



Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2024)

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1 PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with a report on the IPHC Secretariat activities in 2024 not already contained within other papers before the Commission.

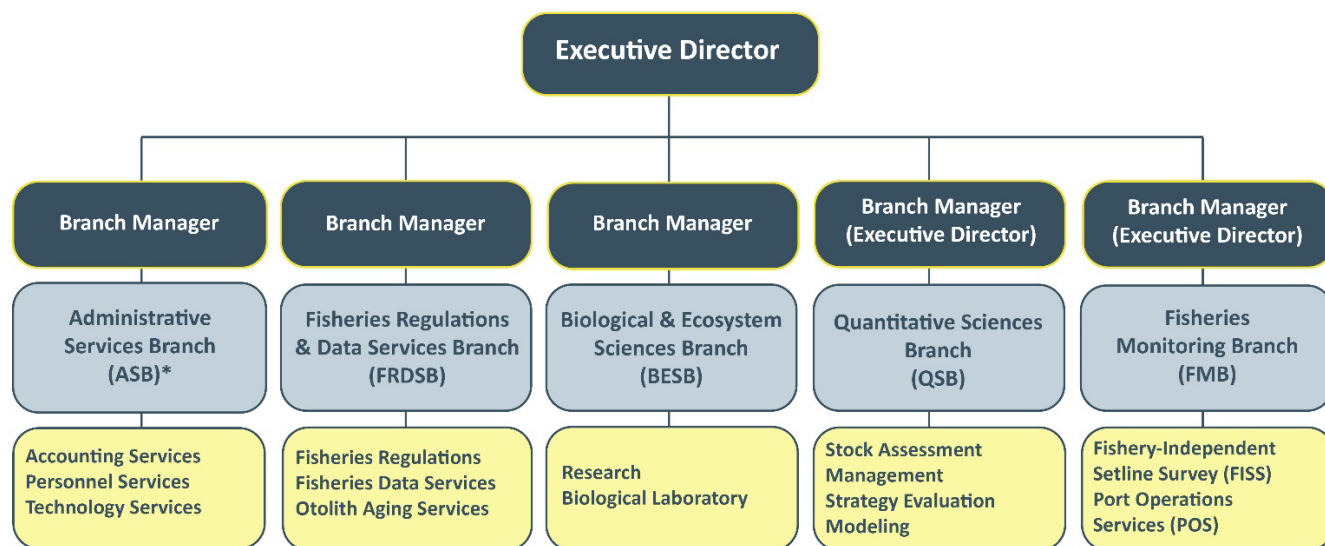
2 IPHC SECRETARIAT 2024

The IPHC is a public international organization so designated via Presidential Executive Order 11059 and established by a Convention between Canada and the United States of America. The IPHC Convention was signed on 2 March 1923, ratified on 21 July 1924, and came into effect on **21 October 1924** upon exchange.

The basic texts of the Commission are available on [the IPHC website](#), and prescribe the mission of the organization as:

“..... to develop the stocks of [Pacific] halibut in the Convention waters to those levels which will permit the optimum yield from the fishery and to maintain the stocks at those levels.” IPHC Convention, Article I, sub-article I, para. 2).

The IPHC Secretariat, formed in support the Commission’s activities, is based in Seattle, WA, U.S.A. ([Fig. 1](#)) and currently consists of 29 fulltime positions (FTEs) and ~24-45 temporary/seasonal positions to staff our ports and research vessels ([Appendix I](#)). As our shared vision, ***the IPHC Secretariat aims to deliver positive economic, environmental, and social outcomes for the Pacific halibut resource for Canada and the U.S.A. through the application of rigorous science, innovation, and the implementation of international best practice.***



*The ASB provides administrative support functions to all Branches of the Secretariat.

Figure 1. IPHC Secretariat organisation chart (2024).

3 IPHC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: 2024

The IPHC funds full-time internships each summer. In 2024 the IPHC hosted two (2) undergraduate interns, Ms Rebecca Barsky and Mr Max Luthy, recent graduates of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and the University of California at Berkeley, respectively. The two interns have actively participated in IPHC's efforts to genotype the sex of commercial landings and to develop an automatized method for aging of otoliths using artificial intelligence, among other activities. The internship period ran from 20 May through 23 August 2024.



4 IPHC MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2024-27

The IPHC funds several Merit Scholarships to support university, technical college, and other post-secondary education for students from Canada and the United States of America who are connected to the Pacific halibut fishery. Generally, a single new scholarship valued at US\$4,000 per year is awarded every two years. The scholarships are renewable annually for the normal four-year period of undergraduate education, subject to maintenance of satisfactory academic performance.

Since the scholarships inception in 2002, the IPHC has awarded over US\$160,000 in scholarship funds to [20 recipients](#).

In 2024, the IPHC Merit Scholarship Selection Panel reviewed applications and selected an outstanding candidate from a very strong application pool, based on academic qualifications, career goals, and relationship to the Pacific halibut industry.

The Selection Panel consists of the following four (4) panelists:

- Robert Alverson (USA Commissioner)
- Peter DeGreef (Canadian Commissioner)
- Angel Drobnica (Industry representative)
- Christa Rusel (Industry representative)

The Selection Panel unanimously awarded Mr Shea Davis (Cordova, AK, USA) the 2024 IPHC Merit Scholarship. The current recipients and their expected years of receipt are provided below.

Name	2024	2025	2026	2027
Lucy Hankins (Seward, AK, USA)	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	.
Shea Davis (Cordova, AK, USA)	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000



5 MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES DURING 2024

Meeting	No.	Date	Location	Secretariat material
Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)	100 th	22 Jan	Anchorage, AK, USA	7 working papers
Annual Meeting (AM)	100th	22-26 Jan	Anchorage, AK, USA	14 working papers, 7 regulatory proposals
Conference Board (CB)	94 th	23-24 Jan	Anchorage, AK, USA	Commission papers
Processor Advisory Board (PAB)	29 th	23-24 Jan	Anchorage, AK, USA	Commission papers
Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)	19 th	1-3 May	Electronic	5 working papers
Scientific Review Board (SRB)	24 th	18-20 June	Seattle, USA & Electronic	7 working papers
Work Meeting (WM)	2024	5-6 Sept	Bellingham, USA	14 working papers
Scientific Review Board (SRB)	25 th	24-26 Sept	Seattle, USA & Electronic	8 working papers
Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)	20 th	29-30 Oct	Electronic	5 working papers
Research Advisory Board (RAB)	25 th	19-20 Nov	Seattle, USA & Electronic	5 working papers

Interim Meeting (IM)	100 th	25-26 Nov	Electronic	15 working papers 3 regulatory proposals
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6 IPHC PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS ADOPTED IN 2024

In 2024, the Commission adopted five (5) fishery regulations proposals ([IPHC-2024-AM100-R](#)) in accordance with Article III of the Convention, as follows:

6.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals

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

([par. 86](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA1](#), that provided the mortality and fishery limits framework for population at AM100 ([Appendix IV](#)).

([par. 87](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** the distributed mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by IPHC Regulatory Area, ([Table 5](#)) and sector, as provided in [Appendix IV](#). [Unanimous]

Table 5. Adopted TCEY mortality limits for 2024

Contracting Party IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (metric tonnes)
Canada Total: 2B	6.47	2,934.74
USA: 2A	1.65	748.43
USA: 2C	5.79	2,626.30
USA: 3A	11.36	5,152.81
USA: 3B	3.45	1,564.89
USA: 4A	1.61	730.28
USA: 4B	1.25	566.99
USA: 4CDE	3.70	1,678.29
United States of America Total	28.81	13,068.00
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	35.28	16,002.74

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

([par. 93](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA2](#), that provided the framework for setting fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. [Unanimous]

([par. 94](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2024 as provided below, thereby superseding the relevant portions of Section 9 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations ([Appendix V](#)) by specifying that commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas may begin no earlier than **06:00 hrs local time on 15 March 2024** and must cease at **23:59 hrs local time on 07 December 2024**. [Unanimous]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect. 19)

([par. 95](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA3 Rev_2](#) that incorporates revisions to IPHC-2024-AM100-PropA3 Rev_1, to para. 5(f), that updated and aligned log requirements for Contracting Parties in the IPHC Fishery Regulations ([Appendix VI](#)). [Unanimous]

6.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals

IPHC Fishery Regulations: 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 (USA)

([par. 96](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM100-PropB1 Rev 1](#), that included charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A reflective of mortality limits adopted by the IPHC and resulting allocations under the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. ([Appendix VII](#)). [Unanimous]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: IPHC Fishery Regulations: IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5), and In-Season Actions (Sect. 6) - In-season reallocation of recreational limits in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (USA)

([par. 97](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2024-AM0100-PropB2](#), that made a clarifying modification to IPHC Fishery Regulations, Section 5 (Mortality and Fishery Limits) and Section 6 (In-Season Actions) reflective of changes to the Catch Sharing Plan that allocates the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Pacific halibut catch limit ([Appendix VIII](#)). [Unanimous]

7 INTERACTIONS WITH CONTRACTING PARTIES

7.1 Contracting Party reports

The IPHC Secretariat engages annually with agency representatives from both Contracting Parties regarding comprehensive reporting of all forms of Pacific halibut removals. The IPHC Secretariat is working to identify and address data gaps in reporting, as well as enhance data collection processes. In 2024, the focus was on preparing for accepting logbook data from the vessels engaged in commercial fishing in Alaska reported through approved electronic logbooks (eLogs).

7.2 Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Multiyear permit for the IPHC survey in Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area

In May 2022, the Archipelago Management Board (AMB) approved the application the DFO put forward to permit multi-year approvals for the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) in Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area (NMCA). What this means is that the IPHC has approval to fish the FISS stations within Gwaii Haanas for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 FISS without having to annually apply for these permissions when they apply for their Canadian scientific licences.

Areas of conservation concern

The IPHC Secretariat continues to work with the DFO representatives to address gaps in coverage for the IPHC FISS in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. Currently, the FISS license excludes Marine Protected Areas as described by Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound

Glass Sponge Reefs Marine Protected Areas Regulations, and Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs).

Memorandum of Understanding/Collective Agreement – Rockfish

This agreement has been put on hold for 2024 by DFO.

Northern Shelf Bioregion

The action plan for the development of a network of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the Northern Shelf Bioregion is a collaborative partnership between the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia and First Nations. The action plan supports implementation of the Reconciliation Framework Agreements. The MPA Network zones have been organized into three implementation categories with category 1 zones targeted for establishment by 2025. The [What We Heard report](#) summarizes feedback from the public on the policy direction presented in the Coastal Marine Strategy for British Columbia Policy Intentions Paper.

While detailed management plans for individual MPAs within the network remain in the planning phase, the Secretariat follows the process in relation to network's overlap with FISS (see [Fig. 2](#)). Proposed extension of the network covers 29 FISS stations. The current zoning consultations include the Area of Interest in the Kitkatla Inlet area that do not have an overlap with FISS ([Fig. 3](#)).

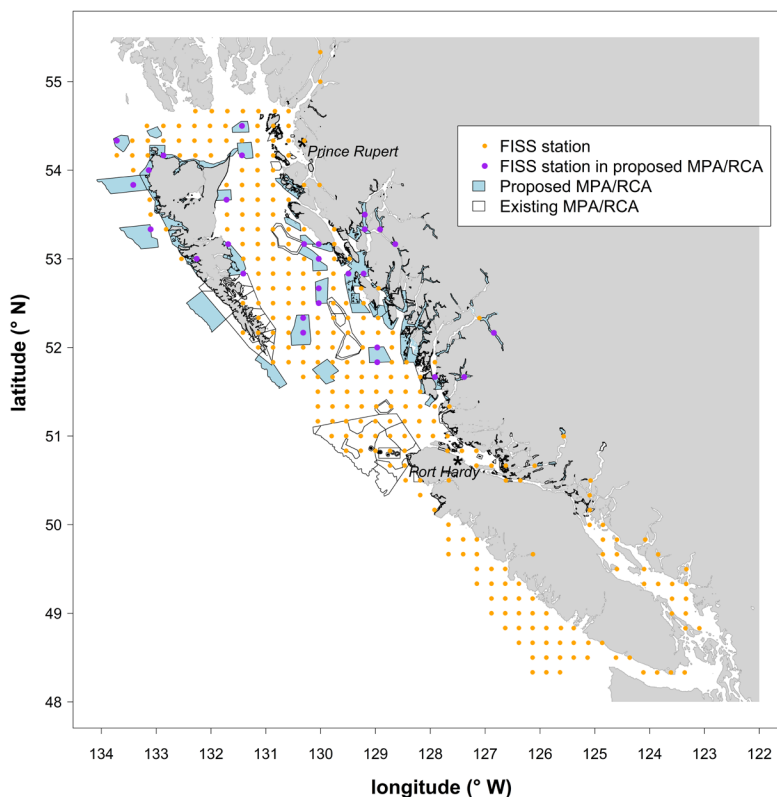


Figure 2: Overlap between locations of FISS stations and proposed area of the Northern Shelf Bioregion.

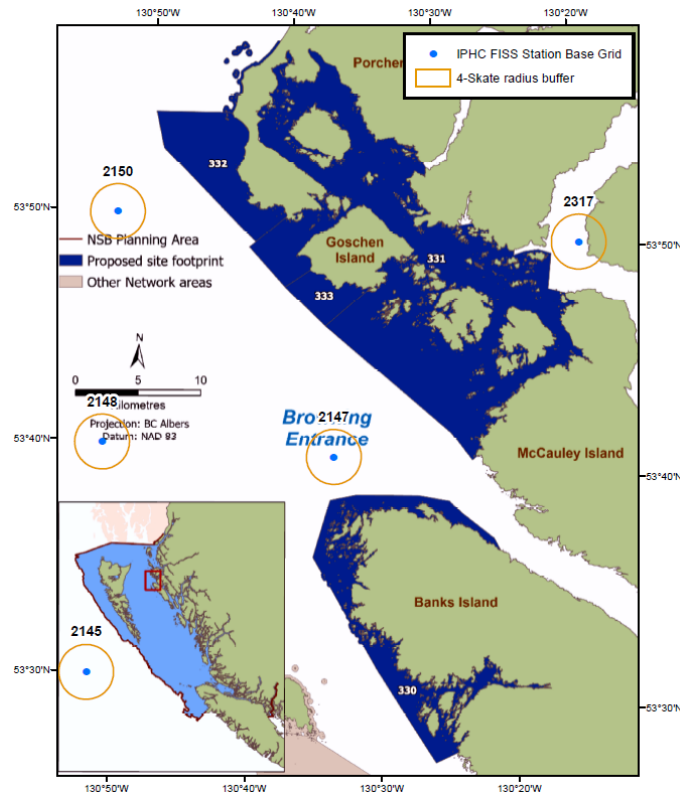


Figure 3: Kitkatla Inlet Area of Interest overlap with IPHC FISS Stations.

Proposed Central Coast National Marine Conservation Area Reserve

Proposed Central Coast National Marine Conservation Area Reserve is a partnership between Parks Canada and six First Nations: Wuikinuxv, Nuxalk, Kitasoo Xai'xais, Heiltsuk, Gitxaala and Gitga'at Nations. The area in question falls within the Northern Shelf Bioregion Network (Fig. 4). At this stage, the government of Canada, through Parks Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the province of British Columbia, and the Nations are collaboratively assessing the potential conservation benefits and socio-economic implications of establishing a marine reserve in the region.

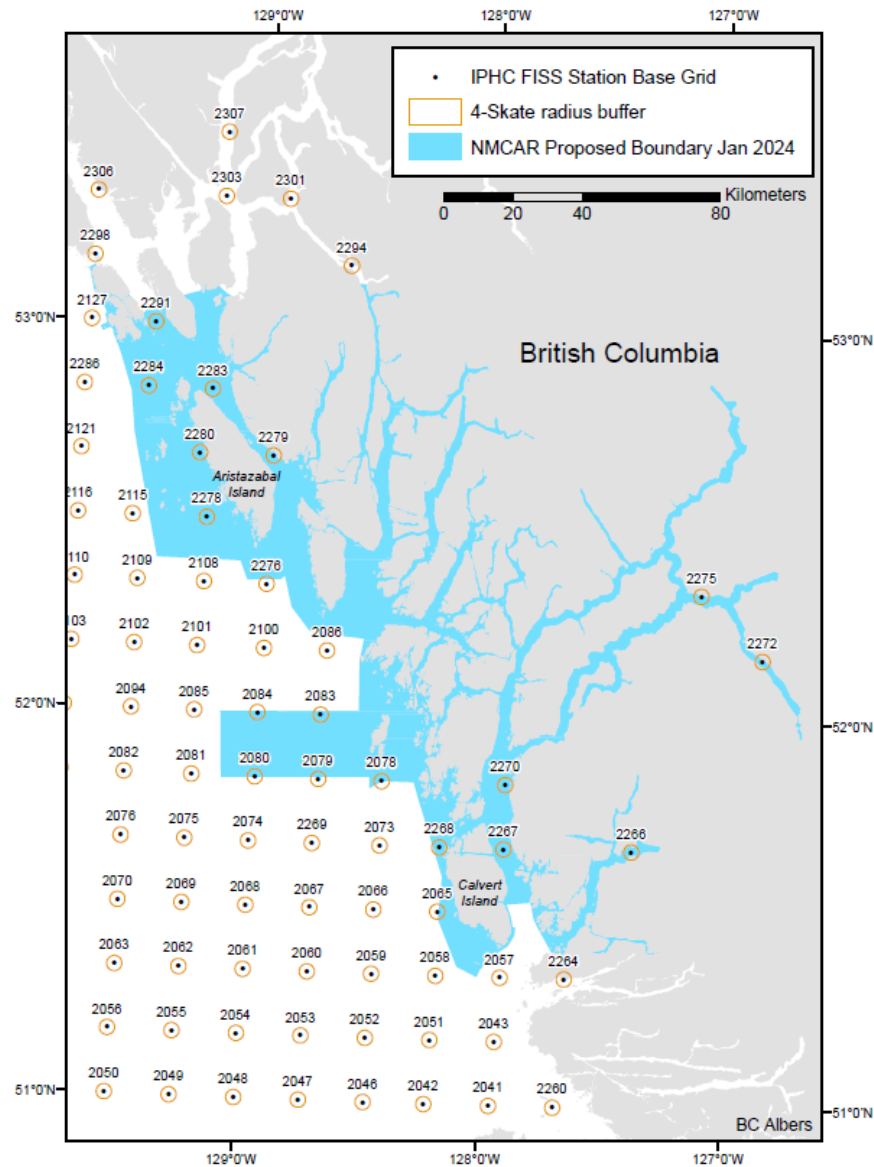


Figure 4: Central Coast National Marine Conservation Area with IPHC Standard Grid Stations

Trawl electronic monitoring

Pacific halibut length sampling protocol was developed in collaboration with industry, AMR, after discussions with IPHC. Pilot began in September 2023 and fleetwide implementation commenced on 15 May 2024.

Halibut Advisory Board (HAB)

The Executive Director (Dr. Wilson) participates as a HAB member, with the Fisheries Regulations and Data Services Branch manager (Dr. Hutniczak) as the IPHC alternate. This relationship is expected to continue into the future given the HAB's contributions to the Canadian decision-making process.

7.3 United States of America

NOAA Fisheries

Electronic logbooks in Alaska

Since 2024, the IPHC has been conducting a trial of electronic equivalents of IPHC logbooks in Alaska. These logbooks, based on a system previously approved by NOAA Fisheries as an electronic replacement for the Catcher Vessel Longline and Pot Gear Daily Fishing Logbook (DFL), provide vessels with the option to record fishing activity in electronic format.

The tablets with logbook software are part of a fully operational system that enables direct tablet-to-tablet data transmission, eliminating the need for paper records. Data collected through the tablets are verified by IPHC Fisheries Data Specialists (Field) in ports using custom log verification software. This software is fully compatible with existing DFL logbooks, allowing seamless electronic verification of both IPHC and DFL data.

To support the trial, the IPHC procured eight tablets preloaded with the software and distributed them to participating vessels.

NMFS Proposed Rule on Confidentiality of Information

The IPHC Secretariat is monitoring potential impact on the organization of the [NMFS Proposed Rule on Confidentiality of Information](#) published on 11 March 2024. Proposed rule § 600.10 Definitions state that “Fishing effort, catch information, and other forms of vessel-specific information that the United States must provide to a Regional Fishery Management Organization (RFMO) to which the United States is a member in order to satisfy any information sharing obligations of the respective RFMO” is excluded from confidential information definition.

Management in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

The Secretariat has a [data sharing agreement with NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region to access confidential data](#), including:

- All non-trawl logbook data submissions that include landings or discards of Pacific halibut, either sourced from the electronic application (FishVue Float) or paper logbooks, which are currently located in a data system maintained by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PacStates); and
- All permit data for directed commercial fishery, recreational charter fishery, incidental salmon troll, and incidental longline sablefish fishery permits for Pacific halibut, which are currently located in a data system maintained by NOAA Fisheries.

These data are essential for efficient fulfilment of tasks related to collection of biological sampling and compiling log data for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. Agreement has been signed on 16 October 2023 and is valid for five years.

Nomination of the Alaġum Kanuuġ (Heart of the Ocean) for consideration as a new national marine sanctuary

In June 2022, NOAA announced nomination of the Alaġum Kanuuġ (Heart of the Ocean) for consideration as a new national marine sanctuary ([87 FR 34851](#)), which was the first phase of the of the Pribilof Island Marine Island Ecosystem (PRIME) initiative. The IPHC will monitor the progress of the designation for potential implications for FISS survey.

Abundance-Based Management of Pacific halibut in the Bering Sea

On 24 November 2023, NOAA Fisheries issued a final rule to implement Amendment 123 to the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands management area ([88 FR 82740](#)). The final rule establishes abundance-based management of Amendment 80 (A80) trawl sector prohibited species catch (PSC) limit for Pacific halibut. The rule became effective on 1 January 2024, reducing the A80 PSC limit by 20% from 2023. For determining 2025 Pacific halibut PSC limits IPHC provided an index of abundance from the FISS to the NOAA Alaska Regional Office on 19 November 2024 indicating that this index remains in the “low” category for setting PSC limits in 2025. However, due to a drop in the NOAA Fisheries Eastern Bering Sea trawl survey index, moving it from the high to the low category, the ABM rule will further reduce the A80 sector’s PSC limit for a total of a 25% reduction from 2023.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

At the meeting in February 2024, the IPHC presented to the Council the outcomes of the 100th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100) ([B8 PPT](#)).

At the meeting in June 2024, NOAA Fisheries provided an update on the implementation of the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE), including proposed modifications. These include using the eFish platform to collect fees (as opposed to contracting with the RQE to perform this task), issuing electronic stamps to charter operators, and replacing the tiered fee structure with a single-fee approach. The Council will be asked to provide recommendations on these proposals in the subsequent meetings. More details are available in the [B2 Discussion paper](#).

At the same meeting, the Council was presented with an Action Memo on Area 4 vessel caps ([C3 Action Memo](#)). The Council moved an action on halibut IFQ vessel use caps in Area 4 on for final review with several changes to the purpose and need statement for action and several revisions to the alternatives considered. This action considers a long-term change for creating new vessel caps specific to halibut IFQ Regulatory Area 4. This action is being considered to increase utilization of quota and fishery revenues in Area 4 by providing additional harvest opportunities for vessels that were constrained by the previous vessel use cap while maintaining the Council’s objectives for the IFQ program to provide entry level opportunities and support sustained participation by fishery dependent communities.

During the December 2024 meeting, the Council recommended a suite of management measures (such as bag limits, size restrictions, and day-of-the-week closures) for the charter Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A ([C4 CM](#)). These measures, intended for implementation in 2025, are designed to ensure compliance with the sector’s

allocation under the NPFMC Catch Sharing Plan following from the final decision by the Commission on the mortality limits. Details are presented in the regulatory proposal B1 (IPHC-2025-AM101-PropB1).

At the same meeting, the Council considered the IFQ Program Review report ([D5 IFQ Program Review](#)) and agreed to accept it after revisions recommended by the IFQ Committee, Advisory Panel, and Council discussions where practicable. The Council also recommended further analysis of the economic and management effects of the current IPHC minimum size regulation on participants in the IFQ program.

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

At the meeting in March 2024, the IPHC presented to the Council the outcomes of the 100th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100) ([G.1.a PPT](#)).

Incidental Catch Limits for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries

Adopted in March 2024, the Council's final recommendation for the 2024 incidental Pacific halibut catch restrictions in the fixed gear fishery north of Point Chehalis beginning 1 April was 130 pounds of dressed weight halibut for every 1,000 pounds dressed weight of sablefish, plus 2 additional halibut in excess of the ratio, which was consistent with the Groundfish Advisory Subpanel recommendations.

Incidental Catch Limits for Salmon Troll Fishery

Under the Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan, the salmon troll fishery is provided a portion of the non-tribal commercial Pacific halibut allocation for incidental retention of Pacific halibut. In April 2024, the Council adopted catch ratio and vessel limits for incidental Pacific halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery which are effective from 16 May 2024 through the end of the 2024 salmon troll fishery, and beginning 1 April 2025, until modified through in season action or superseded by the 2025 management measures. License holders may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 Pacific halibut landed per trip.

2A Pacific Halibut Catch Sharing Plan and the structure of the non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery

At the meeting in December, the Council adopted the 2025 Area 2A Pacific halibut fisheries season structures for the 2025 non-Tribal directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery and Washington, Oregon, and California sport fisheries. Details are available in the [Decision Summary Document](#).

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) offshore wind planning activities

On 30 April 2024, the Department of Interior announced proposed auction details and lease terms for two areas offshore the Oregon coast for offshore wind energy development. The IPHC reviewed the revised area in relation to its overlap with FISS (see [Fig. 5](#)). While the original Call encompassed eight stations, the currently proposed area does not overlap with any FISS station.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has also received two unsolicited lease proposals for offshore wind farms along Washington's coast. One would cover an area of about 315 square miles about 45 miles off the coast of Grays Harbor and Pacific counties. The other seeks to lease 403 square miles in a nearby area about 17 miles off the coast. This development is [opposed by the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission](#) (17 July 2024), and the IPHC is monitoring the progress of the proposals with respect to FISS overlap.

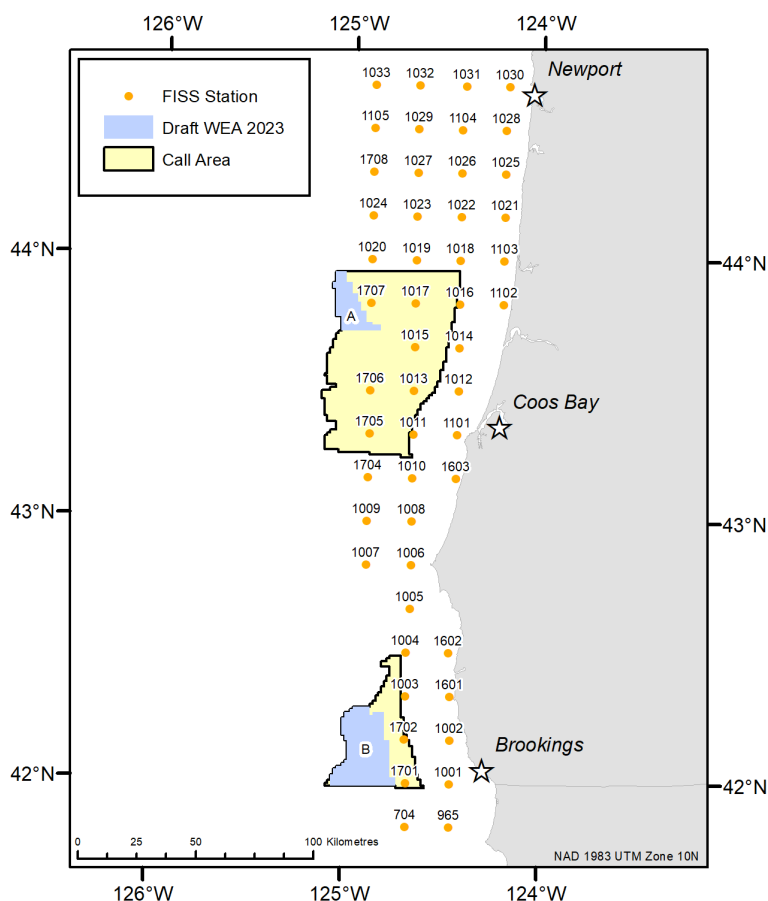


Figure 5. Overlap between locations of FISS stations and proposed area for offshore wind energy development off the Oregon Coast.

Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC)

Pacific cod and Pacific spiny dogfish sampling agreement

NOAA Fisheries, through the Alaska Fisheries Science Center (AFSC), requested sex and length data from Pacific spiny dogfish and length data from Pacific cod from all FISS stations surveyed in 2024. The IPHC has been collecting these data from Pacific spiny dogfish since 2011, from Pacific cod in the Bering Sea since 2007 and from Pacific cod in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) since 2017. In 2024, the IPHC FISS team collected 2,264 lengths of Pacific cod and 958 lengths/sex of Pacific spiny dogfish as a part of this agreement.

[Data sharing agreement with the Fisheries Monitoring Division](#)

The Secretariat has a standing data sharing agreement with the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center Fisheries Monitoring Division to obtain confidential information from commercial fisheries observers and electronic monitoring systems, including haul information: fishing gear, location, date and time, lengths of specimens and species composition.

Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC)

The Secretariat has a standing [data sharing agreement with the Northwest Fisheries Science Center](#) to obtain confidential data from commercial fishing vessels observed by the West Coast Groundfish Observer Program (WCGOP) or the At-sea Hake Observer Program (A-SHOP). This includes haul-level observer data: fishing vessel information, gear used, Pacific halibut catch, catch of other species, species biological data (e.g. length, weight, sex), mortality assessments, haul locations, tow or soak time duration, depth, date, and time.

State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

The Secretariat has an active [Memorandum of Understanding](#) with the State of Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC), the objective of which is to provide a framework in which the IPHC's commercial Pacific halibut landing record data may be utilized and published by CFEC.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

[Memorandum of Understanding – Rockfish](#)

The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding with the WDFW is to 1) collect and utilize catch and biological sample data from species caught during FISS; 2) agree on how proceeds from the sale of Pacific halibut, rockfish and Pacific cod will be disbursed; and 3) lay forth the financial obligations associated with undertaking additional FISS stations, as requested by the WDFW, to survey rockfish populations off the Washington coastline.

Surveying rockfish index stations in Washington was put on hold in 2024.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

[Data sharing agreement with California Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)

The IPHC and the CDFW entered into a data sharing agreement for the purpose of tracking all Pacific halibut removals from within Convention waters. The agreement provides the Secretariat with access to commercial landing receipt data from California. The agreement, effective 16 June 2023, is valid for two years.

8 IPHC PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH

8.1 IPHC Website

The IPHC Secretariat continues to develop new ways to display data and statistics for our stakeholders and other interested parties, focusing particularly on the addition of timely and useful visual displays such as those listed below. In 2023, the IPHC Secretariat migrated our

website to a new platform with added and simplified updating and design features and this was expanded in 2024.

1) Directed commercial fisheries:

<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/commercial-fisheries>

2) Fishery-independent setline survey (FISS):

<https://www.iphc.int/data/datatest/fishery-independent-setline-survey-fiss>

3) Non-Directed Commercial Discard Mortality Fisheries:

<https://www.iphc.int/data/datatest/non-directed-commercial-discard-mortality-fisheries>

4) Geospatial Data:

<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/data/geospatial-data>

5) Recreational Fisheries:

<https://www.iphc.int/data/datatest/pacific-halibut-recreational-fisheries-data>

6) Time Series Data Sets:

<https://www.iphc.int/data/time-series-datasets>

7) Subsistence Fisheries:

<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/subsistence-fisheries>

8) Water Column Profiler Data:

<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/data/water-column-profiler-data>

8.2 Annual Report

The 2023 Annual Report (1 January to 31 December 2023) was published on 28 March 2024 and is available for download from the IPHC website at the following link: <https://www.iphc.int/uploads/2024/03/IPHC-2024-AR2023-R-2023-Annual-Report.pdf>.

The 2024 Annual Report is expected to be published by 1 March 2025.

8.3 IPHC Circulars and Media Releases

2024 IPHC Circulars continue to serve as the formal inter-sessional communication mechanism for the Commission. Circulars are used to announce meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as well as inter-sessional decisions made by the Commission. The following are those published in 2024, and a full list may be accessed via the following weblink: <https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/circulars>

Circular	Title/Subject	Date published
IPHC-2024-CR-001	Report of the 100 th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC100)	23 Jan 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-002	Financial Regulations 2024 and Rules of Procedure 2024	24 Jan 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-003	Report of the 29 th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory	25 Jan 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-004	Report of the 94 th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB094)	25 Jan 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-005	Report of the 100 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100)	26 Jan 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-006	Invitation to the 19 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB019)	30 Jan 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-007	For Decision – 2024 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	14 Feb 2024

IPHC-2024-CR-008	For Information – Intersessional Decision 2024-ID001 – 2024 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	15 Feb 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-009	Invitation to the 24th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB024)	21 Mar 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-010	Publication of the IPHC Annual Report 2023 (IPHC-2024-AR2023-R)	28 Mar 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-011	FOR DECISION – MSAB MEMBERSHIP (for approval)	29 Apr 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-012	FOR INFORMATION – Intersessional decision 2024-ID002 – MSAB Membership	1 May 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-013	Report of the 19th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB019)	3 May 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-014	Invitation to the 2024 Session of the IPHC Work Meeting (WM2024)	7 Jun 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-015	FOR INFORMATION – Intersessional Decisions 2024-ID003-007 Management Strategy Evaluation Tasks for 2024	11 Jun 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-016	Invitation to the 25th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB025)	12 Jun 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-017	Report of the 24th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB024)	20 Jun 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-018	For Decision – FY2025 Budget (For Approval), FY2026 and FY2027 (For Provisional Endorsement)	3 Jul 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-019	For Information – Intersessional Decision 2024-ID008 FY2025 Budget (Adopted), FY2026 and FY2027 (Provisionally Endorsed)	9 Jul 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-020	Invitation to the 20 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB020)	29 Jul 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-021	IPHC Merit Scholarship Recipient	12 Aug 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-022	Invitation to the 25 th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025)	14 Aug 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-023	Invitation to the 100 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM100)	22 Aug 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-024	Report of the 25 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB025)	26 Sep 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-025	Invitation to the 14 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS014)	15 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-026	Invitation to the 101 st Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC101), and the 101 st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101)	29 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-027	Invitation to the 95 th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB095), and the 30 th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB030)	30 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-028	Report of the 20 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB020)	31 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-029	Report of the 14 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS014)	4 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-030	For Decision – FISS 2025 Design	5 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-031	For Information – Intersessional Decisions 2024-ID009 – ID010 FISS 2025 Design	8 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-032	Report of the 25 th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025)	20 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-CR-033	Report of the 100 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM100)	26 Nov 2024

2024 IPHC Media Releases are the primary informal communication with all stakeholders.
<https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/media-releases>

Media Release	Title/Subject	Date published
IPHC-2024-MR001	Completion of the 100th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100)	26 Jan 2024
IPHC-2024-MR002	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey – 2024	15 Feb 2024
IPHC-2024-MR003	Notification of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) 2024 Contract Awards	16 Feb 2024
IPHC-2024-MR004	Solicitation for the 2024 IPHC Merit Scholarship	28 Feb 2024
IPHC-2024-MR005	IPHC Requests Tenders for the 2024 Catch Protection Study (CPS)	28 Feb 2024
IPHC-2024-MR006	Notification of potential Pacific halibut sales in 2024, seeking buyers interested in fish sales from the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	6 Mar 2024
IPHC-2024-MR007	Commercial fishing period opening today	15 Mar 2024
IPHC-2024-MR008	Electronic logbooks in Alaska	19 Mar 2024
IPHC-2024-MR009	Ongoing and recent Pacific halibut tagging studies	22 Mar 2024
IPHC-2024-MR010	Open call for expressions of interest: IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) membership	8 Apr 2024
IPHC-2024-MR011	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS): 2024	24 May 2024
IPHC-2024-MR012	IPHC Merit Scholarship (2024) APPLICATIONS CLOSING 15 JUNE 2024	4 Jun 2024
IPHC-2024-MR013	Commencement of the electronic logbooks trial in Alaska	16 Jul 2024
IPHC-2024-MR014	IPHC Merit Scholarship (2024) - AWARDED	12 Aug 2024
IPHC-2024-MR015	Attention Salmon Processors – Chum Salmon Needed for the 2025 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	13 Sept 2024
IPHC-2024-MR016	Call for Proposals: IPHC 2024-25 Fishery Regulations process	19 Sept 2024
IPHC-2024-MR017	Fall IPHC Fecundity Pilot Study Request for Tender	20 Sept 2024
IPHC-2024-MR018	Invitation to the 14 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS014)	15 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-MR019	Invitation to the 101 st Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC101), and the 101 st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101)	29 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-MR020	Launch of new mobile-friendly Pacific halibut tag reporting tool	13 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-MR021	Commercial Fishing Period Closes On 7 December 2024	6 Dec 2024
IPHC-2024-MR022	IPHC Requests Tenders for the 2025 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	13 Dec 2024
IPHC-2024-MR023	IPHC Requests Tenders for the 2025 Catch Protection Study (CPS)	13 Dec 2024

All interested persons are encouraged to request that their email addresses be added to IPHC distribution lists at the following link: <https://www.iphc.int/media-news-subscription/>.

8.4 IPHC external engagement

There is a considerable amount of effort put into public outreach, attending conferences and meetings that enhance knowledge, contributing expertise to the broader scientific community through participation on boards and committees, and seeking further education and training.

Committees and external organisation appointments

North America:

- 1) *Canada – U.S. Groundfish Technical Committee* - Dr. Josep Planas

Canada:

- 1) *Halibut Advisory Board* (Canada) - Dr. David Wilson (Dr. Basia Hutniczak – Alternate)

United States of America:

- 1) *Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands Plan Team* - Dr. Allan Hicks
- 2) *Bering Sea Fishery Ecosystem Plan Team* - Dr. Ian Stewart
- 3) *NPFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee* - Dr. Ian Stewart
- 4) *North Pacific Research Board Science Panel* - Dr. Josep Planas
- 5) *Marine Resource Education Program, North Pacific* – Dr. Allan Hicks
- 6) *Fisheries Monitoring Science Committee (NOAA-Alaska)* – Dr. Ray Webster
- 7) *Interagency electronic reporting system for commercial fishery landings in Alaska (eLandings) Steering Committee* – Dr. Basia Hutniczak
- 8) *Benchmark workshop on Mackerel and Norwegian spring-spawning herring (WKBMACNSSH), reviewer.* – Dr. Allan Hicks

Academic affiliations 2024

Affiliate Faculty:

- 1) Dr. Allan Hicks - University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2) Dr. Ian Stewart - University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 3) Dr. Josep Planas - Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK, USA

Graduate student committee member:

- 1) Dr. Allan Hicks - University of Massachusetts School for Marine Science & Technology, Dartmouth, MA, USA
- 2) Dr. Allan Hicks - University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 3) Dr. Ian Stewart - University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 4) Dr. Josep Planas - Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK, USA

9 IPHC PUBLICATIONS IN 2024

9.1 Published peer-reviewed journal papers

Dykstra, C., Wolf, N., Harris, B.P., **Stewart, I.J.**, **Hicks, A.**, Restrepo, F., **Planas, J.V.** 2024. Relating capture and physiological conditions to viability and survival of Pacific halibut discarded from commercial longline gear. *Ocean & Coastal Management*. 249: 107018. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2024.107018>

Sadorus, L. L., **Webster, R. A.** and Sullivan, M. 2024. Environmental conditions on the Pacific halibut fishing grounds obtained from a decade of coastwide oceanographic monitoring, and the potential application of these data in stock analyses. *Marine and Freshwater Research*. 75: MF23175. <https://doi.org/10.1071/MF23175>.

- Simchick, C.**, Simeon, A., Bolstad, K., **Planas, J.V.** 2024. Endocrine patterns associated with ovarian development in female Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*). General and Comparative Endocrinology. 347: 114425. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ygcen.2023.114425>
- Thomas, R.E., Gauthier, S., Grandin, C., **Hicks, A.**, Parker-Stetter, S. 2024 To trawl or not to trawl: Questioning core assumptions of trawl placement choice in fisheries acoustic surveys. Fisheries Research. 270: 106897. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fishres.2023.106897>
- Hutniczak, B., Wilson, D., Stewart, I., Hicks, A.** 2024. A hundred years of Pacific halibut management in the context of global events. Frontiers in Marine Science. 11:1424002. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2024.1424002>

9.2 In press peer-reviewed journal papers

9.3 Submitted peer-review journal papers – In review

- McGilliard, C.R., Ianelli, J., Cunningham, C., **Hicks, A.**, Hanselman, D., Stram, D., Henry, A. Evaluating Bering Sea Pacific halibut bycatch management options using closed-loop simulations in a dynamic, multi-agency setting. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.
- Ritchie, B., Smeltz, T.S., **Stewart, I.J.**, Harris, B., Wolf, N. Exploring spatial and temporal patterns in the size-at-age of Pacific halibut in the Gulf of Alaska. Fisheries Management and Ecology.
- Adams, G., Holsman, K., Rovellini, A., **Stewart, I.J.**, Privitera-Johnson, K., Wasserman, S.N., Punt, A. Implications of predator-prey dynamics for single species management. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences.

10 RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2025-AM101-04 Rev_1 that provides the Commission with an update on the IPHC Secretariat activities in 2024 not detailed in other papers before the Commission.

11 APPENDICES

[Appendix I](#): IPHC Secretariat positions – Effective 31 December 2024



Appendix I
IPHC Secretariat positions – Effective 31 December 2024

(<https://www.iphc.int/locations/map>)

Branch	Sub-Section	Position	Current Employee
-	-	Executive Director	Dr Wilson, David
Quantitative Sciences	-	Quantitative Scientist (Stock Assessment)	Dr Stewart, Ian
Quantitative Sciences	-	Quantitative Scientist (Management Strategy Evaluation)	Dr Hicks, Allan
Quantitative Sciences	-	Quantitative Scientist (Biometrician)	Dr Webster, Raymond
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Branch Manager (Biological and Ecosystem Sciences)	Dr Planas, Josep
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Research Biologist (Mortality and Survivorship)	Dykstra, Claude
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Research Biologist Genetics	Jasonowicz, Andrew
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Research Biologist (Life History)	Jones, Colin
Biological and Ecosystem Sciences	-	Biological Science Laboratory Technician	Simchick, Crystal
Fisheries Monitoring	Port Operations Services	Port Operations Coordinator	Thom, Monica
Fisheries Monitoring	Port Operations Services	Fisheries Data Specialist (Field)	Multiple Employees (9-10)
Fisheries Monitoring	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Coordinator	Ualesi, Kayla
Fisheries Monitoring	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Specialist (Snr)	Jack, Tyler
Fisheries Monitoring	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Specialist	Rillera, Rachel
Fisheries Monitoring	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Specialist	Coll, Kevin
Fisheries Monitoring	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey	Setline Survey Specialist (Field)	Multiple Employees (10-35)
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	-	Branch Manager (FRDS)	Dr Hutniczak, Barbara

Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Fisheries Data Services	Fisheries Data Coordinator	Tran, Huyen
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Fisheries Data Services	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ-GIS)	Kong, Thomas
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Fisheries Data Services	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ) & Otolith Technician	Sawyer Van Vleck, Kim
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Fisheries Data Services	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ) & Otolith Technician	Magrane, Kelsey
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Otolith Aging Services	Otolith Laboratory Technician (Snr)	Forsberg, Joan
Fisheries Regulations and Data Services	Otolith Aging Services	Otolith Laboratory Technician	Johnston, Chris
Administrative Services	-	Branch Manager (Administrative Services Branch)	Vacant
Administrative Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Coordinator	Chapman, Kelly
Administrative Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Specialist / Publications (Snr)	Coluccio, Tara
Administrative Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Specialist	Wietecha, Ola
Administrative Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Specialist (Front Desk)	Wickham, Kenneth
Administrative Services	Accounting Services	Accountants	Sommerville & Associates
Administrative Services	Accounting Services	Administrative Services (Accounting)	Arian, Mohammad
Administrative Services	Technology Services	Systems Administrator	Tynes, Robert
Administrative Services	Technology Services	Information Technology Specialist (Application Developer)	Taheri, Afshin
Administrative Services	Technology Services	Information Technology Specialist (Application Developer)	Outsourced