



Report of the 95th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB095)

Vancouver, BC, Canada, 28-30 January 2025

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ACRONYMS

AM	Annual Meeting, of the IPHC
CB	Conference Board
FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
FISS	Fishery-independent setline survey
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
TCEY	Total Constant Exploitation Yield
WPUE	Weight Per Unit Effort

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 95th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Conference Board (CB095) was held in Vancouver, BC, Canada from 28-30 January 2025. A total of 56 (62 in 2024) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by Mr. Jim Lane (Canada) and Ms. Linda Behnken (U.S.A.) (Co-Chairpersons), who welcomed participants.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the CB095, which are provided at [Appendix IV](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

(Note: The CB did not recommend mortality limits for 2025. See Section 5 for discussion)

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

CB095-Rec.01 ([para. 20](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** a commercial fishing period closing date in 2025 of 7 December, at 23:59 hrs local time. The proposed motion was passed by members from both countries: [*Canada: In favour=22; against=1; abstain=0; U.S.A.: In favour=23; against=6; abstain=3*].

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))

CB095-Rec.02 ([para. 39](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropB1](#), 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. The CB raised no objections on the proposed framework and **NOTED** that the proposal was extensively vetted through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process.

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5) – definition of reaction to overfishing

CB095-Rec.03 ([para. 51](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** the Commission direct the MSAB to use the MSE process to evaluate management procedures that will avoid coastwide, and possibly biological region level, biological reference points (relative and/or absolute) with a to be determined degree of probability, especially under a low productivity regime. [*Canada: In favour=23; against=0; abstain=0; U.S.A.: In favour=24; against=7; abstain=2*].

Other business: Habitat research

CB095-Rec.04 ([para. 60](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** that Commissioners conduct a review and as needed research to identify spawning and nursery areas of biological importance to the Pacific halibut stock to determine whether management actions to protect these areas, including temporal actions, could benefit stock production and increase abundance of the Pacific halibut stock.

Other business: Implementation of electronic logbooks in Alaska

CB095-Rec.05 ([para. 63](#)) **NOTING** that RTD/Deckhand is offering tablets free of charge to fishers in Alaska who would like to participate in the electronic logbook data program, the CB **RECOMMENDED** that Alaska fishers reach out to IPHC or RTD/Deckhand to take part in the program.

The full recording of the CB095 is available to the following link: [IPHC-2025-CB095-Audio recordings](#)

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 95th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Conference Board (CB095) was held in Vancouver, BC, Canada from 28-30 January 2025. A total of 56 (62 in 2024) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by Mr. Jim Lane (Canada) and Ms Linda Behnken (U.S.A.) (Co-Chairpersons), who welcomed participants.

1.1 Accreditation of CB Membership (2021-25): new members

2. The CB **ENDORSED** the accreditation of 3 new members in accordance with the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2024\)](#), Appendix IV Conference Board (CB) - Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, Section II, paras. 4 and 5, for participation in the 2025 Conference Board proceedings, as detailed in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Accredited new CB members.

Number	CB Member	Representative	Initial accreditation date	5-year accreditation expiry
Canada				
1	Sechelt Fishing Company (SFC)	Kristopher Anderson	28 Jan 2025	CB in 2026
USA				
1	Magic Fish Company (MFC)	Michael Laukitis	28 Jan 2025	CB in 2026
2	Puget Sound Anglers - Ocean Chapter (PSA)	Dave Johnson	28 Jan 2025	CB in 2026

3. The CB **ENDORSED** the re-accreditation of 53 members (Canada: 22; USA: 31) in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2024), appendix IV, Section II, paras. 4 and 5, for participation in the 2025 Conference Board proceedings, as detailed in [Appendix I](#).
4. The CB **NOTED** that, in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2024), Appendix IV Conference Board (CB) - Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure, Section II, par. 5, the current 5-year accreditation cycle will conclude in 2025. As a result, all current CB members will need to resubmit the accreditation questionnaire for the 96th Session of the CB (CB096). The upcoming accreditation period will cover 2026–2030.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

5. The CB **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#) with the following additions:
- An update from NOAA Fisheries on the implementation of abundance-based management of Amendment 80 (A80) trawl sector, effective on 1 January 2024.
 - A discussion on the FAC request regarding proposed cost-saving measures that could impact CB meetings.
 - A discussion on habitat research.
 - An update on the implementation of electronic logbooks in Alaska.
 - A discussion of an extended season for IPHC Regulatory Area 2B.
6. The CB **NOTED** that the documents provided to the CB095 are those submitted for the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101). To assist the CB in navigating its meeting, all documents relevant to the agenda were posted as links on the CB webpage 30 days or earlier than the meeting commencement: <https://www.iphc.int/meetings/95th-session-of-the-iphc-conference-board-cb095/>.

3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

3.1 *Mortality Limits and TCEY*

7. The CB **NOTED** the presentation and questions and answers session provided by Dr. Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
8. The CB **NOTED**:
 - a) the mortality projection tool developed by Dr. Stewart: <https://www.iphc.int/projection-tool/>;
 - b) with appreciation for the stock assessment preview presented by Dr. Stewart on 14 January 2025, and **AGREED** that this should continue as an annual process.
9. The CB **NOTED** the clarifications and advice provided on the following topics:
 - a) Considerations related to the adoption of a 1.65 Mlb TCEY for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.
 - b) Implications of shifting reliance to the uncertain 2016 year-class as the primary support for the fishery without another known significant year class subsequent to 2016.
 - c) The use of the fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) to understand the distribution of stock across biological areas.
 - d) Probabilities of spawning biomass decline associated with different management decisions.
 - e) Additional risks beyond those outlined in the decision table, including:
 - i. A continued decline in commercial fishery CPUE that the model weights higher due to the higher uncertainty with the reduced FISS surveys designs over the past several years.
 - ii. Potential bias in estimated FISS trends due to recent reductions in survey design.
 - iii. The stock remaining at historically low spawning biomass and low productivity.
 - f) Continued low weight-at-age coastwide and the differences by area.
 - g) Model limitations, specifically that current models are not spatially explicit.
 - h) Winter fishing impact on Pacific halibut spawning stock aggregations.
 - i) The impact of new data on the current stock assessment, particularly noting that new fisheries data led to a downward scaling of spawning biomass estimates in this assessment.

3.2 *MSE update*

10. The CB **NOTED** the presentation and question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Allan Hicks (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
11. The CB **NOTED** the advice on the following topics:
 - a) Progress on revising objectives as part of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process.
 - b) An update on the Harvest Strategy Policy (HSP).
 - c) Evaluation of Management Procedures, including models that vary in stock assessment frequency and spawning potential ratio (SPR).
 - d) The Commission's recommendation to continue developing a pathway to facilitate the adoption of an HSP in 2025, including through a post-AM101 workshop.
 - e) General MSE recommendations.

3.3 *FISS 2025*

12. The CB **NOTED** the question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
13. The CB **NOTED** the importance of maintaining long-term robust FISS data across all IPHC Regulatory Areas and **REQUESTED** increase FISS stations as funding allows. The CB **NOTED** the FISS is no

longer revenue-neutral and calls to attention the importance of securing equitable funding for FISS from Contracting Parties.

4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

14. The CB **NOTED** a motion from Canada on fishing period opening date in 2025 of 7 March at 06:00 hrs Canadian time (recognizing this would mean that the fishery would open in Alaska at 05:00 hrs Alaska time and IPHC Regulatory Area 4B would open at 04:00 hrs). The motion passed among members from Canada: [*Canada: In favour=22; against=0; abstain=1; U.S.A.: In favour=12; against=15; abstain=6*].
15. The CB **NOTED** that the proposed opening date reflects favourable tides in Canadian waters.
16. The CB **NOTED** a motion from USA on fishing period opening date in 2025 on 10 March 06:00 Canadian time (04:00/05:00 local time in Alaska). The motion passed among members from USA. [*Canada: In favour=1; against=21; abstain=1; U.S.A.: In favour=18; against=6; abstain=8*].
17. The Canadian CB **NOTED** that the date proposed by USA CB allows only one day of favourable tides in Canadian waters.
18. The CB **NOTED** comments from NOAA Fisheries regarding the adoption process and limitations related to an earlier fishing period opening date. The CB inquired whether the fishing period could open earlier if the IPHC meeting were scheduled earlier. NOAA Fisheries indicated that an earlier opening would be possible in that case. The IPHC Secretariat indicated that the next IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102) is scheduled for an earlier date, 19–23 January 2026.
19. The CB **NOTED** the benefits of a longer fishing period, such as stronger ex-vessel prices and more time to harvest both Pacific halibut and sablefish, while also recognizing the potential for impacts on spawning stocks.
20. The CB **RECOMMENDED** a commercial fishing period closing date in 2025 of 7 December, at 23:59 hrs local time. The proposed motion was passed by members from both countries: [*Canada: In favour=22; against=1; abstain=0; U.S.A.: In favour=23; against=6; abstain=3*].
21. The CB **NOTED** the Canadian CB members' preference for a 14 December closing date to extend the season as long as possible but agreed to 7 December to reach consensus within the CB on this issue.
22. The CB **NOTED** comments from Dr. Stewart that a later fishing period closing date would result in more outstanding information for the stock assessment. However, Dr. Stewart clarified that the stock assessment has a fixed dataset closing date (30 October), and any remaining data would be processed in the following year's update using the same approach as currently applied.

5. MORTALITY LIMITS

5.1 *Coastwide perspectives*

23. The CB **NOTED** the overall concern about stock productivity throughout the Convention Area.

5.2 *Regulatory Area perspectives*

24. The CB **NOTED** concerns shared by the USA CB members regarding the lack of full station coverage in Regulatory Areas 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B and 4CDE, and impacts of being in a low productivity regime. The USA CB members also emphasized the importance of stability in fishing limits and highlighted the need for greater attention to O32 stock distribution as a basis for allocations.
25. The CB **NOTED** Canadian statement recalling that the IPHC Secretariat has stated there are no biological basis for IPHC Regulatory Areas, and that biomass distribution is a science exercise while TCEY distribution is a policy decision that is informed by science and socio-economic considerations. Canada has never accepted O32 biomass distribution as a basis for allocating the coastwide TCEY. Further, the science (via simulation-tested management procedures) shows that 20% of the coastwide TCEY could be allocated to Canada and this would not create a conservation concern for the Pacific halibut stock. Moreover, in many instances since apportionment was introduced in 2007, the USA and Canada have

agreed to deviate and have deviated from using O32 biomass distribution to distribute the coastwide TCEY between the two Contracting Parties and between USA IPHC Regulatory Areas.

26. The CB **NOTED** USA statements that MSE results on distribution procedures identified impacts on USA IPHC Regulatory Areas, including reduced spawning biomass in Region 2, resulting from long term mortality levels in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B in excess of FISS O32 abundance. These impacts most significantly impact adjacent USA IPHC Regulatory Areas such as 2C and 3A.
27. The CB **NOTED** the USA CB lack of support for Canada's harvest above modelled O32 distribution in area 2B because:
- Canada's proportional harvest is larger than O32 stock distribution in area 2B has ever been, and this larger proportional harvest was accomplished without agreement by the CB.
 - O32 abundance has always been greater in area 2C than in area 2B, and yet area 2B is taking a larger harvest.
 - The USA CB has never agreed to the concept of a national share. The USA CB stated that just as there is no biological basis for IPHC Regulatory Areas, there is no biological basis for a Canadian national share.
 - Canada's continuing to fix its TCEY to the coastwide TCEY is constraining the USA from taking larger proportional cuts for conservation.
 - Canada is only paying a small share of the IPHC's annual budget.

5.3 TCEY Recommendations

28. The CB **NOTED** the USA motion on mortality limits (TCEYs), as presented in [Table 2](#), which amounts to a coastwide reduction of 15.3%. In support, the USA CB noted that the proposed allocation reflects the need to protect fish and younger year classes, aligns with data trends from the FISS, and considers socioeconomic concerns and Treaty Rights. Some U.S.A. members expressed support for the motion but indicated that they would prefer a larger reduction overall. Other USA CB members stated opposition noting the stock remains above biological conservation limits. Non-tribal 2A CB members **NOTED** a 2% cut to the TCEY in 2A will have the effect of reversing management stability created by a consistent allocation of 1.65 million pounds. USA CB members stated strong support for each area's mortality limit being informed by the FISS distribution for that area. The motion passed among members from USA: [*Canada: In favour=0; against=23; abstain=0; U.S.A.: In favour=25; against=8; abstain=0*].
29. The CB **NOTED** area-specific rationale provided by USA CB as follows:
- 2A: the 2% decline reflects the overall decline in coastwide TCEY but is smaller to respect Treaty Rights.
 - 2B: 17% reduction is responsive to the overall decline sought by USA CB members and brings area mortality closer to - although still above - both historic and current FISS distribution.
 - 2C: 8.5% reduction in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C TCEY is very close to FISS distribution and has highest WPUE of any area.
 - 3A: the 20% cut is responsive to anecdotal fishery performance information and historic FISS performance.
 - 3B: the 15% cut is based on USA CB desire to implement a 15% coastwide cut, not an assessment of 3B's stock health or sustainability current levels. Despite concerns over the limited scope of the 2024 FIS, 3B continues to demonstrate strong productivity, holding the second-highest WPUE and the lowest harvest rate among fully utilized areas
 - 4A/4B: 16 and 15% reduction in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4A and 4B are because the areas face processing and market challenges that communities are actively working to address. WPUE has fallen considerably, but fishing intensity in these areas is low. Also, each area is below its FISS distribution

The USA CB supports a reduction to aid in stock rebuilding, reflecting conservation efforts. 4B also note the absence of relevant and recent FISS data.

- 4CDE: 15% reduction reflect rebuilding local fishery and re-establishing markets after losing local processor is extremely important to the community of St. Paul. Despite relatively stable indices, the CB supports reductions to aid in stock rebuilding

30. The CB **NOTED** mortality projections for 2025 based on the TCEYs supported by USA CB detailed in [Appendix III](#).

Table 2: Mortality limits proposed by USA CB.

	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
TCEY [Mlb]	1.62	5.37	5.30	9.09	2.93	1.35	1.06	3.15	29.87
TCEY [t]	733	2,436	2,403	4,122	1,330	613	482	1,427	13,547
% change	-2.0%	-17.0%	-8.5%	-20.0%	-15.0%	-16.0%	-15.0%	-15.0%	-15.3%

31. The CB **NOTED** Canada's lack of support for the USA's proposed distribution in Table 2, which is informed by a three-year average O32 FISS biomass distribution (see [para. 25](#) for rationale provided).

32. The CB **NOTED** the Canadian motion on mortality limit for IPHC Regulatory Area 2B representing 15% decrease resulting in TCEY of 5.5 Mlb (2,495 t). The motion passed among members from Canada. [*Canada: In favour=22; against=1; abstain=0; U.S.A.: In favour=4; against=26; abstain=3*].

33. The CB **NOTED** mortality projections for 2025 based on the TCEY supported by Canadian CB detailed in [Appendix III](#).

34. The CB **NOTED** the following rationale provided by Canadian CB in support of its motion on 5.5 Mlb TCEY:

- Pacific halibut are single coastwide population and the stock assessment is signalling several concerns, for example:
 - despite the reductions to the coastwide TCEY over the last two years, the FISS and fishery indices are at historic low levels.
 - the stock remains at a low productivity level due to low weight-at-age and low recruitment through at least 2016, and the strength of the 2016 and if it will even be above average is still in question.
 - for the first time, the probability of being below the Limit Reference Point (B20%) has risen above 1% and now stands at 11%.
 - a lack of or reduced FISS sampling in certain areas of the coast has resulted in uncertainty in both the trend and scale of the stock distribution in different IPHC Biological Regions and Regulatory Areas; and,
 - the size of the credible intervals of FISS results this year.
- The stock assessment is signalling a problem with the stock.
- In IPHC Regulatory Area 2B the fishery and FISS O32 WPUE trends both declined by 1% compared to last year but are at or near historic lows, and the reports from the commercial fleet was that the fishing was “scratchy”.
- Given the metrics and indicators in our area this year (e.g. fishery and FISS O32 WPUE trends), a 15% cut for IPHC Regulatory Area 2B may seem more than what is needed, but we need to be careful.
- In Biological Region 2, there is a problem – but there are bigger problems in other areas of the coast.
- There is a need for reduction that will make a meaningful difference – there is a need to get ahead of the stock declines and hopefully help things turn around.

- IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 2C need to be part of this to help address the problems in Biological Region 2, and all Regulatory Areas need to make meaningful cuts to address the problems in their Regions and help the coastwide population.

35. The CB **NOTED** that the USA CB did not support Canadian proposed mortality limit that is not informed by O32 distribution. Rationale is provided in [para. 27](#).

6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2023-24 PROCESS

6.1 *IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals*

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

36. The CB **NOTED** proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA1](#) and raised no objections that the Commission adopt the proposal as annual framework for setting mortality and fishery limits. See [Section 5.3](#) for a summary of discussions and recommendations for mortality and fishery limits.

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

37. The CB **NOTED** proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA2](#) and raised no objections that the Commission adopt the proposal as annual framework for setting fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. See [Section 4](#) for a summary of discussions and recommendations for commercial fishing periods.

6.1.2 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments*

38. The CB **NOTED** proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA3](#) and raised no objections that the Commission adopt IPHC Fishery Regulations that incorporate revisions to improve consistency.

6.2 *Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals*

6.2.1 *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))*

39. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropB1](#), 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. The CB raised no objections on the proposed framework and **NOTED** that the proposal was extensively vetted through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process.

6.3 *Other Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals*

6.3.1 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9) (Regulatory Area 2B)*

40. The CB **NOTED** and decided to take no action on fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC1](#), that proposed a year-round commercial Pacific halibut fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B.

41. The CB **NOTED** comments from the Canadian CB (Robert Hauknes, proponent of Proposal C1) in support of year-round fishing in Canada. Among the arguments presented were the need to cover incidental catch mortality with quota and new and existing market opportunities.

42. The CB **NOTED** that there is no conclusive evidence either way that winter fishing would not or would disturb Pacific halibut spawning grounds.

43. The CB **NOTED** additional information presented by Dr. Stewart on the potential harvest outside the main season, recognizing that port sampling would be unlikely during that time. Dr. Stewart indicated that this would likely not pose an issue for the data collection program, but no specific numbers were available.

44. The CB **NOTED** additional statistics on non-directed catch mortality in BC and discussions on whether there may be interest in allowing the retention of non-directed bycatch only by small boats.

45. The CB **AGREED** that interested Canadian CB members will meet in the interim to discuss year-round fishing in Canada in more detail and bring proposal in a revised format for discussion next year.

6.1.3 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Application of Commercial Fishery Limits (Sect. 12) – addressing concerns regarding localized depletion around St. Matthew Island

46. The CB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC2](#), that proposed closing the one-way door for Pacific halibut IFQ/CDQ holders from halibut Area 4C into Area 4D North of 60 degrees North latitude and East of 174 degrees West longitude. The motion to recommend this proposal to the Commission failed: [*Canada: In favour=0; against=0; abstain=19; U.S.A.: In favour=5; against=13; abstain=13*].

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

47. The CB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC3](#), that proposed a TCEY of 1.65 Mlb for 2025 in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, and took it into consideration as part of discussions on TCEYs.

6.1.5 Other proposal (Non-IPHC Fishery Regulations): Rebuilding Plan for Pacific halibut

48. The CB **NOTED** proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC4](#), that proposed a rebuilding plan for Pacific halibut and addressed it as recommendation in Section 6.1.6.

6.1.6 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5) – definition of reaction to overfishing

49. The CB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC5](#), that proposed a reaction to the Pacific halibut stock overfishing.

50. The CB **NOTED** comments in support of Proposal C4 and Proposal C5, highlighting concerns about the risk of reducing the spawning biomass below current historic low levels and the need for a trigger point to prevent it. The discussion also addressed the importance of a rebuilding plan to work toward a higher baseline for stock utilization and WPUE.

51. The CB **RECOMMENDED** the Commission direct the MSAB to use the MSE process to evaluate management procedures that will avoid coastwide, and possibly biological region level, biological reference points (relative and/or absolute) with a to be determined degree of probability, especially under a low productivity regime. [*Canada: In favour=23; against=0; abstain=0; U.S.A.: In favour=24; against=7; abstain=2*].

7. INCIDENTAL CATCH (BYCATCH)

52. The CB **NOTED** the update from NOAA Fisheries on the implementation of abundance-based management (ABM) of Amendment 80 (A80) trawl sector, effective on 1 January 2024. Among the items discussed were the restrictiveness of the established limits and details regarding deck sorting procedures.

53. The CB **RECALLED** the ABM lookup table available in the [IPHC letter provided in November 2024 to NOAA Fisheries](#). The IPHC FISS index for 2024 is 6,282, placing the index in the “low” category.

54. The CB **NOTED** an overview of the progress in developing abundance-based management in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) provided by NOAA Fisheries, including updates on improvements in GOA monitoring. The CB **NOTED** that the non-pelagic trawl catch monitoring rate is now 87%. For reference, additional details are available in Table 4-4 of the [North Pacific Observer Program 2023 Annual Report](#). The CB **REQUESTED** that this table is provided to CB annually by NOAA Fisheries.

55. The CB **NOTED** updates from the DFO on fisheries monitoring in British Columbia, including summary noting that hook-and-line and trawl fisheries have 100% at-sea electronic-monitoring and 100% dockside monitoring. The DFO also summarized the data auditing process.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 *FAC report*

56. The CB **NOTED** the Report of the 101st Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC101) ([IPHC-2025-FAC101-R](#)) and FAC request FAC101-Req.01 regarding proposed cost-saving measures that could impact CB meetings.
57. The CB **NOTED** that members were generally opposed to combining the CB and PAB but were open to considering a shortened or streamlined agenda. Some members suggested that it may be feasible to start the meeting on Monday morning and conduct it in parallel with the FAC meeting to reduce the meeting duration to four days. However, they also emphasized the value of having the opportunity to listen to presentations given during the AM session.
58. The CB **NOTED** that some members stressed the importance of continuing with in-person meetings and that moving to virtual meetings should not be considered as a cost-saving measure.
59. The CB **NOTED** that providing more specific advice would require detailed estimates of cost savings associated with various efficiency options and should include discussions with CB.

8.2 *Habitat research*

60. The CB **RECOMMENDED** that Commissioners conduct a review and as needed research to identify spawning and nursery areas of biological importance to the Pacific halibut stock to determine whether management actions to protect these areas, including temporal actions, could benefit stock production and increase abundance of the Pacific halibut stock.
61. The CB **NOTED** the IPHC's responsibilities to preserve nursery areas under the IPHC Convention, including impacts by all gear types.

8.3 *Implementation of electronic logbooks in Alaska*

62. The CB **NOTED** an update from Real Time Data (RTD)/Deckhand on the implementation of electronic logbooks in Alaska, including the removal of the requirement for NOAA Daily Fishing Logbook printers. Additionally, the IPHC will no longer require a paper backup for the electronic equivalent of the IPHC logbook starting in 2025.
63. **NOTING** that RTD/Deckhand is offering tablets free of charge to fishers in Alaska who would like to participate in the electronic logbook data program, the CB **RECOMMENDED** that Alaska fishers reach out to IPHC or RTD/Deckhand to take part in the program.
64. The CB **NOTED** comments from USA CB members that the use of electronic logbooks is efficient and reduces reporting time. The USA CB also inquired about the RTD/Deckhand's subscription-based business model, and RTD/Deckhand indicated that they are open to discussing alternative models with NOAA Fisheries.

8.4 *Election of Co-Chairpersons*

65. The CB **NOTED** that in accordance with Appendix IV, Section III of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2024\)](#), the CB **NOTED** the requirement to elect Co-Chairpersons for the next biennium.
66. The CB **NOTED** that Jim Lane (Canada) and Linda Behnken (USA) were nominated, seconded, and elected as Co-Chairpersons for the next biennium.

8.5 *Election of Vice-Chairpersons*

67. The CB **NOTED** that in accordance with Appendix IV, Section III of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2024\)](#), the CB may elect a second Vice-Chairperson, from Canada for the next biennium.
68. The CB **NOTED** that Brian Richie (USA) was nominated, seconded, and elected as Vice-Chairperson.
69. The CB **NOTED** the option to nominate a Vice-Chairperson for Canada but refrained.

70. The CB **EXPRESSED** its deep appreciation for all CB presenters and Secretariat staff, including Drs. Stewart and Hicks, Mr Iverson (NOAA Fisheries), Ms Mason and Ms Finn (DFO), Dr Hutniczak, and Ms Thom.

9. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB094)

71. The CB **ADOPTED** the Report of the 95th Session of the IPHC Conference Board ([IPHC-2025-CB095-R](#)) on 30 January 2025, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from CB095, provided at [Appendix IV](#). [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

APPENDIX I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 95TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD
(CB095)

Officers

Co-Chairperson	Co-Chairperson
Mr. Jim Lane (Canada)	Ms. Linda Behnken (United States of America)

CB Members

	Organisation or association		Delegate	Email	Accredited
	Canada				
1	A-Tlegay Fisheries LP	AFLP	Christa Rusel	christarusel@shawcable.com	2024-2025
2	A-Tlegay Fisheries Society	AFS	Daniel Smith	reidpass_1@hotmail.com	2021-2025
3	Active Guiding and Tackle Ltd	AGT	Deryk Krefting	deryk@activetackle.com	2024-2025
4	Annieville Halibut Association	AHA	Terry Henshaw	tonic1949@gmail.com	2021-2025
5	Council of the Haida Nation	CHN	Shawn Cowpar	shawn.cowpar@haidanation.com	2021-2025
6	Canadian Sablefish Association	CSA	Tom Russel	quatsinostar@gmail.com	2021-2025
7	Finest At Sea Seafoods	FAS	Ben Cameron	ben-cameron@shaw.ca	2024-2025
8	Halibut Advisory Board	HAB	David Boyes	mcboyes@telus.net	2021-2025
9	Halibut Longline Fisherman's Association	HLFA	Rob Stanley	rubblefish@shaw.ca	2021-2025
10	Hook and Line Groundfish Association	HLGA	Ken Wing	kenwing101@gmail.com	2021-2025
11	Northern Halibut Producers Association	NHPA	Douglas Mavin	dmavin@shaw.ca	2021-2025
12	Northern Trollers Association	NTA	Robert Hauknes	robert_hauknes@hotmail.com	2021-2025
13	Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council	NTC	Jim Lane	jim.lane@nuuchahnulth.org	2021-2025
14	Pacific Coast Fishing Vessel Owners Guild	PCFVOG	Zeke Pellegrin	zekepellegrin@telus.net	2021-2025
15	Pacific Halibut Management Association	PHMA	Chris Sporer	chris.sporer@phma.ca	2021-2025
16	Sport Fishing Advisory Board - Main	SFABM	Martin Paish	martinpaish1@gmail.com	2021-2025
17	Sport Fishing Advisory Board - North	SFABN	Mike Fowler	midon@protonmail.ch	2021-2025
18	Sport Fishing Advisory Board - South	SFABS	Christopher Bos	chris@anglerscoalition.com	2021-2025
19	Sechelt Fishing Company	SFC	Kristopher Anderson	kanderson@tsain-ko.com	2025
20	Sport Fishing Institute of BC	SFI	Owen Bird	birdo@sportfishing.bc.ca	2021-2025
21	Steveston Halibut Association	SHA	Angus Grout	Rommel@telus.net	2021-2025
22	South Vancouver Island Anglers Coalition	SVIAC	Bill Campbell	bicamp@telusplanet.net	2021-2025
23	United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union	UNIFOR	Russell Cameron	russelljcameron@gmail.com	2021-2025
	USA				
1	Aleut Corporation	AC	Julie Toomey	JToomey@aleutcorp.com	2021-2025
2	Alaska Charter Association	ACA	Daniel Donich	homerfishing@gmail.com	2021-2025
3	Adak Community Development Corporation	ACDC	Layton Lockett	llockett@adakcdc.org	2021-2025
4	Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association	ALFA	Richard Curran	seaward99835@yahoo.com	2021-2025
5	Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association	APICDA	Angel Drobnica	adrobnica@apicda.com	2021-2025

6	American Sportfishing Association	ASA	Larry Phillips	lphillips@asafishing.org	2024-2025
7	Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association	AWTA	Rebecca Skinner	alaskawhitefish@gmail.com	2021-2025
8	Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation	BBEDC	Steve Ricci	steven@bbedc.com	2021-2025
9	CATCH Association	CATCH	Brian Ritchie	brianandrewritchie@gmail.com	2021-2025
10	Central Bering Sea Fishermen's Association	CBSFA	Ray Melovidov	raymelovidov@cbsfa.com	2021-2025
11	Coastal Conservation Association	CCA	Dave Croonquist	dcroonquist@gmail.com	2021-2025
12	Cordova District Fishermen United	CDFU	Marc Carrel	marc.carrel@gmail.com	2021-2025
13	Coastal Villages Region Fund	CVRF	Paul Wilkins	paul_w@coastalvillages.org	2021-2025
14	Deep Sea Fishermen's Union	DSFU	Shawn McManus	shawn.mcmanus@yahoo.com	2021-2025
15	Freezer Longline Coalition	FLC	Jim Armstrong	jim@freezerlongline.biz	2021-2025
16	Fishing Vessel Owners' Association	FVOA	Brian Dafforn	briandafforn@gmail.com	2021-2025
17	Humbolt Area Saltwater Anglers	HASA	Tom Marking	tmmarking@gmail.com	2021-2025
18	Halibut Coalition	HC	Tom Gemmell	halibutcoalition@gmail.com	2021-2025
19	Homer Charter Association	HCA	Billy Hayden	homerfishing@gmail.com	2021-2025
20	Kodiak Vessel Owners Association	KVOA	Rob Wurm	rob@alaskanleader.com	2021-2025
21	Magic Fish Company	MFC	Michael Laukitis	buck.magicfish@gmail.com	2025
22	Next Generation Fishermens Association	NGFA	Garrett Elwood	fvwesternfreedom@gmail.com	2021-2025
23	North Pacific Fisheries Association	NPFA	Malcolm Milne	milnmarine@yahoo.com	2021-2025
24	Pacific Fishing Inc	PFI	Patricia Phillips	pelicandragonfly@yahoo.com	2023-2025
25	Puget Sound Anglers - Ocean Chapter	PSA	Dave Johnson	dave@kitsapmarina.com	2025
26	Petersburg Vessel Owner's Association	PVOA	Bryon Pfundt	bryonpfundt@gmail.com	2021-2025
27	Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Alliance	SEAFA	Kathy Hansen	kathy@seafa.org	2021-2025
28	Southeast Alaska Guides Organization	SEAGO	Forrest Braden	forrest@seagoalaska.org	2021-2025
29	Sitka Halibut & Sablefish Marketing Association	SHSMA	Phillip Wyman	philwyman@hotmail.com	2021-2025
30	Seafood Producers Cooperative	SPC	Carter Hughes	carterhughes@hotmail.com	2021-2025
31	St. Paul Fishing Company	SPFC	Jeff Kauffman	jeff@spfishco.com	2021-2025
32	Tribal Government of St. Paul	TGSP	Simeon Swetzof Jr.	swetzof@hotmail.com	2021-2025
33	Yukon Delta Fisheries Association	YDFA	Landry Price	landry.ydfda@gmail.com	2021-2025

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APPENDIX II
AGENDA FOR THE 95TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB095)

Date: 28-30 January 2025

Location: Vancouver, BC, Canada

Venue: [Pan Pacific Hotel](#)

Time (PST): 28th: 14:00-17:30; 29th: 09:00-17:30; 30th: 0800-10:30)

Co-Chairperson: Mr Jim Lane (Canada); Ms Linda Behnken (United States of America)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Brian Ritchie (USA)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION (Co-Chairpersons)**
 - 1.1 Accreditation of CB Membership (2021-25): new members
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION (Co-Chairpersons)**
- 3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION**
 - 3.1 Mortality Limits and TCEY (I. Stewart)
 - 3.2 MSE Update (A. Hicks)
 - 3.3 FISS 2025 (R. Webster)
 - 3.4 Other topics
- 4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES**
- 5. MORTALITY LIMITS (Co-Chairpersons)**
 - 5.1 Coastwide perspectives
 - 5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives
 - 5.3 Distribution Strategy – discussion/recommendations
 - 5.4 TCEY Recommendations
- 6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2024-25 PROCESS**
 - 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. INCIDENTAL CATCH (BYCATCH) (Co-Chairpersons)**
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS (Co-Chairpersons)**
 - 8.1 Election of Co-Chairpersons
 - 8.2 Election of Vice-Chairpersons (as necessary)
- 9. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 95TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB095) (Co-Chairpersons; IPHC Secretariat)**

**APPENDIX III
PACIFIC HALIBUT MORTALITY PROJECTED FOR 2025 BASED ON THE CB RECOMMENDED
TCEY MORTALITY LIMITS**

Note: All values reported in millions of net pounds.

RECOMMENDATION

USA CB members detailed 2025 projections, by sector, based on the TCEY mortality limits.

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discards	0.06	0.15	NA	NA	0.20	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.51
O26 Non-directed discards	0.06	0.31	0.05	0.26	0.17	0.29	0.13	1.41	2.69
Recreational	NA	0.03	1.01	0.88	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.92
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.25	0.12	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.81
Total non-FCEY	0.12	0.90	1.31	1.26	0.39	0.34	0.14	1.47	5.93
Commercial discards	NA	NA	0.12	0.45	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.57
Recreational	0.62	0.67	0.73	1.48	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.51
Subsistence	0.02	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.02
Commercial landings	0.85	3.80	3.14	5.90	2.54	1.01	0.92	1.68	19.84
Total FCEY	1.50	4.47	3.99	7.83	2.54	1.01	0.92	1.68	23.94
							4C FCEY	0.74	
							4D FCEY	0.74	
							4E FCEY	0.19	
TCEY	1.62	5.37	5.30	9.09	2.93	1.35	1.06	3.15	29.87
U26 Non-directed discards	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.25	0.11	0.13	0.01	1.35	1.90
Total	1.63	5.41	5.30	9.34	3.04	1.48	1.07	4.50	31.77

Canada CB members detailed 2025 projections, by sector, based on the TCEY mortality limits.

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discards		0.15							
O26 Non-directed discards		0.31							
Recreational		0.03							
Subsistence		0.41							
Total non-FCEY		0.90							
Commercial discards		NA							
Recreational		0.69							
Subsistence		NA							
Commercial landings		3.91							
Total FCEY		4.60							
							4C FCEY		
							4D FCEY		
							4E FCEY		
TCEY		5.50							
U26 Non-directed discards		0.04							
Total		5.54							

APPENDIX IV

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 95TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB095) (28-30 JANUARY 2025)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

CB095-Rec.01 ([para. 20](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** a commercial fishing period closing date in 2025 of 7 December, at 23:59 hrs local time. The proposed motion was passed by members from both countries: [*Canada: In favour=22; against=1; abstain=0; U.S.A.: In favour=23; against=6; abstain=3*].

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))

CB095-Rec.02 ([para. 39](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropB1](#), 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. The CB raised no objections on the proposed framework and **NOTED** that the proposal was extensively vetted through the North Pacific Fishery Management Council process.

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5) – definition of reaction to overfishing

CB095-Rec.03 ([para. 51](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** the Commission direct the MSAB to use the MSE process to evaluate management procedures that will avoid coastwide, and possibly biological region level, biological reference points (relative and/or absolute) with a to be determined degree of probability, especially under a low productivity regime. [*Canada: In favour=23; against=0; abstain=0; U.S.A.: In favour=24; against=7; abstain=2*].

Other business: Habitat research

CB095-Rec.04 ([para. 60](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** that Commissioners conduct a review and as needed research to identify spawning and nursery areas of biological importance to the Pacific halibut stock to determine whether management actions to protect these areas, including temporal actions, could benefit stock production and increase abundance of the Pacific halibut stock.

Other business: Implementation of electronic logbooks in Alaska

CB095-Rec.05 ([para. 63](#)) **NOTING** that RTD/Deckhand is offering tablets free of charge to fishers in Alaska who would like to participate in the electronic logbook data program, the CB **RECOMMENDED** that Alaska fishers reach out to IPHC or RTD/Deckhand to take part in the program.

REQUESTS

FISS 2025

CB095-Req.01 ([para. 13](#)) The CB **NOTED** the importance of maintaining long-term robust FISS data across all IPHC Regulatory Areas and **REQUESTED** increase FISS stations as funding allows. The CB **NOTED** the FISS is no longer revenue-neutral and calls to attention the importance of securing equitable funding for FISS from Contracting Parties.

Incidental catch (Bycatch)

CB095-Req.02 ([para. 54](#)) The CB **NOTED** an overview of the progress in developing abundance-based management in the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) provided by NOAA Fisheries, including updates on improvements in GOA monitoring. The CB **NOTED** that the non-pelagic trawl catch monitoring rate is now 87%. For reference, additional details are available in Table 4-4 of the [North Pacific Observer Program 2023 Annual Report](#). The CB **REQUESTED** that this table is provided to CB annually by NOAA Fisheries.