



Update on actions arising from the 24th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB024)

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PURPOSE

To provide the RAB with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 24th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB024).

BACKGROUND

At the previous RAB meeting, a series of actions were agreed upon for implementation by the IPHC Secretariat. These action items and progress made on their implementation are detailed in [Appendix A](#).

DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that any recommendations and requests for action are carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific Contracting Party, the IPHC Secretariat, a subsidiary body of the Commission or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time frame for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next session of an subsidiary body, or other date).

This involves numbering and tracking all action items (see [Appendix A](#)) from the RAB, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the RAB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2024-RAB025-03, that provided the RAB with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 24th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB024).
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary the actions, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from RAB025.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Update on actions arising from the 24th IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB024)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 24th Session of the Research Advisory Board (RAB024)

Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
RAB024-Rec.01 (para. 11)	<p><i>International Pacific Halibut Commission 5-year program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26)</i></p> <p>NOTING the substantial potential of incorporating AI techniques to supplement the IPHC Secretariat's current aging protocol informing on the population age structure and serving as input to the Pacific halibut stock assessment, the RAB RECOMMENDED continuing with the proposed project and method validation as part of the IPHC 5-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26).</p>	<p>Completed & Ongoing:</p> <p>Update: will be provided as a part of the IPHC-2024-RAB025-05 presentation.</p>
RAB024-Rec.02 (para. 18)	<p><i>Research: Whale depredation mitigation strategies involving longline catch protection devices</i></p> <p>The RAB NOTED paper IPHC-2023-RAB024-06, that provided a description of an ongoing study designed to identify and test new tools to minimize marine mammal depredation of hook-captured Pacific halibut and RECOMMENDED that the IPHC continue efforts towards this goal.</p>	<p>In Progress:</p> <p>Update: The IPHC Secretariat, under a new research grant from BREP-NOAA (NA23NMF4720414), is planning continuation of this work during 2025.</p>
RAB024-Rec.03 (para. 24)	<p><i>Monitoring: Fishery-independent data - 2023 FISS season: Design and implementation</i></p> <p>The RAB SUPPORTED an annual FISS design with sufficient coverage across all Biological Regions and RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat continue efforts to obtain supplementary funding for FISS activities that would support this goal.</p>	<p>Completed & Ongoing:</p> <p>Update: The IPHC Secretariat continues a range of efforts to secure supplemental and voluntary contributions from a range of sources. Updates will be provided at RAB025.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
RAB024-Rec.04 (para. 30)	<p><i>Monitoring: Fishery-independent data - 2024 FISS design evaluation</i></p> <p>The RAB RECOMMENDED that any changes in the standardized FISS design, including vessel captain stations and bait changes, be carefully accounted for in the Secretariat's analytical work and presented to the Commission.</p>	<p>Completed & Ongoing:</p> <p>Update: Modelling work in 2024 includes fitting space-time models with and without vessel captain stations to assess whether their inclusion is likely to result in biased estimates. Bait differences are accounted for in the 2024 models.</p>
RAB024-Rec.05 (para. 32)	<p>The RAB RECOMMENDED maintaining the oceanographic sampling program to provide a continuous source of data on environmental conditions experienced by Pacific halibut.</p>	<p>In Progress:</p> <p>The IPHC Secretariat is seeking means other than traditional funding through fish sales to fund this activity.</p>
RAB024-Rec.06 (para. 33)	<p><i>Guidance on, and Discussion of, other Potential Applied Research Projects</i></p> <p>The RAB RECOMMENDED continued efforts to obtain supplementary funding to support studies on whale depredation and other fishing technology advances given the correlation between fishing techniques and gear and the viability of Pacific halibut fisheries.</p>	<p>Completed & Ongoing:</p> <p>Update: The IPHC Secretariat has recently received supplementary funding from the Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program-NOAA program (Award Number NA23NMF4720414) to continue fishing technology research.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
REQUESTS		
RAB024-Req.01 (para. 5)	<p>IPHC Process: Update on the actions arising from the 23rd Session of the RAB (RAB023)</p> <p>NOTING a potential issue raised regarding bycatch being caught in Alaskan State waters leading to closures of areas to longline fishing gear by ADFG, the RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat investigate and share outcomes with the RAB intersessionally, and at RAB025.</p>	<p>Completed & Ongoing:</p> <p>Update: The IPHC reached out to the ADFG to gather additional information for the RAB. Following the emergency closure in October 2023 caused by rockfish bycatch, the ADFG submitted a proposal to the Alaska Board of Fisheries to grant the commissioner the authority to close areas to commercial fishing with specific gear types by emergency order (see Proposal 5), with a decision expected in December 2024. The ADFG has determined that this authority is necessary to conserve the resource and prevent overharvest of a bycatch rockfish species. The RAB can seek further information from Forrest Bowers, Acting Director, Division of Commercial Fisheries, at forrest.bowers@alaska.gov.</p>
RAB024-Req.02 (para. 19)	<p>Monitoring: Fishery-dependent data</p> <p>The RAB NOTED the ongoing discussions regarding e-logbooks being developed for the fleet in Alaska, USA, and while some concerns were raised, Canadian RAB members highlighted the benefits of e-logbooks used by the Canadian fleet and encouraged information sharing among RAB members over the coming year. Thus, the RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat keeps the fleet informed regarding preserving data confidentiality arising from the use of electronic logbooks.</p>	<p>Completed & Ongoing:</p> <p>Update: Additional clarification was provided to the Conference Board (CB094) by the e-logbook provider in Alaska.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
RAB024-Req.03 (para. 31)	<p><i>Monitoring: Fishery-independent data - 2024 FISS design evaluation</i></p> <p>NOTING that FISS landings and sale includes U32 fish, and that this may have been a factor in the reduced prices for Pacific halibut in 2023, the RAB REQUESTED the IPHC Secretariat undertake an analysis of IPHC FISS prices versus commercial vessel prices received in 2023 and share the findings with the RAB and Commission.</p>	<p>Completed & Ongoing:</p> <p>Update: The IPHC Secretariat set up a process for monitoring prices throughout the FISS season. While the average IFQ price in 2023 was approximately 4.0% lower than the FISS price, the 2024 prices were nearly identical, with the difference of about 1%, despite including U32 Pacific halibut.</p>