



Report of the 30th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB030)

Vancouver, BC, Canada, 28-29 January 2025

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Mark Waddell	Jon Kurland
Neil Davis	Robert Alverson
Peter DeGreef	Richard Yamada

Executive Director

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.

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Contact details:

International Pacific Halibut Commission
2320 W. Commodore Way, Suite 300
Seattle, WA, 98199-1287, U.S.A.
Phone: +1 206 634 1838
Fax: +1 206 632 2983
Email: secretariat@iphc.int
Website: <https://www.iphc.int/>

ACRONYMS

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

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 30th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Processor Advisory Board (PAB030) was held in Vancouver, BC, Canada, USA, from 23-24 January 2024. A total of 21 (19 in 2024) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Bruce Hale (Canada), and the Vice-Chairperson, Mr Norman Pillen (U.S.A.) who welcomed participants.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the PAB030, which are provided at [Appendix III](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

- PAB030-Rec.01 ([para. 14](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2025:
- a) **Opening:** 14 March; [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]
 - b) **Closing:** 15 November. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]
- PAB030-Rec.02 ([para. 15](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods opening and closing times of day for 2025: [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]
- a) **Opening:** 12:00 hrs (on the 14th);
 - b) **Closing:** 12:00 hrs (on the 15th).

Mortality limits: Coastwide perspectives

- PAB030-Rec.03 ([para. 17](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** a 15% TCEY reduction from status quo in each Contracting Party (Canada and the United States of America) coastwide [*Canada: In favour=3; against=1; abstain=1; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]

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

- PAB030-Rec.04 ([para. 20](#)) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA1](#), as detailed in Section 5, but noting that includes items that are outside of the purview of the IPHC. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]

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

- PAB030-Rec.05 ([para. 21](#)) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission do not adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA2](#), that specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries, given that opening and closing times have already been voted on in line with NOAA's regulations for Pacific halibut and sablefish. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=1; Absent=0;*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

- PAB030-Rec.06 ([para. 22](#)) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA3](#), that improves consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=X0X; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=8;*]

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

PAB030-Rec.07 (para. 24) The PAB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC1](#), that proposed a year-round commercial Pacific halibut fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission does not adopt it. [*Canada: In favour=4; against=0; abstain=1; Absent=0; USA: In favour=13; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0;*]

Other proposals (Non-IPHC Fishery Regulations)

PAB030-Rec.08 (para. 27) The PAB **NOTED** proposals [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC4](#), that proposed a rebuilding plan for Pacific halibut, and [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC5](#), that proposed a reaction to the Pacific halibut stock overfishing, and **RECOMMENDED** that the MSAB and SRB further reviews them. [*Canada: In favour=4; against=0; abstain=1; Absent=0; USA: In favour=13; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0;*]

Other business

PAB030-Rec.09 (para. 31) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** adopting options a, c, and d in paragraph 28 of document [IPHC-2025-FAC101-R](#). [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

PAB030-Rec.10 (para. 32) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** to continue having two separate subsidiary bodies. The PAB strongly opposes option b in paragraph 28 of document [IPHC-2025-FAC101-R](#), noting the importance of the unique perspective and inputs that each board provides to the IPHC process. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

PAB030-Rec.11 (para. 33) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat lend their support to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to establish a policy of abundance-based Pacific halibut bycatch limits for the trawl fleet in the Gulf of Alaska. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

PAB030-Rec.12 (para. 34) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission direct appropriate IPHC Secretariat to review and conduct the necessary research to identify nursery habitats of biological importance to the Pacific halibut stock so as to determine whether management actions to protect these areas could promote recovery of the stock. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

PAB030-Rec.13 (para. 35) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Research Advisory Board and the Scientific Review Board review the findings on nursery habitat research with the goal of increasing the sustainability of the Pacific halibut stock. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

The full recording of the PAB030 is available at the following link: [IPHC-2025-PAB030-Audio recording](#)



1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

- The 30th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Processor Advisory Board (PAB030) was held in Vancouver, BC, Canada, from 28-29 January 2025. A total of 21 (19 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 the Chairperson, Mr Bruce Hale (Canada) and the Vice-Chairperson, Mr Norman Pillen (U.S.A.) who welcomed participants.

1.1 Accreditation of PAB membership (2025)

- The PAB **RECALLED** the 21 members of the PAB, accredited at the PAB029 meeting in accordance with the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2024\)](#), Appendix VI, Section II. para. 8, for participation in the Processor Advisory Board proceedings, as detailed in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Current accredited PAB members.

Number	PAB Member	Representative	Initial accreditation date	5-year accreditation expiry
Canada				
1	Coldfish Seafood Co. Inc.	Casey Sugden	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
2	FAS Seafood Producers, Ltd	Bruce Hale	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
3	Seven Seas Fish Co. Ltd	Nick Heras	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
4	S.M. Products (B.C) Ltd	Carl Nordmann	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
5	Aero Trading Co. Ltd	Liam Stockwell	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029
USA				
1	170 Degrees West	Heather McCarty	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
2	Dana Besecker Co.	Susan Adair	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
3	E&E Foods, Inc.	Kit Durnil	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
4	John Nagle Company	Mark Callahan	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
5	Northport Fisheries	Tyler Goodnight	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
6	OBI Seafoods	Gregg Ness	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
7	Peter Pan Seafood Co.	-	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
8	Seafood Producers Coop.	Norman Pillen	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
9	Taku Fisheries, Hoonah Cold Storage	Tim James	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
10	Alaska Glacier Seafoods	Jessie Keplinger	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
11	Pacific Seafoods	David Brindle	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
12	Katchemak Bay Seafoods	William Sullivan	24 Jan 2023	24 Jan 2028
13	Wind and Tide LLC (Peninsula Seafoods)	Jeff Grannum	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029
14	Alaska Fish Factory	Jeff Choinski	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029
Associations				
1	Halibut Association of North America (HANA)	Peggy Parker	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029
2	Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA)	Nicole Kimball	23 Jan 2024	23 Jan 2029

- The PAB **ENDORSED** the accreditation of 3 new members in accordance with the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2024\)](#), Appendix VI, Section II. para. 7, for participation in the 2025 Processor Advisory Board proceedings, as detailed in [Table 2](#).

Table 2. Accredited new PAB members.

Number	PAB Member	Representative	Initial accreditation date	5-year accreditation expiry
USA				
1	Quinault Pride Seafoods	Scott Mazzone	28 Jan 2025	27 Jan 2030
2	Adak Community Development Corporation	Steven Minor	28 Jan 2025	27 Jan 2030
3	Alaskan Leader Seafoods	Keith Singleton	28 Jan 2025	27 Jan 2030

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The PAB **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#). The documents provided to the PAB030 are those submitted for the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101). To assist the PAB in navigating its meeting, all documents relevant to the agenda were posted as links on the PAB webpage 30 days or earlier than the meeting commencement: <https://www.iphc.int/meetings/pab030/>.

2.1 Voting procedures

5. The PAB **NOTED** the voting procedures described by the IPHC Secretariat developed to aid the PAB in recording its recommendations to the Commission.

3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

3.1 Mortality Limits and TCEY

6. The PAB **NOTED** the question-and-answer period by Dr. Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
7. The PAB **NOTED**:
- the mortality projection tool developed by Dr. Stewart: <https://www.iphc.int/projection-tool/>;
 - with appreciation for the stock assessment preview presented by Dr. Stewart on 15 January 2025, and **AGREED** that this should continue as an annual process.
8. The PAB **NOTED** that:
- questions were raised regarding potential benefits and drawbacks of a year-round fishery that included fishery-related and biological considerations;
 - shorter fishing periods allow for fishery data sets to be available earlier for stock assessment and avoid additional costs to the port sampling program due to extended fishing periods;
 - consideration of fishing effects on spawning aggregations during winter months should include information on the sex ratio as compared to spring or fall fishing;
 - keeping young year classes in the water at a time of low stock size would allow this yield to the fishery to be carried over subsequent years;
 - the definition of conservation concern relates to harvest control rules and interim management procedures established for Pacific halibut (i.e. 20-30 ramp) that may differ from those for other exploited fish species.

3.2 MSE update

9. The PAB **NOTED** the question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Allan Hicks (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
10. The PAB **NOTED** that:
- the summary of objectives relative to reference points as provided in presentation [IPHC-2025-AM101-11](#) was discussed;
 - catch rates are at historical low levels in both Contracting Parties;

- c) concerns about lower accuracy due to the higher reliance on fishery data and lower availability of FISS data compared to previous stock assessments. This results in a higher degree of uncertainty regarding stock projections;
- d) the setting of a floor or control rule is part of the management procedure;
- e) there is a need to incorporate environmental effects and effects of low recruitment and low weight-at-age in measures of relative spawning biomass;
- f) the causes for chalkiness in Pacific halibut are still not well understood and there are reports of spatial variation in its incidence and potential links to tides and parasitic loads.

3.3 FISS 2025

11. The PAB **NOTED** the question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
12. The PAB **NOTED** that:
 - a) the increase in costs, drop in fish prices causing reduced revenue, reduction in landings are factors that prevent the cost neutrality of the FISS;
 - b) supplemental funding is needed under current conditions;
 - c) additional advanced notice of IPHC FISS trips would help accomplish a higher dock price;
 - d) the unobserved bias in stock assessment as a result of incomplete survey data is underestimating the probability of stock declines;
 - e) the reduction in catch levels due to an incomplete FISS has a higher economic impact than funding the FISS;
 - f) there were discussions to support moving away from revenue neutrality and encourage Contracting Parties to provide additional funding.

4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

13. The PAB **NOTED** that there were considerations about the timing of the fishing period, and considerations were made regarding safety and economic reasons as well as the day of the week and optimal tides.
14. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2025:
 - a) **Opening:** 14 March; [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]
 - b) **Closing:** 15 November. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]
15. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods opening and closing times of day for 2025: [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]
 - a) **Opening:** 12:00 hrs (on the 14th);
 - b) **Closing:** 12:00 hrs (on the 15th).

5. MORTALITY LIMITS

5.1 Coastwide perspectives

16. The PAB **NOTED** discussions regarding reductions in TCEY for 2025 by 15% in each Contracting Party (Canada and the United States of America) coastwide from status quo, and differences in the level of fishing mortality against mortality limits reached by different areas.

17. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** a 15% TCEY reduction from status quo in each Contracting Party (Canada and the United States of America) coastwide [*Canada: In favour=3; against=1; abstain=1; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]

5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives

18. Nil

5.3 TCEY Recommendations

19. Nil

6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATION PROPOSALS FOR THE 2024-25 PROCESS

6.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals

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

20. The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA1](#), as detailed in Section 5, but noting that includes items that are outside of the purview of the IPHC. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]

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

21. The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission do not adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA2](#), that specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries, given that opening and closing times have already been voted on in line with NOAA's regulations for Pacific halibut and sablefish. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=1; Absent=0;*]

6.1.3 IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

22. The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA3](#), that improves consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=X0X; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=8;*]

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))

23. The PAB **NOTED** 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, but did not take any action.

6.3 Other Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals

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

24. The PAB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC1](#), that proposed a year-round commercial Pacific halibut fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission does not adopt it. [*Canada: In favour=4; against=0; abstain=1; Absent=0; USA: In favour=13; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0;*]

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

25. The PAB **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, and it expressed concerns but viewed that this proposal is outside of the purview of the PAB and took no action.

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

26. The PAB **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 for incorporation into proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA1](#) but took no action.

6.3.4 Other proposals (Non-IPHC Fishery Regulations)

27. The PAB **NOTED** proposals [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC4](#), that proposed a rebuilding plan for Pacific halibut, and [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC5](#), that proposed a reaction to the Pacific halibut stock overfishing, and **RECOMMENDED** that the MSAB and SRB further reviews them. [*Canada: In favour=4; against=0; abstain=1; Absent=0; USA: In favour=13; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0;*]

7. OTHER BUSINESS

28. Acknowledging the fiscal pressure on the IPHC, the PAB **REQUESTED** the formation of a committee or working group to evaluate alternative funding options for the FISS. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

29. The PAB **NOTED** the discussion on the advantages of improved communication between vessel captains and the IPHC Secretariat to increase bids for future FISS charters as well as for providing useful inputs to improve efficiency of the FISS operation without compromising scientific integrity. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

30. The PAB **NOTED** the FAC request in document [IPHC-2025-FAC101-R](#) (paragraph 28) that the Secretariat evaluate the following potential options for cost savings that could be considered for the FY2026 or FY2027 budgets, recognizing that the FISS funding shortfall and prudent fiscal management may warrant departures from past IPHC practices:

- a) *Options for restructuring future Annual Meetings to accomplish necessary business in three (3) or four (4) days rather than five (5) days;*
- b) *Options for restructuring the Conference Board and Processor Advisory Board into a single subsidiary body (that could reduce meeting space rental requirements and costs, including associated technology support/rental, secretariat staff support needed, minimum charges by hotels for food and beverage) and engaging a team of members of the CB and PAB to advise the Commission on a potential new structure that would ensure both processor and harvester perspectives are fairly represented and conveyed to the Commission;*
- c) *Options for using more economical venues for future Annual Meetings;*
- d) *Any other potential cost savings the Secretariat may identify for future Annual Meetings.*

31. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** adopting options a, c, and d in paragraph 28 of document [IPHC-2025-FAC101-R](#). [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

32. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** to continue having two separate subsidiary bodies. The PAB strongly opposes option b in paragraph 28 of document [IPHC-2025-FAC101-R](#), noting the importance of the unique perspective and inputs that each board provides to the IPHC process. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

33. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat lend their support to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to establish a policy of abundance-based Pacific halibut bycatch limits for the trawl fleet in the Gulf of Alaska. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].
34. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission direct appropriate IPHC Secretariat to review and conduct the necessary research to identify nursery habitats of biological importance to the Pacific halibut stock so as to determine whether management actions to protect these areas could promote recovery of the stock. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].
35. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Research Advisory Board and the Scientific Review Board review the findings on nursery habitat research with the goal of increasing the sustainability of the Pacific halibut stock. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].
36. The PAB **NOTED** the importance of the FISS surveying an adequate number of stations to provide scientific data informing the best stock assessment possible.

8. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 30TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB030)

37. The PAB **ADOPTED** the Report of the 30th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board ([IPHC-2025-PAB030-R](#)) on 29 January 2025, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from PAB030, provided at [Appendix III](#). [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

APPENDIX I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 30TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD
(PAB030)

Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Bruce Hale (Canada)	Mr Norman Pillen (United States of America)

PAB Members

Canada			
	Member	Representative	Email
1	Seven Seas Fish	Mr Nick Heras	nheras@7seas.ca
2	Coldfish Seafood	Mr Casey Sugden	casey@coldfish.ca
3	FAS Seafood Producers	Mr Bruce Hale	bruce@fasseafood.com
4	S.M. Products (BC) Ltd	Mr Carl Nordmann	carl@halibut.ca
5	Aero Trading Co. Ltd	Liam Stockwell	liam@aerotrading.ca
United States of America			
	Member	Representative	Email
1	170 Degrees West	Ms Heather McCarty	hdmccarty@gmail.com
2	Alaska Glacier Seafoods Inc. *	Ms Jessie Keplinger	jessica@akhomepack.com
3	Dana F. Besecker Co. Inc.	Ms. Susan Adair	susan@dfbcompany.com
4	Icy Strait Seafoods & Taku Fisheries*	Mr Tim James Mr Hank Baumgart	tim@icystraitseafoods.com
5	Kachemak Bay	Mr William Sullivan	freshhalibut@gmail.com
6	Northport Fisheries	Mr Tyler Goodnight	tyler@northportfisheries.com
7	OBI Seafoods	Mr Gregg Ness	gregg.ness@obiseafoods.com
8	Seafood Producers Cooperative (SPC)	Mr Norm Pillen	npillen@spsales.com
9	Peter Pan Seafood Co., LLC*		
9	E&E Food Inc.	Mr Greg Indreland	kitd@eefoods.com
10	Pacific Seafoods	Mr David Brindle	dbrindle@pacseafood.com
11	John Nagle Co.	Mr Mark Callahan	mssc@johnnagle.com
12	Wind and Tide LLC dba Peninsula Seafoods	Mr Jeff Grannum	grannum@peninsulaseafood.com
13	Alaska Fish Factory*	Mr Jeff Choinski	jeff.alaskanfishfactory@gmail.com
14	Quinault Pride Seafoods	Mr Scott Mazzone	smazzone@quinault.org
15	Adak Community Development Corporation*	Mr Steven Minor	Sminor54@obiseafoods.com
16	Alaskan Leader Seafoods	Mr Keith Singleton	keith@alaskanleader.com
Associations			
	Member	Representative	Email
1	Halibut Association of North America (HANA)	Peggy Parker	peggyparker616@gmail.com

2	Pacific Seafood Processors Association (PSPA)*	Nicole Kimball	NicoleK@pspafish.net
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*Absent in 2025

Observers (In person)

Name	Organization	Email
Jim Balsiger	170 Degrees West	Jim.balsiger@gmail.com
Joey Ewing	FAS Seafood Producers	operations@fasseafood.com

Observers (Online)

Participant	Organisation	Email
Mr Phil Anderson	Westport Charterboat Association	pmand001@comcast.net
Mr Colin Blackie	Triton Environmental Consultants	colinblackie@gmail.com
Mr Christopher Durnil	E&E Foods	kitd@eefoods.com
Ms Jennifer Hagen	Quileute Tribe	jennifer.hagen@quileutetribe.com
Ms Andrea Keikkala	United Catcher Boats	keikkala@ucba.org
Mr James Phillips	Pacific Fishing, Inc.	Pacificdawn6@gmail.com
Mr Casey Sugden	Coldfish Seafood Co, Inc.	casey@coldfish.ca
Mr Erik Velsko	Nil	Nil

IPHC Secretariat (In-person)

Participant	Title	Email
Dr Josep Planas	Biological and Ecosystem Sciences Branch Manager	josep.planas@iphc.int
Mr Tyler Jack	A/g Setline Survey Coordinator	tyler.jack@iphc.int
Dr Allan Hicks	Quantitative Scientist (MSE)	allan.hicks@iphc.int
Dr Ian Stewart	Quantitative Scientist (MSE)	ian.stewart@iphc.int
Mr Kenneth Wickham	Administrative Specialist	kenneth.wickham@iphc.int
Mr Thomas Kong	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ-GIS)	tom.kong@iphc.int

IPHC Secretariat (Online)

Participant	Title	Email
Mr Mohammad Arian	Administrative Specialist	mohammad.arian@iphc.int
Ms Tara Coluccio	Administrative Specialist (Snr)	tara.coluccio@iphc.int
Mr Claude Dykstra	Research Biologist (Mortality & Survival)	claudedykstra@iphc.int
Ms Joan Forsberg	Otolith Laboratory Technician (Snr)	joan.forsberg@iphc.int
Mr Andrew Jasonowicz	Research Biologist (Genetics)	andy.jasonowicz@iphc.int
Ms Ola Wietecha	Administrative Specialist	ola.wietecha@iphc.int
Dr David T. Wilson	Executive Director	david.wilson@iphc.int

APPENDIX II

AGENDA FOR THE 30TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB030)

Date: 28-29 January 2025

Location: Vancouver, BC, Canada

Venue: Pan Pacific Hotel

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

Chairperson: Mr Bruce Hale (Canada); **Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Norm Pillen (USA)

1 OPENING OF THE SESSION

1.1 Accreditation of PAB Membership (2025) (IPHC Secretariat)

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

2.1 Voting procedures

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)

4 FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

5 MORTALITY LIMITS

5.1 Coastwide perspectives

5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives

5.3 TCEY Recommendations

6 IPHC FISHERY REGULATION 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 OTHER BUSINESS

8 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 30th SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB030)

APPENDIX III

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 30TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB030) (28-29 JANUARY 2025)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

- PAB030-Rec.01 (para. 14) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2025:
- a) **Opening:** 14 March; [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]
 - b) **Closing:** 15 November. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]
- PAB030-Rec.02 (para. 15) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods opening and closing times of day for 2025: [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]
- a) **Opening:** 12:00 hrs (on the 14th);
 - b) **Closing:** 12:00 hrs (on the 15th).

Mortality limits: Coastwide perspectives

- PAB030-Rec.03 (para. 17) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** a 15% TCEY reduction from status quo in each Contracting Party (Canada and the United States of America) coastwide [*Canada: In favour=3; against=1; abstain=1; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]

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

- PAB030-Rec.04 (para. 20) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA1](#), as detailed in Section 5, but noting that includes items that are outside of the purview of the IPHC. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=1;*]

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

- PAB030-Rec.05 (para. 21) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission do not adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA2](#), that specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries, given that opening and closing times have already been voted on in line with NOAA's regulations for Pacific halibut and sablefish. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=12; against=0; abstain=1; Absent=0;*]

IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

- PAB030-Rec.06 (para. 22) The PAB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA3](#), that improves consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=X0X; abstain=0; Absent=0; USA: In favour=5; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=8;*]

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

- PAB030-Rec.07 (para. 24) The PAB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC1](#), that proposed a year-round commercial Pacific halibut fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B, and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission does not adopt it. [*Canada: In favour=4; against=0; abstain=1; Absent=0; USA: In favour=13; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0;*]

Other proposals (Non-IPHC Fishery Regulations)

PAB030-Rec.08 (para. 27) The PAB **NOTED** proposals [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC4](#), that proposed a rebuilding plan for Pacific halibut, and [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC5](#), that proposed a reaction to the Pacific halibut stock overfishing, and **RECOMMENDED** that the MSAB and SRB further reviews them. [*Canada: In favour=4; against=0; abstain=1; Absent=0; USA: In favour=13; against=0; abstain=0; Absent=0;*]

Other business

PAB030-Rec.09 (para. 31) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** adopting options a, c, and d in paragraph 28 of document [IPHC-2025-FAC101-R](#). [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

PAB030-Rec.10 (para. 32) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** to continue having two separate subsidiary bodies. The PAB strongly opposes option b in paragraph 28 of document [IPHC-2025-FAC101-R](#), noting the importance of the unique perspective and inputs that each board provides to the IPHC process. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

PAB030-Rec.11 (para. 33) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat lend their support to the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to establish a policy of abundance-based Pacific halibut bycatch limits for the trawl fleet in the Gulf of Alaska. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

PAB030-Rec.12 (para. 34) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission direct appropriate IPHC Secretariat to review and conduct the necessary research to identify nursery habitats of biological importance to the Pacific halibut stock so as to determine whether management actions to protect these areas could promote recovery of the stock. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

PAB030-Rec.13 (para. 35) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Research Advisory Board and the Scientific Review Board review the findings on nursery habitat research with the goal of increasing the sustainability of the Pacific halibut stock. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].

REQUESTS**Other business**

PAB030-Req.01 (para. 28) Acknowledging the fiscal pressure on the IPHC, the PAB **REQUESTED** the formation of a committee or working group to evaluate alternative funding options for the FISS. [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].