



14 February 2024

IPHC CIRCULAR 2024-007

SUBJECT: FOR DECISION – 2024 FISHERY-INDEPENDENT SETLINE SURVEY (FISS)

Dear Commissioners,

In accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2024), Rule 11 – Decision Making (paragraphs 4-10) shown below, please note the subsequent text detailing an Intersessional Decision requiring your attention:

IPHC Rules of Procedure (2024)

Rule 11 – Decision making - Intersessional decision-making

4. *In case of the need for adoption of an emergency measure between Sessions, or where a decision needs to be taken intersessionally, the Chairperson may propose that a decision be taken by mail, telephone, or electronic communication.*
5. *When a decision is to be taken by electronic means, the Executive Director shall transmit the proposed decision to all Commissioners.*
6. *Commissioners shall promptly acknowledge receipt of any proposed decision by electronic means. If no acknowledgement is received from any particular Commissioner within one week of the date of transmittal, the Executive Director will retransmit the proposed decision, and will use all reasonable means to ensure that it has been received.*
7. *Members shall have **10 days** to respond, unless a longer period is specified by the Executive Director in the transmittal.*
8. *If no reply from a Commissioner reaches the Executive Director within the period established under [Rule 11.7](#), that decision shall be deferred to the next session of the Commission.*
9. *All inter-sessional decisions must be made by consensus.*
10. *The Executive Director shall promptly ascertain and transmit the decision to all Commissioners via an IPHC Circular. The date of that transmittal shall be the 'date of notification'. Such decisions shall be duly recorded in the Commission's records by the Executive Director. Copies of such decisions shall be published with unique Intersessional Decision (ID) numbering on the IPHC website, via an IPHC Circular.*

Background

At the 99th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM099):

[IPHC-2023-IM099-R](#), para. 51: *The Commission **AGREED** on an optimized design for the 2024 FISS as provided at Appendix IV, that balances the Commission's primary and secondary objectives for the FISS. Specifically, the 2024 design shall include Options 1, 2, and 3 from Table 2. In addition, Option 4 shall be included in the RFT process but is not yet endorsed. Once bids are received and evaluated in February 2024, the Commission will make a final decision on*

whether to proceed or not with Option 4, based on bids and logistical constraints at that time and potentially a new option [Option 9] for IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE.

At the 100th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100):

[IPHC-2024-AM100-R](#), para 70: *The Commission **ENDORSED** the base 2024 FISS design that includes options 1-3 in Table 4 to provide data for basic trend estimation and biological data for use in the 2024 stock assessment. Specifically, this design includes two charter regions in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B, three charter regions in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C, two charter regions in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A, and one charter region in IPHC Regulatory Area 3B.*

Para 71: *The Commission **AGREED** to meet in mid-February 2024 to review the tender bids received for IPHC Regulatory Area 4, and determine whether Options 4 or 9 (Table 4), or both, should proceed in 2024 (Fig. 6).*

The Commission met informally on 13 February 2024 to review the tender bids. The 2024 FISS design proposed as a function of the informal discussion is provided below for formal intersessional decision.

Intersessional decision:

Please provide your decision on the below action no later than 24 February 2024, in accordance with Rule 11.7 shown above. In your response, please indicate if you **approve** or **do not approve** of the following actions:

- 1) The Commission **ENDORSED** a 2024 FISS design as follows (map provided at **Appendix I**):

IPHC Regulatory Area	IPHC Charter Region	No. of Stations
2B	St James	60
2B	Charlotte	89
2C	Ketchikan	43
2C	Ommaney	52
2C	Sitka	52
3A	Albatross	49
3A	Shelikof	64
3B	Trinity	56
4CDE	4CDE South	60
Total number of stations for the 2024 FISS		525

- 2) **AGREED** that no oceanographic monitoring will occur in 2024;
- 3) **AGREED** that no Setline Survey Specialists (SSS) will be deployed on the NOAA trawl surveys in 2024.

Yours sincerely



David T. Wilson, Ph.D.
Executive Director, IPHC

Appendices: Appendix I - 2024 FISS design (Final)



APPENDIX I
2024 FISS DESIGN

