



Report of the 14th Special Session of the IPHC (SS014)

Meeting held electronically, 31 October 2024

Commissioners

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Paul Ryall	Jon Kurland
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Participants in the Session
Members of the Commission
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BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY

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ACRONYMS

FAC	Finance and Administration Committee (of the IPHC)
FISS	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey
FY	Financial Year
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
SS	Special Session
USA	United States of America

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 14th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS014) was held electronically, on 31 October 2024. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) who outlined the need for a Special Session to facilitate a decision in November regarding the scope of the 2025 Fishery Independent Setline Survey (FISS).

The following are the actions arising from the SS014, which are also provided at [Appendix IV](#).

REQUESTS

2025 AND 2026-29 FISS DESIGNS

- SS014-Req.01 ([para. 5](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** the Secretariat provide an intersessional decision paper no later than 7 November 2024, containing the following elements:
- a) A 2025 FISS design the combines Options 2 and 3 from paper [IPHC-2024-SS014-03](#) (Table 3; 2A(1), 2B (1), 2C (1), 3A(2), 3B(2), 4A/4B(1));
 - b) A budget deficit for the FISS in FY2025 of approximately US\$1.2 m, while also seeking to reduce FISS costs;
 - c) A proposed decision for the Commission on the movement of funds from Fund 50 – Reserve, to Fund 40 – FISS, for FY2025.
- SS014-Req.02 ([para. 6](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** the Secretariat consider other savings in the IPHC budget for consideration by the Commission at FAC101.

1 OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 14th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS014) was held electronically, on 31 October 2024. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr. Paul Ryall (Canada), who outlined the need for a Special Session to facilitate a decision in November regarding the scope of the 2025 Fishery Independent Setline Survey (FISS).

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION

2. The Commission **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix I](#). The documents provided to the SS014 are listed in [Appendix II](#). The list of participants is provided at [Appendix III](#).

3 2025 AND 2026-29 FISS DESIGNS

3. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-SS014-03](#) that provided the Commission with the information requested, including the optional long-term FISS design, 2025 interim design options, potential external funding sources, as well as an examination of potential biases that may result from non-optimal designs.
4. The Commission **NOTED** that:
 - a) preliminary 2024 FISS data suggest continued declines in average catch rates in most IPHC Regulatory Areas, indicating that even the lowest cost 2025 designs would result in operating losses;
 - b) the starting point in developing a design for 2025 is therefore not a revenue-neutral design, but one that maintains sampling in all IPHC Biological Regions to provide basic data for the IPHC stock assessment, while aiming to limit the financial loss;
 - c) only two charter regions, one each in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2B and 2C, are projected to be revenue-positive in 2025;
 - d) supplementary funding from the USA totaling US\$387,000 has been made available for sampling 60 stations in each of IPHC Regulatory Areas 4A/4B and IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (these two sets of 60 stations are each considered to be a single charter region when projecting costs).
 - e) the IPHC Fund 40 - FISS, at the end of FY2024 had a negative balance. In FY2024, the income versus expenses on an accrual basis was approximately -US\$116K (pending finalisation). The Commission has an aspirational goal of maintaining a Fund 40 balance of US\$1.5M.
 - f) the IPHC Fund 50 - Reserve, will have a balance of approximately US\$3.0M once the accounts have been finalised and unspent funds from FY2024 are moved to the Reserve from Fund 10 – General, Fund 20 – Research, and Fund 30 – Statistics. The Commission goal has an aspirational goal of maintaining a reserve of US\$2.0M for general operating expenses.
5. The Commission **REQUESTED** the Secretariat provide an intersessional decision paper no later than 7 November 2024, containing the following elements:
 - a) A 2025 FISS design the combines Options 2 and 3 from paper [IPHC-2024-SS014-03](#) (Table 3; 2A(1), 2B (1), 2C (1), 3A(2), 3B(2), 4A/4B(1));
 - b) A budget deficit for the FISS in FY2025 of approximately US\$1.2 m, while also seeking to reduce FISS costs;
 - c) A proposed decision for the Commission on the movement of funds from Fund 50 – Reserve, to Fund 40 – FISS, for FY2025.

6. The Commission **REQUESTED** the Secretariat consider other savings in the IPHC budget for consideration by the Commission at FAC101.

4 OTHER BUSINESS

7. Nil

5 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 14TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS014)

8. The Report of the 14th Session of the IPHC ([IPHC-2024-SS014-R](#)) was **ADOPTED** via correspondence on 4 November 2024, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from SS014, provided at [Appendix IV](#).

APPENDIX I
AGENDA FOR THE 14TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS014)

Date: 31 October 2024

Location and Venue: Electronic

Time: 10:00-13:00 hrs (PDT)

Chairperson: Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Jon Kurland (United States of America)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION** (*Chairperson*)
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION** (*Chairperson*)
 - *IPHC-2024-SS014-01: Agenda for the 14th Special Session of the IPHC (SS014) (IPHC Secretariat)*
 - *IPHC-2024-SS014-02: List of documents for the 14th Special Session of the IPHC (SS014) (IPHC Secretariat)*
- 3. 2025 and 2026-29 FISS designs (for approval)** (*IPHC Secretariat*)
 - *IPHC-2024-SS014-03: 2025 and 2026-28 FISS designs) (R. Webster, I. Stewart, K. Ualesi, T. Jack, D. Wilson)*
 - *IPHC-2024-SS014-INF01: IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS): Brochure*
- 4. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 5. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 14TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS014)** (*Chairperson*)

APPENDIX II**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 14TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS014)**

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2024-SS014-01	Agenda for the 14 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS014)	✓ 11 Oct 2024 ✓ 30 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-SS014-02	List of Documents for the 14 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS014)	✓ 11 Oct 2024 ✓ 30 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-SS014-03	2025 and 2026-29 FISS designs (R. Webster, I. Stewart, K. Ualesi, T. Jack, D. Wilson)	✓ 16 Oct 2024
<i>Information papers</i>		
IPHC-2024-SS014-INF01	IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS): Brochure	✓ 11 Oct 2024

APPENDIX III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 14TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS014)

Commission Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)	Mr Jon Kurland (United States of America)

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Mr Paul Ryall	Mr Jon Kurland
Mr Neil Davis	Mr Robert Alverson
Mr Peter DeGreef	Mr Richard Yamada

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APPENDIX IV**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS FROM THE 14TH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS014)*****RECOMMENDATIONS***

Nil

REQUESTS***2025 AND 2026-29 FISS DESIGNS***

- SS014-Req.01 ([para. 5](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** the Secretariat provide an intersessional decision paper no later than 7 November 2024, containing the following elements:
- a) A 2025 FISS design the combines Options 2 and 3 from paper [IPHC-2024-SS014-03](#) (Table 3; 2A(1), 2B (1), 2C (1), 3A(2), 3B(2), 4A/4B(1));
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