEY of 6.10 million lbs. In making this motion Canada considered the coastwide, regional survey and commercial fishery metrics, in particular the continuing decline at the coastwide level and the magnitude of that decline over the time series of the data. The Canadian CB members are also very concerned about the lack of recruitment into the fishery. There was a gap in recruitment from 2006 to 2012, where recruitment was very poor in each year. Further, while the 2012 year class is stronger it does not appear to be nearly as large as the 2005 year class, the 2013 year class appears to be small, 2014 year class is at best average, early indication are that the 2015 year class will not be strong and it is too early to tell the strength of the 2016-2018 years classes.
40. The Canadian CB members **RECOMMENDED** the TCEY mortality limits for the 2024 fishing period representing the 10% reduction from 2023 TCEYs distributed equally between Contracting Parties as provided in [Table 3](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat, [Appendix III](#)), and an SPR of 54%. [*Canada, in favor=22, against=0, abstain=0*][*USA: In favour =1, against=30, abstain=1*]

Table 3. Canadian CB members recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2024. See previous paragraphs for voting.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mt)
USA Regulatory Areas	27.17	12,324.10
2B	6.10	2,766.91
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	33.27	15,091.02

41. The USA CB members **NOTED** opposition to the Canadian motion: The USA CB members categorically **OPPOSED** a national share for Canada, which is a recent request and not rooted in the treaty. The US delegation cannot support an equal cut between contracting parties because it maintains Canada's TCEY at a disproportionately large coastwide percentage compared to O32 distribution. Furthermore, the higher percentage distribution enshrined by the recent adhoc interim agreement gives Canada a higher allocation starting point, and any cut from that higher amount is less of a burden to Canadian stakeholders compared to USA stakeholders.
42. The USA CB **NOTED** that 9 out of 14 comments provided via [IPHC-2024-AM100-INF01](#) were related to the impact of the unconstrained unguided sport fishery in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A and **URGED** the Commission to acknowledge these concerns and identify the appropriate management body to address these concerns.
43. The USA CB **RECOMMENDED** Commissioners initiate a stakeholder driven committee focused on identifying a formalized distribution strategy for Alaska regulatory areas and request Secretariat support to be completed prior to the AM101:
- Using as a starting point the biological distribution;
 - To safeguard stakeholders from the potential shortfalls of ad-hoc distribution methods and inconsistent weighting of socioeconomic needs;
 - To allow consideration to shift harvest distribution between USA Regulatory Areas.

6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2023-24 PROCESS

6.1 *IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals*

6.1.1 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)*

44. The CB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA1](#) with an understanding that the addition of the mortality and fishery limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, will be a result of the discussion by the Commission following the input from CB.

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

45. The CB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA2](#) with an understanding that specific fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries will be a result discussion by the Commission following the input from CB.

6.1.3 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect 19)*

46. The CB **NOTED** presentation provided by Lange Solberg on electronic logbooks in Alaska that could be available from Deckhand should the Commission approve [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA3 Rev_1](#).
47. The CB **NOTED** the discussion on the lack of logbook requirements in USA for vessels under 26ft, but acknowledged that the harvest from these vessels represents .07% of total catch.
48. The CB **NOTED** comments on positive experience with electronic logbooks in general from Canadian members and positive experience with Deckhand logbook from vessels participating in the 2023 NOAA trial.
49. The CB **NOTED** that the IPHC will be conducting electronic logbook trial in Alaska and **URGED** interested vessels to contact the Secretariat if they are interested in participating.
50. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA3 Rev_1](#) updating and align logs requirements for Contracting Parties in the IPHC Fishery Regulations. [*Canada: In favour=1; against=0; abstain=16*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=30; against=0; abstain=1*]

6.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals

6.2.1 Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut—IPHC Regulatory areas 2c, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e (Sect. 28) – Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A

51. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropB1 Rev 1](#), that proposed IPHC Regulation changes for charter recreational Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, in order to achieve the charter Pacific halibut allocation under the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan: [*Canada: abstain*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]

6.2.2 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5), and In-Season Actions (Sect. 6)

52. The CB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropB2](#), that aimed to modify IPHC Fishery Regulations, Section 5 (Mortality and Fishery Limits) and Section 6 (In-Season Actions) reflective of changes to the Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) that allocates the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Pacific halibut catch limit.

6.3 Other Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals

6.3.1 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5) (Regulatory Area 2A)

53. The CB **NOTED** comments provided by Russell Svec on behalf of the Makah tribe in support of fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropC1](#).

54. The CB **NOTED** support from 2A stakeholders for this mortality limit and recalled support for the same limit in 2019. The CB also **RECALLED** that the MSE simulations identify that harvest in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A in excess of FISS abundance estimates does not create a conservation concern for the Pacific halibut stock and does not have a socioeconomic impact on stakeholders in other IPHC Regulatory Areas. Canadian CB members **NOTED** concerns with an allocation based on an absolute number rather than a percentage, as it does not reflect changes in abundance or result in Regulatory Area 2A sharing in the costs of conservation. Canadian CB members **NOTED** that the MSE process evaluated a management procedure that demonstrated a 20% national share for Canada does not create a conservation concern for the Pacific halibut stock and that Canada also has Indigenous treaty and Reconciliation commitments that are anticipated to increase going forward. USA CB members **NOTED** the Canadian national share does have socioeconomic impact on Alaska Regulatory Areas.

55. The CB **CONSIDERED** and did not take action on fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropC1](#). The CB **AGREED** that the TCEY limit is more adequately addressed as a part of the discussion on Regulatory Area perspectives on TCEY limits.

6.3.2 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 28) - Onboard consumption in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C

56. The CB **NOTED** comments provided by NOAA Enforcement representative (Benjamin Cheeseman) that summarized positive feedback on the current regulation allowing limited onboard consumption and no realized issues with the enforcement of the current measure. However, concerns were identified to resources required to enforce measures as proposed in [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropC2](#).

57. The CB **NOTED** and took no action on fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropC2](#), that proposed adding flexibility to existing recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing regulations in Alaska and to provide increased flexibility for the consumption of Pacific halibut on board of recreational vessels.

7. INCIDENTAL CATCH (BYCATCH)

58. The CB **NOTED** information provided by Dr. Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).

59. The CB **NOTED** a summary on bycatch provided by Dr. Stewart, as follows:

“Non-directed discard mortality ('bycatch') occurs when Pacific halibut are captured in fisheries that are not allowed to legally retain them, are discarded and subsequently die. Estimated non-directed discard mortality was large and highly variable during the 1960s through the early 1990s with peaks of 21.4 million pounds (net weight) in 1965, and 20.3 million pounds in 1992. Since then, there has been a steady decline in this source of mortality to a time-series low of 3.84 million pounds in 2021, of which 56% occurred in IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE. IPHC Regulatory Area 3A, an important historical component (28% of the coastwide total in 2015) has declined to only 9% of the total in 2023, largely due to reductions in effort in shelf fisheries in that area. The 5-year coastwide average from 2019-2023 is 4.96 million pounds, comprising 13.3% of all known Pacific halibut mortality. The effects of non-directed discard mortality on yields in the directed fisheries are variable, depending on the fishing intensity, the age-structure of the population and the demographic rates (growth, maturity and mortality), but have been estimated by the Commission to be approximately 1.15 pounds of directed yield to 1.0 pounds of non-directed mortality.”

60. The CB **NOTED** the decrease in incidental catch in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A and the increase in incidental catch in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B and **NOTED** response provided by Canadian CB members that Regulatory Area 2B the increase is currently under investigation.

61. The CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission acknowledge that groundfish [as referred to in the USA] fisheries encounter and take Pacific halibut incidentally as bycatch. Pacific halibut bycatch minimization remains a high priority of CB members, along with full and robust monitoring measures to quantify Pacific halibut removals and mortality [Canada: unanimous] [U.S.A.: In favour=31; against=0; abstain=1]

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Abundance-based fisheries management (ABM)

62. The CB **NOTED** the presentation provided by the St. Paul Fishing Company (Mr Jeff Kauffman) on the Bering Sea Pacific halibut abundance-based bycatch management (ABM), and the associated lawsuit.

63. The CB **NOTED** the update provided by Kodiak Vessel Owners Association (Linda Kozak) on the Alaska Bycatch Taskforce.

8.2 Election of Vice-Chairpersons

64. In accordance with Appendix IV, Section III of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2024), the CB **NOTED** the requirement to consider electing up to two (2) Vice-Chairpersons.

65. The CB **NOTED** a motion to nominate a Vice-Chairperson for the U.S.A. Mr. Brian Ritchie was nominated, seconded, and elected for a one-year term by unanimous vote.

66. The CB **NOTED** the option to nominate a vice-chairperson for Canada but refrained.

67. The CB **NOTED** with gratitude the support throughout the process from IPHC Secretariat.

9. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB094)

68. The CB **ADOPTED** the Report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Conference Board ([IPHC-2024-CB094-R](#)) on 25 January 2024, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from CB093, provided at [Appendix IV](#). [Canada: In favour=unanimous][U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous].

APPENDIX I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD
(CB094)

Officers

Co-Chairperson	Co-Chairperson
Mr. Jim Lane (Canada)	Ms. Linda Behnken (United States of America)

CB Members

Number	CB Member	Representative	Initial accreditation date	5-year accreditation expiry
Canada				
1	A-Tlegay Fisheries Society (AFS)	Daniel Smith	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
2	Annieville Halibut Association (AHA)	*	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
3	Council of the Haida Nation (CHN)	*Shawn Cowpar	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
4	Commercial Integrated Groundfish Society (CIGS)	*	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
5	Canadian Sablefish Association (CSA)	Tom Russel	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
6	Dididaht First Nation (DFN)	*	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
7	Halibut Advisory Board (HAB)	David Boyes	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
8	Halibut Longline Fisherman's Association (HLFA)	Rob Stanley	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
9	Hook and Line Groundfish Association (HLGA)	Ken Wing	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
10	Island Marine Aquatic Working Group (IMAWG)	Jessica Moffat	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
11	Northern Halibut Producers Association (NHPA)	Douglas Mavin	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
12	Northern Trollers Association (NTA)	Robert Hauknes	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
13	Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council (NTC)	Jim Lane	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
14	Pacific Coast Fishing Vessel Owners Guild (PCFVOG)	Zeke Pellegrin	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
15	Pacific Halibut Management Association of BC (PHMA)	Chris Sporer	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
16	Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFABM) - Main Board	Gerry Kristianson	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
17	Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFABN) - North Coast Region	Mike Fowler	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
18	Sport Fishing Advisory Board - South Coast Region (SFABS)	Chuck Ashcroft	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
19	Sport Fishing Institute of BC (SFI)	Owen Bird	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
20	Steveston Halibut Association (SHA)	Angus Grout	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
21	South Vancouver Island Anglers Coalition (SVIAC)	Christopher Bos	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
22	Tuna Fishing Association (TFA)	Tiare Boyes	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
23	United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union (UNIFOR)	Russell Cameron	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
24	Vancouver Island Longline Association (VILA)	Lyle Pierce	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
25	West Coast Fishing Guides Association (WCFGGA)	Pat Ahern	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026

26	BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF)	David Lewis	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
USA				
1	Area 4 Concerned Harvesters (A4CF)	*	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
2	Aleut Corporation (AC)	Chase Berenson	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
3	Alaska Charter Association (ACA)	Garrett Lambert	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
4	Adak Community Development Corporation (ACDC)	Layton Lockett	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
5	Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association (ALFA)	Richard Curran	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
6	Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA)	Angel Drobnica	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
7	Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association (AWTA)	Rebecca Skinner	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
8	Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC)	Steve Ricci	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
9	CATCH Association (CA)	Brian Ritchie	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
10	Cape Barnabas, Inc (CB)	*	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
11	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association (CBSFA)	Joe Kashevarof	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
12	Coastal Conservation Association (CCA)	Dave Croonquist	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
13	Cordova District Fishermen United (CDFU)	Marc Carrel	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
14	Coastal Trollers Association (CTA)	*	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
15	Coastal Villages Region Fund (CVRF)	Paul Wilkins	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
16	Deep Sea Fishermen's Union of the Pacific (DSFU)	Shawn McManus	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
17	Edmonds Veteran Independent Longliners (EVIL)	*	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
18	Freezer Longline Coalition (FLC)	Jim Armstrong	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
19	Fishing Vessel Owners Association (FVOA)	Brian Dafforn	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
20	Humbolt Area Saltwater Anglers (HASA)	Tim Klassen	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
21	Halibut Coalition (HC)	Tom Gemmell	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
22	Homer Charter Association (HCA)	Daniel Donich	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
23	K-Bay Fisheries Association (KBAY)	Kiril Basargin	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
24	Kruzof Fisheries (KRUZOF)	Jim Hubbard	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
25	Kodiak Vessel Owners Association (KVOA)	Linda Kozak	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
26	Next Generation Fishermen's Association (NGFA)	Garrett Elwood	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
27	North Pacific Fisheries Association (NPFA)	Malcolm Milne	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
28	Pacific Fishing Inc (PFI)	Patricia Phillips	24 Jan 2023	CB in 2026
29	Petersburg Vessel Owners Association (PVOA)	Nels Evens	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
30	Recreational Fishing Alliance – California (RFAC)	Tom Marking	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
31	Recreational Fishing Alliance – National (RFAN)	Jim Martin	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
32	Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFSA)	Kathy Hansen	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026

33	Southeast Alaska Guides Organization (SEAGO)	Forrest Braden	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
34	Sablefish and Halibut Pot Association (SHPA)	*	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
35	Sitka Halibut & Sablefish Marketing Association (SHSMA)	Phillip Wyman	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
36	Seafood Producers Coop (SPC)	Carter Hughes	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
37	St. Paul Fishing Company (SPFC)	Jeff Kauffman	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
38	Tribal Government of St. Paul (TGSP)	Myron Melovidov	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
39	United Fishermen's Marketing Association (UFMA)	*	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
40	Westport Charter Boat Association (WCBA)	Paul Mirante	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026
41	Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association (YDFDA)	Landry Price	26 Jan 2021	CB in 2026

*Absent in 2024

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IPHC Secretariat

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APPENDIX II
AGENDA FOR THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB094)

Date: 23-25 January 2024

Location: Anchorage, AK, U.S.A.

Venue: [Hotel Captain Cook](#)

Time (AKST): 23rd: 14:00-17:30; 24th: 09:00-17:30;

(Available if needed: 25th: 0800-11:00)

Co-Chairperson: Mr Jim Lane (Canada); Ms Linda Behnken (United States of America)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Brian Ritchie (USA)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION (Co-Chairpersons)**
 - 1.1 Accreditation of CB Membership (2021-25): new members
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION (Co-Chairpersons)**
- 3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION**
 - 3.1 Mortality Limits and TCEY (I. Stewart)
 - 3.2 MSE Update (A. Hicks)
 - 3.3 FISS 2024 (R. Webster & K. Ualesi)
- 4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES**
- 5. MORTALITY LIMITS (Co-Chairpersons)**
 - 5.1 Coastwide perspectives
 - 5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives
 - 5.3 Distribution Strategy – discussion/recommendations
 - 5.4 TCEY Recommendations
- 6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2023-24 PROCESS**
 - 6.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals (B. Hutniczak)
 - 6.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals (Contracting Parties)
 - 6.3 Other Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals (Stakeholders)
- 7. INCIDENTAL CATCH (BYCATCH) (Co-Chairpersons)**
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS (Co-Chairpersons)**
 - 8.1 Election of Vice-Chairpersons
- 9. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 94th SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB094) (Co-Chairpersons; IPHC Secretariat)**

**APPENDIX III
PACIFIC HALIBUT MORTALITY PROJECTED FOR 2024 BASED ON THE CB RECOMMENDED
TCEY MORTALITY LIMITS**

Note: All values reported in millions of net pounds.

RECOMMENDATION

USA CB members detailed 2024 projections, by sector, based on the TCEY mortality limits.

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discards	0.11	0.17	NA	NA	0.25	0.05	0.01	0.08	0.66
O26 Non-directed discards	0.08	0.29	0.06	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.14	1.55	2.86
Recreational	NA	0.03	1.07	0.99	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	2.09
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.25	0.12	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.81
Total non-FCEY	0.18	0.89	1.37	1.36	0.48	0.33	0.16	1.64	6.42
Commercial discards	NA	NA	0.11	0.57	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.68
Recreational	0.61	0.77	0.81	1.89	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.08
Subsistence	0.02	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.02
Commercial landings	0.83	4.34	3.50	7.90	3.08	1.30	1.12	2.06	24.13
Total FCEY	1.47	5.11	4.42	10.36	3.08	1.30	1.12	2.06	28.91
							4C FCEY	0.92	
							4D FCEY	0.92	
							4E FCEY	0.22	
TCEY	1.65	6.00	5.79	11.72	3.56	1.63	1.28	3.70	35.33
U26 Non-directed discards	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.18	0.09	0.13	0.01	1.11	1.56
Total	1.65	6.04	5.79	11.90	3.65	1.76	1.29	4.81	36.89

Canada CB members detailed 2024 projections, by sector, based on the TCEY mortality limits.

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discards		0.17							
O26 Non-directed discards		0.29							
Recreational		0.03							
Subsistence		0.41							
Total non-FCEY		0.90							
Commercial discards		NA							
Recreational		0.78							
Subsistence		NA							
Commercial landings		4.43							
Total FCEY		5.21							
							4C FCEY		
							4D FCEY		
							4E FCEY		
TCEY		6.10							33.27
U26 Non-directed discards		0.04							1.56
Total		6.14							34.83

APPENDIX IV

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 94TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB094) (23-24 JANUARY 2024)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

FISS 2024

CB094-Rec.01 ([para. 18](#)) The CB **ACKNOWLEDGED** the importance of FISS data in the Bering Sea and **RECOMMENDED** prioritizing FISS survey in the Bering Sea in 2024 and regularly in the years to come [*Canada: no objections; 3=abstain*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

CB094-Rec.02 ([para. 28](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** change to the fishing period opening hour to 06:00 hrs. [*Canada: In favour=20; against=0; abstain=1*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]. In support of changing the opening time, CB members **NOTED** that allowing a full day facilitated access to markets and improved fishing efficiency and opportunity.

CB094-Rec.03 ([para. 29](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** the fishing period closing date on 7 December [*Canada: In favour=19; against=0; abstain=0*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=22; against=1; abstain=3*].

CB094-Rec.04 ([para. 30](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** change to the fishing closing hour to 23:59 hrs. [*Canada: In favour=16; against=0; abstain=1*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=26; against=0; abstain=8*] In support of changing the closing times, CB members **NOTED** that allowing a full day facilitated access to markets and improved fishing efficiency and opportunity.

TCEY Recommendations

CB094-Rec.05 ([para. 35](#)) The USA CB members **RECOMMENDED** the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2024 fishing period as provided in [Table 2](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat, [Appendix III](#)), and an SPR of 52%. [*Canada: In favour=0; against=20; abstain=0*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=30; against=0; abstain=1*]

Table 2. USA CB members recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2024. See previous paragraphs for voting.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mt)
2A	1.65	748.43
2B	6.00	2,721.55
2C	5.79	2,626.30
3A	11.72	5,316.10
3B	3.56	1,614.79
4A	1.63	739.36
4B	1.28	580.60
4CDE	3.70	1,678.29
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	35.33	16,025.42

CB094-Rec.06 ([para. 40](#)) The Canadian CB members **RECOMMENDED** the TCEY mortality limits for the 2024 fishing period representing the 10% reduction from 2023 TCEYs distributed equally between Contracting Parties as provided in [Table 3](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat, [Appendix III](#)), and an SPR of 54%. [*Canada, in favor=22; against=0, abstain=0*][*USA: In favour – 1, against=30; abstain=1*]

Table 3. Canadian CB members recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2024. See previous paragraphs for voting.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mt)
USA Regulatory Areas	27.17	12,324.10
2B	6.10	2,766.91
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	33.27	15,091.02

CB094-Rec.07 ([para. 43](#)) The USA CB **RECOMMENDED** Commissioners initiate a stakeholder driven committee focused on identifying a formalized distribution strategy for Alaska regulatory areas and request Secretariat support to be completed prior to the AM101:

- a) Using as a starting point the biological distribution;
- b) To safeguard stakeholders from the potential shortfalls of ad-hoc distribution methods and inconsistent weighting of socioeconomic needs;
- c) To allow consideration to shift harvest distribution between USA Regulatory Areas.

IPHC Fishery Regulations: IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect 19)

CB094-Rec.08 ([para. 50](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA3 Rev_1](#) updating and align logs requirements for Contracting Parties in the IPHC Fishery Regulations. [*Canada: In favour=1; against=0 abstain=16*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=30; against=0; abstain=1*]

Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut—IPHC Regulatory areas 2c, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e (Sect. 28) – Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A

CB094-Rec.09 ([para. 51](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropB1 Rev_1](#), that proposed IPHC Regulation changes for charter recreational Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, in order to achieve the charter Pacific halibut allocation under the North Pacific Fishery Management Council’s (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan: [*Canada: abstain*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]

Incidental catch (Bycatch)

CB094-Rec.10 ([para. 61](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission acknowledge that groundfish [as referred to in the USA] fisheries encounter and take Pacific halibut incidentally as bycatch. Pacific halibut bycatch minimization remains a high priority of CB members, along with full and robust monitoring measures to quantify Pacific halibut removals and mortality [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=31; against=0; abstain=1*]