



Report of the 29th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB029)

Anchorage, Alaska, USA, 23-24 January 2024

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ACRONYMS

AM	Annual Meeting, of the IPHC
FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
FISS	Fishery-independent setline survey
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association
SPR	Spawning Potential Ratio
TCEY	Total Constant Exploitation Yield
WPUE	Weight Per Unit Effort

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 29th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Processor Advisory Board (PAB029) was held in Anchorage, Alaska, USA, from 23-24 January 2024. A total of 19 (16 in 2023) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Norman Pillen (U.S.A.) and the Vice-Chairperson, Mr Carl Nordmann (Canada) who welcomed participants.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the PAB029, which are provided at [Appendix V](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

FISS 2024

PAB029-Rec.01 ([para. 14](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission prioritize funding for a FISS in IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE in 2024. [*Unanimous*].

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

PAB029-Rec.02 ([para. 16](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2024: [*In favour=13; against=2 abstain=3; Absent=1*]

a) Opening: 15 March

b) Closing: 15 November

PAB029-Rec.03 ([para. 17](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods opening and closing times of day for 2024: [*In favour=15; against=0 abstain=2; Absent=2*]

a) Opening: 06:00 hrs (on the 15th)

b) Closing: 23:59 hrs (on the 15th)

TCEY Recommendations

PAB029-Rec.04 ([para. 20](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2024 fishing period as provided in [Table 3](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat) provided in [Appendix III](#), and an SPR of 52%. [*Canada: In favour=2; against=3 abstain=0 [U.S.A.: In favour=13; against=1; abstain=0]*]

Table 3. Processor Advisory Board (PAB) 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	6.31	2,862.17
2C	5.67	2,571.87
3A	11.36	5,152.81
3B	3.41	1,546.75
4A	1.63	739.36
4B	1.28	580.6
4CDE	3.66	1,660.15
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	34.97	15,862.13

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

PAB029-Rec.05 ([para. 21](#)) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-204-AM100-PropA1](#), with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in [Section 5.3](#), but

also include all mortality (e.g. subsistence, bycatch, and non-guided sport) in annual summary framework table [*In favour: 16; Against=0; Abstain=0; Absent=3*].

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

PAB029-Rec.06 ([para. 22](#)) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA2](#), which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. See [Section 4](#) for a summary of discussions and recommendations. [*In favour: 14; Against=1; Abstain=4*].

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

PAB029-Rec.07 ([para. 26](#)) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropC1](#), that proposed amendments to include a TCEY floor in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. [*In favour: 16; Against=0; Abstain=1*].



1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 29th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Processor Advisory Board (PAB029) was held in Anchorage, Alaska, USA, from 23-24 January 2024. A total of 19 (16 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 the Chairperson, Mr Norman Pillen (U.S.A.) and the Vice-Chairperson, Mr Carl Nordmann (Canada) who welcomed participants.
2. The PAB **RECALLED** the intersessional voting process undertaken to elect a new USA Chairperson following the resignation of the sitting chair, as follows:

*“Nominations for the position of USA Chairperson of the PAB for the next biennium, or until a replacement is elected was called for intersessionally, and Mr Norman Pillen (USA) was nominated, seconded and **ELECTED** as USA Chairperson. Mr Pillen’s term will expire at the end of the PAB in 2026.” [In favour: 11; Against: Nil; Abstain: 1; No response: 4].*

1.1 Accreditation of PAB membership (2024)

3. The PAB **ENDORSED** the accreditation of 5 new members in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), Appendix VI, Section II. para. 7, for participation in the 2024 Processor Advisory Board proceedings, as detailed in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Accredited new PAB members.

Number	PAB Member	Representative	Initial accreditation date	5-year accreditation expiry
Canada				
1	Aero Trading Co. Ltd	Liam Stockwell	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029
USA				
1	Wind and Tide LLC (Peninsula Seafoods)	Jeff Grannum	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029
2	Alaska Fish Factory	Jeff Choinski	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029
Associations				
1	Halibut Association of North America (HANA)	Peggy Parker	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029
2	Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA)	Nicole Kimball	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029

4. The PAB **NOTED** that it does not agree with the process implemented by the Secretariat on accreditation. The PAB wishes to retain autonomy on which parties are allowed into the PAB.
5. The PAB **NOTED** the clarifying statement from the IPHC Secretariat that the process was run in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), that were updated in 2023 under unanimous agreement of the Commission. Modification of the Rules of Procedure would require consultation and agreement by the Commission.
6. The PAB **ENDORSED** the re-accreditation of 16 members in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), Appendix VI, Section II. para. 8, for participation in the 2024 Processor Advisory Board proceedings, as detailed in [Table 2](#).

Table 2. Re-accredited PAB members.

Number	PAB Member	Representative	Initial accreditation date	5-year accreditation expiry
Canada				
1	Coldfish Seafood Co. Inc.	Casey Sugden	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
2	FAS Seafood Producers, Ltd	Bruce Hale	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
3	Seven Seas Fish Co. Ltd	Nick Heras	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
4	S.M. Products (B.C) Ltd	Carl Nordmann	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
USA				
1	170 Degrees West	Heather McCarty	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
2	Dana Besecker Co.	Susan Adair	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
3	E&E Foods, Inc.	Kit Durnil	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
4	John Nagle Company	Mark Callahan	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
5	Northport Fisheries	Tyler Goodnight	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
6	OBI Seafoods	John Woodruff	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
7	Peter Pan Seafood Co.	Steven Minor	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
8	Seafood Producers Coop.	Norman Pillen	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
9	Taku Fisheries, Hoonah Cold Storage	Tim James	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
10	Alaska Glacier Seafoods	Jessie Keplinger	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
11	Pacific Seafoods	David Brindle	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
12	Katchemak Bay Seafoods	William Sullivan	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

7. The PAB **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#). The documents provided to the PAB029 are those submitted for the 100th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100). To assist the PAB in navigating its meeting, all documents relevant to the agenda were posted as links on the PAB webpage: <https://www.iphc.int/meetings/29th-session-of-the-iphc-processor-advisory-board-pab029/>.

3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

3.1 Mortality Limits and TCEY

8. The PAB **NOTED** the question-and-answer period by Dr. Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
9. The PAB **NOTED** that:
- concerns were raised about the confidence in the statistic indicating that 42% of the 2012 year class is sexually mature, part of the Spawning Biomass;
 - obtaining certainty for this data point is challenging, despite the improved methods like histological analyses;
 - the maturity speed hasn't changed significantly with size at age;
 - there is a high level of uncertainty in estimating future recruitment, especially with only the 2012 year class available, assuming a constant rate of maturity;
 - the link between the size of spawning biomass and recruitment is considered weak;
 - a proposal to change the harvest rate was discussed, but it was highlighted that it's linked to management policy objectives;
 - the stock condition involves young Pacific halibut showing up in surveys, indicating potential future fish availability. Natural variability and fishing effort are key components, with the latter having had an overall decreased effect for the past 13 years, though recruitment remains a challenge;
 - the discussion also touched on changes in size at age since the 1990s and uncertainty regarding a reproductive threshold for recruitment, expressing the hope of winning the "recruitment lottery."

3.2 MSE update

10. The PAB **NOTED** the question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Allan Hicks (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
11. The PAB **NOTED** that:
 - a) the discussion focused on finalizing a formal harvest policy, with ongoing efforts for Commission approval and plans to present it at AM101;
 - b) emphasizing transparency and scientific grounding, the shift is towards SPR-based management;
 - c) an intersessional stakeholder discussion before the AM101 is proposed for better preparedness for future comments;
 - d) the importance of involvement with the MSAB and MSE for strategic direction, suggesting the use of the MSE explorer to understand implications of different management approaches.

3.3 FISS 2024

12. The PAB **NOTED** the question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Ray Webster (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
13. The PAB **NOTED** that:
 - a) the discussion revolved around a proposal/comment to combine NOAA Sablefish survey and Pacific halibut survey in some aspects;
 - b) concerns about conducting FISS designs that are not revenue-neutral, with the desire to conduct all necessary FISS based on scientific recommendations;
 - c) industry challenges were raised, surrounding the FISS, including the need for stable funding, market dynamics affecting bidding, landing dates and times, and concerns about fish quality;
 - d) the overall sentiment acknowledges the tough economic climate but emphasizes the importance of maintaining a science-driven FISS design.
 - e) The PAB discussed that additional advanced notice of IPHC survey trip would help accomplish a higher dock price.
 - f) Discussion was made to propose a subcommittee to address the needs of increasing value on FISS landings.
14. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission prioritize funding for a FISS in IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE in 2024. [*Unanimous*].

4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

15. The PAB **NOTED** that there were considerations about the timing of the fishing season, particularly starting post the Boston Seafood show around March 10-12. Suggestions were made for a season extending from 15 March 2024 to 1 November 2024, with favorable tides on 15-18 March 2024 in some parts of the Convention Area. However, concerns were raised about the election in November 2024. Opinions varied on the ideal season duration, with some advocating for a later start and earlier closure, while others emphasized the benefits of a longer season for pricing and allowing fishermen ample time.
16. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2024: [*In favour=13; against=2 abstain=3; Absent=1*]
 - a) Opening: 15 March
 - b) Closing: 15 November

17. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods opening and closing times of day for 2024: *[In favour=15; against=0 abstain=2; Absent=2]*
- Opening: 06:00 hrs (on the 15th)
 - Closing: 23:59 hrs (on the 15th)

5. MORTALITY LIMITS

5.1 Coastwide perspectives

18. The PAB **NOTED** a considerable discussion surrounding whether to provide TCEY advice at a coastwide level only, versus by regulatory area. Consideration was given to providing an across the board cut for 2024, versus some proportional cut by Regulatory Area.

5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives

19. Nil

5.3 TCEY Recommendations

20. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2024 fishing period as provided in [Table 3](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat) provided in [Appendix III](#), and an SPR of 52%. *[Canada: In favour=2; against=3 abstain=0 [U.S.A.: In favour=13; against=1; abstain=0]*

Table 3. Processor Advisory Board (PAB) 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
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4A	1.63	739.36
4B	1.28	580.6
4CDE	3.66	1,660.15
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	34.97	15,862.13

6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATION PROPOSALS FOR 2024

6.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals

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

21. The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-204-AM100-PropA1](#), with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in [Section 5.3](#), but also include all mortality (e.g. subsistence, bycatch, and non-guided sport) in annual summary framework table *[In favour: 16; Against=0; Abstain=0; Absent=3]*.

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

22. The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA2](#), which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. See [Section 4](#) for a summary of discussions and recommendations. *[In favour: 14; Against=1; Abstain=4]*.

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

23. The PAB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA3](#), , to update and align logs requirements for Contracting Parties in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, but did not take action.

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

24. The PAB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropB1](#), 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, but did not take any action.

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

25. The PAB **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, but did not take any action.

6.3 Other Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals

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

26. The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropC1](#), that proposed amendments to include a TCEY floor in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. [*In favour: 16; Against=0; Abstain=1*].

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

27. The PAB **NOTED** 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, but did not take any action.

7. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

28. In accordance with Appendix IV, Section III of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), the PAB **NOTED** the requirement to elect a Canadian Chairperson of the PAB the next biennium, given the current term of Mr Carl Nordman expires at the close of the PAB029 meeting.

“The PAB’s annual meeting shall be convened by the PAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, one representing each country. Officers are elected for two-year terms. The election of the officers whose terms have expired will be at the end of the annual session of the PAB, or through intersessional voting should a position become vacant sooner.”

29. The PAB **CALLED** for nominations for the position of Canadian Chairperson of the PAB for the next biennium, or until a replacement is elected. Mr Bruce Hale (Canada) was nominated, seconded and elected as Canadian Chairperson.

30. The PAB **NOTED** that in accordance with Rule 2, para 3, and Rule 9, para. 1 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), Mr Bruce Hale (Canada) will Chair the CB095 in 2025, and Mr Norman Pillen (USA) will act in the capacity of Vice-Chairperson of the CB095 in 2025.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

31. The PAB **WELCOMED** the participation of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission who attended the session to provide information on their TCEY advice to the PAB and clarifications on the recent Rules of Procedure changes and the letter to the PAB dated 18 December 2023, provided at [Appendix IV](#).
32. The PAB **NOTED** the rationale provided by the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, and that should issues arise regarding PAB membership numbers, that they would be dealt with at that time.
33. The PAB **NOTED** their concern about many potential impacts of the changes to the Terms of Reference on the PAB.

9. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 29TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB029)

34. The PAB **ADOPTED** the Report of the 29th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board ([IPHC-2024-PAB029-R](#)) on 25 January 2024, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from PAB029, provided at [Appendix V](#). [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

APPENDIX I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 29TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD
(PAB029)

Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Norman Pillen (United States of America)	Mr Carl Nordmann (Canada)

PAB Members

Canada			
	Member	Representative	Email
1	Seven Seas Fish	Mr Nick Heras	nheras@7seas.ca
2	Coldfish Seafood	Mr Casey Sugden	casey@coldfish.ca
3	FAS Seafood Producers	Mr Bruce Hale	bruce@fasseafood.com
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*Absent in 2024

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*remote participation

APPENDIX II**AGENDA FOR THE 29TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB029)****Date:** 23-24 January 2024**Location:** Anchorage, AK, U.S.A.**Venue:** [Hotel Captain Cook](#)**Time:** 23rd: 14:00-17:30; 24th: 09:00-17:30;**Chairperson:** Norman Pillen (USA); **Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Carl Nordmann (Canada)**1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

- 1.1 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson (IPHC Secretariat)
- 1.2 Accreditation of PAB Membership (2024) (IPHC Secretariat)

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION (Chairperson)**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 (Chairperson)**

- 5.1 Coastwide perspectives
- 5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives
- 5.3 TCEY Recommendations

6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATION PROPOSALS FOR 2024

- 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. OTHER BUSINESS (Chairperson)**8. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 29TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB029) (Chairperson, IPHC Secretariat)**

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

Note: All values reported in millions of net pounds.

RECOMMENDATION

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	0.18	NA	NA	0.23	0.05	0.01	0.08	0.65
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	0.90	1.37	1.36	0.47	0.33	0.16	1.64	6.42
Commercial discards	NA	NA	0.11	0.54	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.65
Recreational	0.61	0.81	0.79	1.89	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.10
Subsistence	0.02	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.02
Commercial landings	0.83	4.60	3.40	7.56	2.94	1.30	1.12	2.02	23.78
Total FCEY	1.47	5.41	4.30	10.00	2.94	1.30	1.12	2.02	28.56
							4C FCEY	0.90	
							4D FCEY	0.90	
							4E FCEY	0.22	
TCEY	1.65	6.31	5.67	11.36	3.41	1.63	1.28	3.66	34.97
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	6.35	5.67	11.54	3.50	1.76	1.29	4.77	36.53

APPENDIX IV
LETTER TO THE PAB FROM THE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:
ROBERT ALVERSON
SEATTLE, WA
NEIL DAVIS
VANCOUVER, BC
PETER DEGREEF
NORTH SAANICH, BC
JON KURLAND
JUNEAU, AK
PAUL RYALL
VANCOUVER, BC
RICHARD YAMADA
JUNEAU, AK

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DAVID T. WILSON
2320 W. COMMODORE WY, STE 300
SEATTLE, WA 98199-1287
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(206) 634-1838
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EL2023603
18 December 2023

Jessie Keplinger, 2024 Chair
Carl Nordmann, 2024 Vice-Chair
IPHC Processor Advisory Board

Dear Jessie and Carl:

Thank you for your letter expressing concerns about the Commission's recently adopted revised Processor Advisory Board (PAB) – Terms of Reference and [Rules of Procedure \(2023\)](#).

The Commission identified the need and process for considering and adopting these amendments last January at the 99th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099) and extended that timeframe based on the availability of interested parties. The Commission reviewed the final changes at a Commission work meeting in September. The Commission adopted revised PAB terms of reference and rules of procedure inter-seasonally via IPHC Circulars [IPHC-2023-CR-024](#) and then [IPHC-2023-CR-025](#), while noting that all subsidiary bodies of the Commission operate under the Rules of Procedure of the Commission (IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), Rule 2: para. 3).

We appreciate the input from the PAB and its small working group to advise us on potentially appropriate changes. Our overarching goal was to reform the PAB's governance to ensure that the Commission receives well considered advice from a broad range of parties involved in processing.

The Commission unanimously agreed to broaden the PAB's membership eligibility to include any buyers who process and/or custom process, Pacific halibut caught in the Convention Area, including associations with at least one (1) member that meets these criteria. We chose not to limit membership to "first ex-vessel" buyers because we see no reason to exclude other processors.

The Commission unanimously agreed to use an accreditation questionnaire submitted via the Secretariat as an administratively efficient way to ensure accreditations comport with the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

The Commission unanimously agreed to revise the text about PAB officers. We trust that the new language provide sufficient operational flexibility. If it proves to be problematic over time, we encourage you to convey to us what is not working and suggest potential revisions. We acknowledge your preference to use the term "Co-Chairs" rather than "Chairperson" and "Vice Chairperson" however, we unanimously agreed that the existing terminology of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson should remain in alignment with the Commission's rules, noting that the rotational basis for chairing is already established within those rules and applies to the PAB.

We thank the small working group for their valuable input into this process and look forward to an engaging and informative PAB029 session in January 2024. We would be pleased to meet with the PAB at that time to hear any remaining concerns on the new rules you may have and answer questions.

Yours sincerely

Jon Kurland

18/12/2023

Jon Kurland (Chairperson)

Paul Ryall

19/12/2023

Paul Ryall (Vice-Chairperson)

CC: David T. Wilson, Executive Director; IPHC Processor Advisory Board

APPENDIX V

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 29TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB029) (23-24 JANUARY 2024)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

FISS 2024

PAB029-Rec.01 ([para. 14](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission prioritize funding for a FISS in IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE in 2024. [*Unanimous*].

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

PAB029-Rec.02 ([para. 16](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2024: [*In favour=13; against=2 abstain=3; Absent=1*]

- a) Opening: 15 March
- b) Closing: 15 November

PAB029-Rec.03 ([para. 17](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods opening and closing times of day for 2024: [*In favour=15; against=0 abstain=2; Absent=2*]

- c) Opening: 06:00 hrs (on the 15th)
- d) Closing: 23:59 hrs (on the 15th)

TCEY Recommendations

PAB029-Rec.04 ([para. 20](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2024 fishing period as provided in [Table 3](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat) provided in [Appendix III](#), and an SPR of 52%. [*Canada: In favour=2; against=3 abstain=0 [U.S.A.: In favour=13; against=1; abstain=0]*]

Table 3. Processor Advisory Board (PAB) 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	6.31	2,862.17
2C	5.67	2,571.87
3A	11.36	5,152.81
3B	3.41	1,546.75
4A	1.63	739.36
4B	1.28	580.6
4CDE	3.66	1,660.15
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	34.97	15,862.13

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

PAB029-Rec.05 ([para. 21](#)) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-204-AM100-PropA1](#), with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in [Section 5.3](#), but also include all mortality (e.g. subsistence, bycatch, and non-guided sport) in annual summary framework table [*In favour: 16; Against=0; Abstain=0; Absent=3*].

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

PAB029-Rec.06 ([para. 22](#)) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA2](#), which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. See [Section 4](#) for a summary of discussions and recommendations. [*In favour: 14; Against=1; Abstain=4*].

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

PAB029-Rec.07 ([para. 26](#)) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropC1](#), that proposed amendments to include a TCEY floor in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. [*In favour: 16; Against=0; Abstain=1*].