



Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2025): Preliminary

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1 PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with a report on the IPHC Secretariat activities in 2025, not already contained within other papers before the Commission.

2 IPHC SECRETARIAT 2025

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.***

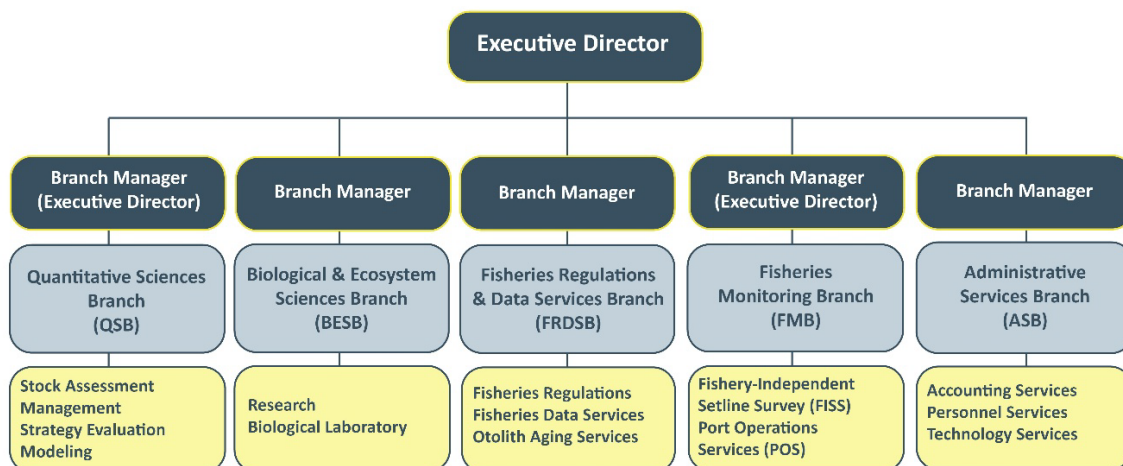


Figure 1. IPHC Secretariat organisation chart (2025).

The Report of the 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPHC02), [IPHC-2019-PRIPHC02-R](#) was adopted on 11 October 2019. Since then, the IPHC Secretariat has provided twice-yearly updates on the implementation of the 26 Recommendations to the Commission. The most recent update is available in paper [IPHC-2025-AM101-05](#).

At AM101, the Commission reached the following agreement:

The three (3) Recommendations that remain in progress are as follows:

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REF#	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	UPDATE/STATUS
				<i>data collection standards for Pacific halibut by scientific observer programs. The intention would be for the Commission to review and approve the minimum standards, and recommend them for implementation by domestic agencies."</i>
PRIPHC02 –Rec.11 (para. 83)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that ongoing work on the MSE process be prioritised to ensure there is a management framework/procedure with minimal room for ambiguous interpretation, and robust pre-agreed mortality limit setting frameworks.	High	IPHC Secretariat; Commission	In progress: A draft Harvest Strategy Policy will be presented at IM101 for potential adoption. See paper IPHC-2025-IM101-11 Next steps: The Commission to formally adopt a harvest strategy.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.12 (para. 88)	Fishing allocations and opportunities The PRIPHC02 STRONGLY URGED the Commission to conclude its MSE process and RECOMMENDED it meet its 2021 deadline to adopt a harvest strategy.	High	Commission; IPHC Secretariat	In progress: A draft Harvest Strategy Policy will be presented at IM101 for potential adoption. See paper IPHC-2025-IM101-11 for the latest update. Next steps: The Commission to formally adopt a harvest strategy.

3.2 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy

The Secretariat is actively developing an artificial intelligence (AI) Ambition Statement to strengthen our support for the Commission's objectives using AI. Our broad goal will be to harness AI in support of the IPHC's core objective (shown below) to transform our current management practices, optimise data collection and analysis, enhance decision-making processes, and improve internal governance.

IPHC Objective: 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.

By embedding AI into our tactical and strategic operational frameworks, we aim to cultivate an AI-enhanced data-driven (and reproducible) operational environment that further supports the optimum utilisation of Pacific halibut and the long-term viability of target fisheries and the communities that depend on the resource.

Working closely with our partners at DFO and NOAA, we also aim to draw upon their AI expertise and experiences, and where feasible, integrate our own strategy with theirs to achieve mutual advancement and success.

Key components to be included in our AI Strategy:

1) Problem Definition:

We will initiate our AI journey by identifying specific challenges in Pacific halibut management, including:

- Fluctuating stock levels

- Climate change impacts
- Complex relationship with the environment and ecosystem
- Fishing practices
- Cost-efficient data collection

Engaging stakeholders via a range of formats will be essential in clarifying these challenges and prioritising the most impactful and sustainable AI applications.

2) **Strategic Timing and Planning:**

Implementing AI solutions requires careful timing. We will adopt a phased approach that aligns with the Commission's operational calendar to ensure AI tools are identified for potential use as they become available, tested to ensure accuracy and precision are understood, and then deployed in support of Commission objectives and key performance indicators. This will be supported by detailed project timelines that will outline key milestones, designate responsible teams, and allocate resources effectively to ensure seamless execution.

3) **Benefit Measurement:**

Defining success metrics will be vital for our AI initiatives to be successful. We will establish a framework to evaluate the impact of AI using key performance indicators to be developed on:

- Data collection efficiency (time and cost)
- Advances in the understanding of Pacific halibut biology and ecology (ecosystem relationships)
- Stock assessments
- Fishing yields
- Operational efficacy (governance)

Regular reviews will be conducted to ensure our AI strategy remains aligned with the IPHC's objectives and is adaptable to changing challenges in the field.

4) **Data, Algorithms, and Infrastructure Considerations:**

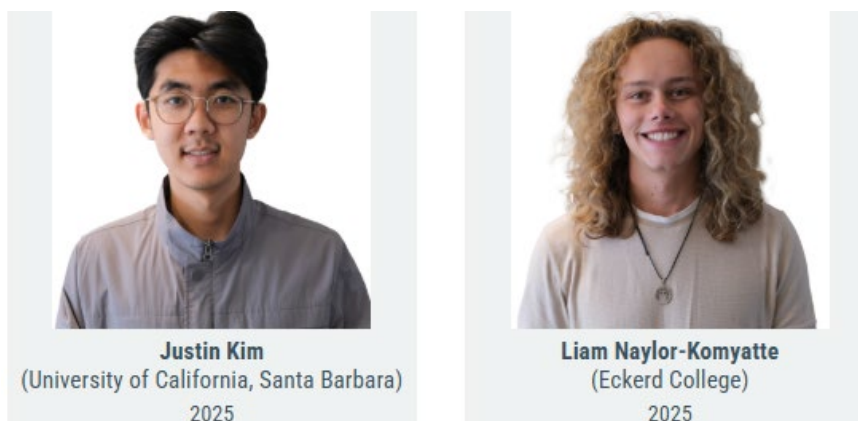
A robust data infrastructure is crucial for the success of our AI initiatives. We will:

- Conduct an inventory of existing data sources, emphasizing data quality and accessibility.
- Identify data collection and processing needs that could be addressed with AI.
- Invest in scalable cloud-based infrastructure to support our secure data collection, storage, and processing needs, ensuring our AI systems are sustainable and future-proof.
- Collaborate with data scientists (both internal and external) to identify suitable algorithms for data analysis, predictive modeling, and scenario analysis.

By strategically implementing these components, we are committed to realising our AI ambitions, thereby enhancing our capacity to support the optimum utilisation of Pacific halibut.

4 IPHC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: 2025

The IPHC funds full-time internships each summer. In 2025 the IPHC hosted two (2) undergraduate interns, Mr Justin Kim and Mr Liam Naylor-Komyatte, recent graduates of the University of California Santa Barbara, and Eckerd College, 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 27 May through 29 August 2025.



5 IPHC MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FOR 2025-28

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](#).

As 2025 was an off-year for the scholarship process, no further action was necessary other than to support our existing recipients. A new call will be made in 2026.

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



6 MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES DURING 2025

Meeting	No.	Date	Location	Secretariat material
Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)	101 st	27 Jan	Vancouver, BC, USA & Electronic	5 working papers
Annual Meeting (AM)	101st	27-30 Jan		15 working papers, 9 regulatory proposals
Conference Board (CB)	95 th	28-29 Jan		Commission papers
Processor Advisory Board (PAB)	30 th	28-29 Jan		Commission papers
Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)	21 st	13-15 May	Juneau, AK, USA	7 working papers
Scientific Review Board (SRB)	26 th	10-12 June	Seattle, USA & Electronic	8 working papers
Work Meeting (WM)	2025	4-5 Sept	Bellingham, USA	14 working papers
Scientific Review Board (SRB)	27 th	23-25 Sept	Seattle, USA & Electronic	8 working papers
Research Advisory Board (RAB)	26 th	18-19 Nov	Seattle, USA & Electronic	6 working papers
Interim Meeting (IM)	101st	2 Dec	Electronic	13 working papers 2 regulatory proposals

7 IPHC PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS ADOPTED IN 2025

In 2025, the Commission adopted **three (3)** fishery regulations proposals ([IPHC-2025-AM101-R](#)) in accordance with Article III of the Convention, as follows:

7.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals

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

([par. 75](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA1](#), that provided the mortality and fishery limits framework for population at AM101 ([Appendix IV](#)). [CAN/USA: Unanimous]

([par. 76](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** the distributed mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by IPHC Regulatory Area, ([Table 5](#)) and sector, as provided in Appendix IV. [CAN/USA: *Unanimous*]

Table 5. Adopted TCEY mortality limits for 2025

Contracting Party IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (metric tonnes)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)
Canada Total: 2B	2,472.08	5.45
USA: 2A	748.43	1.65
USA: 2C	2,367.75	5.22
USA: 3A	4,118.62	9.08
USA: 3B	1,297.27	2.86
USA: 4A	607.81	1.34
USA: 4B	471.74	1.04
USA: 4CDE	1,397.06	3.08
United States of America Total	11,008.68	24.27
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	13,480.75	29.72

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

([par. 81](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA2](#), that provided the framework for setting fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. [CAN/USA: *Unanimous*]

([par. 83](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2025 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 20 March 2025** and must cease at **23:59 hrs local time on 7 December 2025**. [CAN/USA: *Unanimous*]

7.2 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. 85](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** 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. ([Appendix VI](#)). [CAN/USA: *Unanimous*]

8 INTERACTIONS WITH CONTRACTING PARTIES

8.1 Contracting Party reports

The IPHC Secretariat engages annually with agency representatives from both Contracting Parties to ensure comprehensive reporting of all forms of Pacific halibut removals. Efforts are ongoing to identify and address data gaps, as well as to improve data collection processes.

Additionally, the Secretariat collaborates with both Contracting Parties to streamline the development of the National Report and enhance consistency across parties.

8.2 Canada

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

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

In May 2025, 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 2025, 2026 and 2027 FISS without having to annually apply for these permissions when they apply for their Canadian scientific licences.

Collaboration with DFO and AMR to complete IPHC Regulatory Area 2B logbook coverage

The IPHC is collaborating with DFO and Archipelago Marine Research (AMR) to obtain Canadian logbook data that were not previously included in IPHC's standard data collection. Through this collaboration, IPHC will gain access to the complete set of Regulatory Area 2B logbooks, ensuring comprehensive coverage of fishing activity for incorporation into the Pacific halibut stock assessment. This initiative strengthens data completeness and improves the accuracy and consistency of catch information used in scientific analyses and management decisions.

Pilot project aimed to improve the accounting of liced, predated or damaged fish

The DFO has launched a pilot project effective 23 July 2025, to improve the accuracy of catch accounting in the groundfish hook and line fisheries. The initiative adds a new audit test comparing electronic monitoring (EM) imagery with fishing log data for fish released as *liced, predated, or otherwise damaged*. During the pilot, these test results will be evaluated separately and will not affect trip or annual audit scores. Released fish recorded as damaged must be clearly visible on EM footage for verification; if the damage cannot be confirmed, the fish will be evaluated as a standard legal or sublegal release. The pilot aims to refine procedures for documenting release categories and ensuring more consistent EM verification, with results reviewed by the DFO Audit Review Board.

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 2025 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.

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.

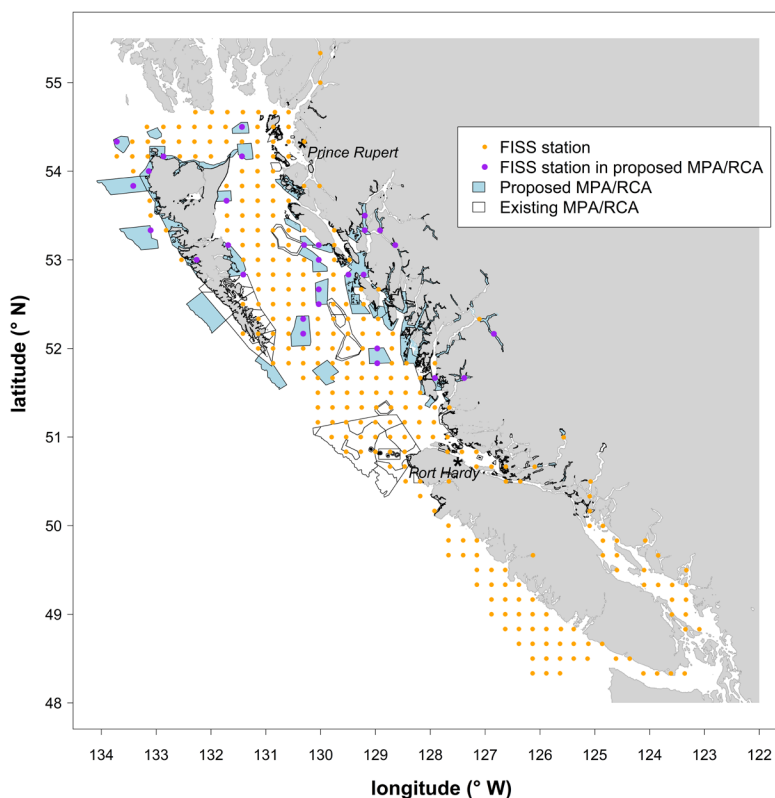


Figure 2: Overlap between locations of FISS stations and proposed area of the Northern Shelf Bioregion.

Proposed Central Coast National Marine Conservation Area Reserve

Proposed Central Coast National Marine Conservation Area Reserve (NMCAR) 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. 3). At this stage, the feasibility assessment has concluded with a report and recommendation that was submitted to the leadership of all partners.

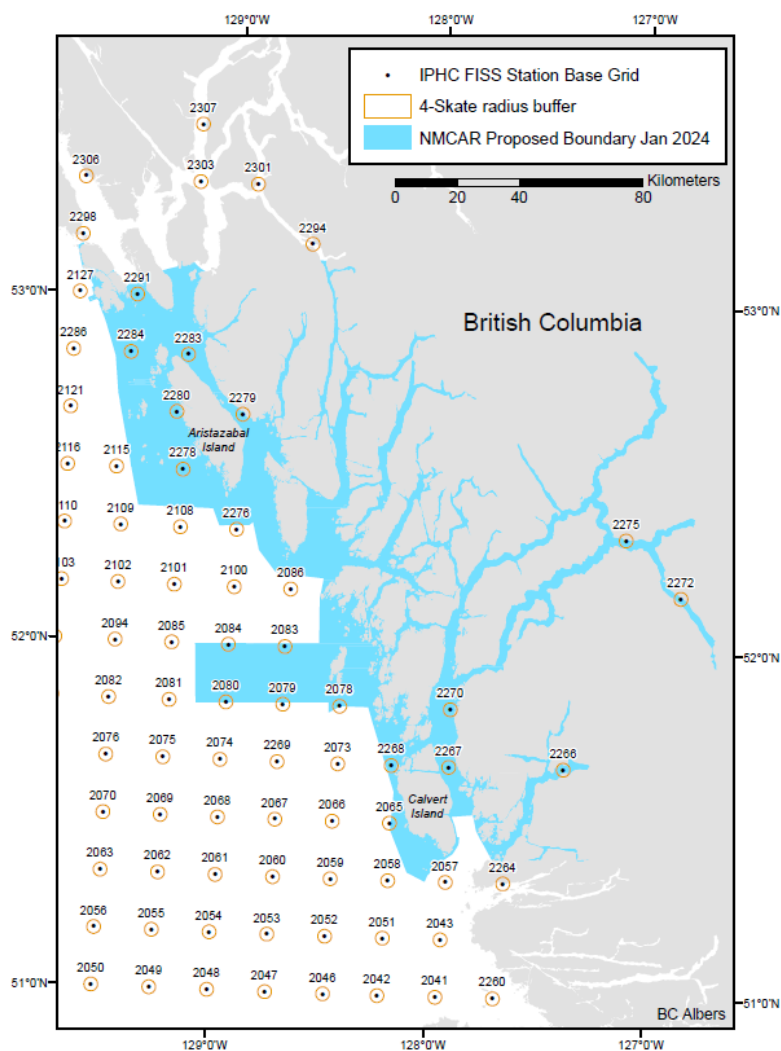


Figure 3: Central Coast National Marine Conservation Area with IPHC Standard Grid Stations

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.

8.3 United States of America

2025 Annual Management Measures were published in the Federal Register on 21 March 2025 (retrospectively effective 14 March 2025) and are available [here](#).

NOAA Fisheries

Electronic logbooks in Alaska

In 2025, the IPHC continues to support the implementation of electronic logbooks in Alaska. Building on the successful 2024 trial, the Secretariat is working with the vendor and NOAA Fisheries to expand adoption and integration of the system, which enables digital recording and verification of fishing activity without the need for paper records.

NOAA Fisheries is also finalizing the development of its application programming interface (API), which should allow the IPHC to access electronically submitted Daily Fishing Logbooks (DFLs) through the eLandings platform, further enhancing data sharing and coordination between agencies.

NMFS Proposed Rule on Confidentiality of Information

The IPHC Secretariat is closely monitoring implications of the [NMFS Final Rule on Confidentiality of Information](#), which was published on 17 December 2024, and became effective 16 January 2025. Under the updated rule, NOAA Fisheries revised 50 CFR part 600 to clarify regulatory procedures governing the management and disclosure of confidential data. The rule also defines an information-sharing obligation of a Regional Fishery Management Organization (RFMO) as a measure, or part thereof, that creates a binding requirement on the United States to report specified information by virtue of its membership in that RFMO. The Secretariat continues to assess how these revisions may affect existing data-sharing agreements and confidentiality commitments, particularly those between IPHC and NOAA Fisheries.

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. However, in 2025, the Aleut Community of St. Paul Island Tribal Government has decided not to pursue its designation as a national marine sanctuary. Instead, it has signed an agreement with the federal government focused on Indigenous-led conservation in waters surrounding the Bering Sea island. The IPHC will monitor for the potential implications for FISS survey.

North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

The IPHC provided the Council with the outcomes of the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101) during its April 2025 meeting ([B8 report](#)).

At the meeting in April 2025, the Council adopted a motion on Area 4 vessel use caps ([C1 Council Motion](#)), recommending Alternative 2 as the preferred alternative: to create a new vessel limitation specific to IFQ regulatory Area 4, while maintaining existing vessel caps for other IFQ areas. The Council supported Option 1, setting the cap at 5% of the Area 4 Pacific halibut TAC, and included a suboption specifying that Pacific halibut IFQ held by an Area 4B CQE would not accrue toward the Area 4 vessel cap.

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.

At the meeting in October 2025, the Council considered the discussion paper on IFQ/CQE transfers and beneficiary changes. Considered to allow in-season transfer of IFQ between CDQ residents.

The implementation of the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE) is postponed to 2026.

The Council will be taking the following items relevant to Pacific halibut later this year:

- Final action on 2026 charter management measures (December 2025)

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

At the meeting in March 2025, the IPHC presented to the Council the outcomes of the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101) ([C.1.a PPT](#)).

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

At the meeting in December 2024, the Council adopted the 2025 Area 2A Pacific halibut fisheries season structure 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](#).

The management measures for the Area 2A Pacific halibut directed commercial fishery are published in the Federal Register ([90 FR 15129](#), 8 April 2025 – currently as Proposed Rule).

At the meeting in September 2025, Council adopted for public review the status quo Area 2A Pacific halibut non-Tribal directed commercial fishery season structure for 2026. The Council will adopt final changes to the 2026 Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan and annual fishery regulations at their November 2025 meeting.

Incidental Catch Limits for Fixed Gear Sablefish Fisheries

Adopted in March 2025, the Council's final recommendation for the 2025 incidental Pacific halibut catch limits in the fixed gear fishery north of Point Chehalis beginning 1 April was 75 pounds of dressed weight Pacific halibut for every 1,000 pounds dressed weight of sablefish,

plus 2 additional Pacific 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 2025, the Council adopted catch ratio and vessel limits for incidental Pacific halibut retention in the salmon troll fishery which are effective from 16 May 2025 through the end of the 2025 salmon troll fishery, and beginning 1 April 2026, until modified through in-season action or the 2026 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.

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

The IPHC is monitoring the progress of offshore wind development proposals off the coasts of Oregon and Washington, particularly with respect to potential overlap with FISS operations. However, the planned wind energy auctions were postponed on 27 September 2024, following the implementation of a presidential memorandum issued by President Trump, which temporarily halted offshore wind leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf.

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 2025. 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 2025, the IPHC FISS team collected 1,344 lengths of Pacific cod and 828 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.

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.

In 2025, the IPHC sampled eight (8) additional stations at the request of the WDFW. The IPHC tagged rockfish at sea, which were then sampled by WDFW staff during the offloads in Port Angeles, and Westport, WA. The number of tagged rockfish will be provided later in the year. The costs incurred by these activities are 100% cost-recovered from the WDFW. 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 was extended in 2025 and is now valid through 31 March 2027.

9 IPHC PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH

9.1 IPHC Website

The IPHC Secretariat continues to enhance the accessibility of data and statistics for stakeholders and other interested parties, with a particular focus on providing timely and informative visual displays such as those listed below. In 2025, the IPHC website underwent ongoing improved design and simplified content management.

- 1) **Pacific halibut fishery limits (FCEY) report:**
<https://www.iphc.int/data/fishery-limits-2025/>
- 2) **Year to date directed commercial Pacific halibut landings visualization:**
<https://www.iphc.int/data/year-to-date-directed-commercial-landing-patterns-all-regions/>
- 3) **Commercial Pacific halibut WPUE data from available fishing logbooks:**
<https://www.iphc.int/data/directed-commercial-landed-weight-and-wpue/>
- 4) **Time series datasets (all sectors):**
<https://www.iphc.int/data/time-series-datasets>
- 5) **Fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) datasets:**
<https://www.iphc.int/data/datatest/fishery-independent-setline-survey-fiss>
- 6) **Water column profiler data:**
<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/data/water-column-profiler-data>

9.2 Annual Report

The 2024 Annual Report (1 January to 31 December 2024) was published on 14 February 2025 and is available for download from the IPHC website at the following link:

<https://www.iphc.int/uploads/2025/02/IPHC-2025-AR2024-R-2024-Annual-Report.pdf>

The 2025 Annual Report is expected to be published by 1 March 2026.

9.3 IPHC Circulars and Media Releases

2025 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 2025, and a full list may be accessed via the following weblink: <https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/circulars>

Circular	Title	Date published
IPHC-2025-CR-001	Report of the 101 st Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC101)	28 Jan 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-002	Report of the 30 th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB030)	30 Jan 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-003	Report of the 95 th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB095)	30 Jan 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-004	Report of the 101 st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101)	31 Jan 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-005	Invitation to the 21 st Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB021)	10 Feb 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-006	Publication of IPHC Annual Report 2024 (IPHC-2025-AR2024-R)	14 Feb 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-007	Invitation to the 26 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB026)	12 Mar 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-008	For Decision – MSAB Membership (For Approval)	25 Mar 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-009	For Information – Interseasonal Decision 2025-ID001 – MSAB Membership	3 Apr 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-010	For Decision – FY2026 Budget (For Approval), FY2027 and FY2028 (For Provisional Endorsement)	4 Apr 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-011	For Information – Interseasonal Decision 2025-ID002-ID004 – FY2026, FY2027 and FY2028 Budget Estimates	11 Apr 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-012	Report of the 21 st Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB021)	16 May 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-013	Invitation to the 2025 Session of the IPHC Work Meeting (WM2025)	6 Jun 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-014	Report of the 26 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB026)	12 Jun 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-015	Invitation to the 27 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB027)	17 Jun 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-016	For Decision – Fecundity Research: Part II (2025 and 2026)	28 Jun 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-017	For Information – Interseasonal Decisions 2025-ID005-ID006 - Fecundity Research: Part II (2025 and 2026)	8 Jul 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-018	Invitation to the 26th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB026)	20 Aug 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-019	Invitation to the 101st Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM101)	3 Sep 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-020	Report of the 27th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB027)	18 Sep 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-021	Invitation to the 102nd Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC102)	16 Oct 2025
IPHC-2025-CR-022	Invitation to the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102)	20 Oct 2025

IPHC-2025-CR-023	Invitation to the 96th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB096) and the 31st Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB031)	22 Oct 2025
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2025 IPHC Media Releases are the primary informal communication with all stakeholders. <https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/media-releases>

Media Release	Title	Date published
IPHC-2025-MR001	AM101 Hotel booking reminder	2 Jan 2025
IPHC-2025-MR002	IPHC Requests Tenders for the 2025 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) Reminder and Q&A Session	16 Jan 2025
IPHC-2025-MR003	Outcomes of the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101)	31 Jan 2025
IPHC-2025-MR004	Open Call for Expressions of Interest: IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) Member Representing U.S.A. Commercial Fisheries	19 Feb 2025
IPHC-2025-MR005	Open Call for Expression of Interest: IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB) Members Representing Canada	24 Feb 2025
IPHC-2025-MR006	Notification of Potential Pacific Halibut Sales in 2025, Seeking Buyers Interested in Fish Sales from the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	27 Feb 2025
IPHC-2025-MR007	Notification of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) 2025 Contract Awards	17 Mar 2025
IPHC-2025-MR008	Pacific Halibut Commercial Fishing Period Set to Open on 20 March	18 Mar 2025
IPHC-2025-MR009	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS): 2025	30 May 2025
IPHC-2025-MR010	2025 Fecundity Study Request for Tender	13 Jun 2025
IPHC-2025-MR011	Attention Salmon Processors – Chum Salmon Needed for the 2026 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	6 Aug 2025
IPHC-2025-MR012	Call for proposals: IPHC 2025-26 Fishery Regulations process	24 Sep 2025
IPHC-2025-MR013	Attention Salmon Processors – Request for Bids: Chum Salmon for the 2026 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)	16 Oct 2025

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/>.

9.4 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, Dr. Allan Hicks
- 5) *Marine Resource Education Program, North Pacific* – Dr. Ian Stewart
- 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

Academic affiliations 2025

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

Cooperation with other organisations

Since its inception, the IPHC has entered into a number of arrangements with other institutions, almost invariably of a technical nature, either to conduct activities in cooperation or to facilitate exchange of information that would enhance the output of both organisations. Some of these are outlined in Section 8 (Interactions with Contracting Parties).

The arrangements take a variety of forms, including Memorandum of Understanding, agreements to share data, and permits to undertake research on Pacific halibut. Current and closed arrangements are publicly available on the IPHC website: <https://www.iphc.int/about/cooperation-with-other-organizations/>.

Of particular note is our engagement with the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) facilitating collaboration between IPHC and PICES. The current [Memorandum of Understanding](#) was signed on 14 February 2024 and will remain in effect for five years.

10 IPHC PUBLICATIONS IN 2025

10.1 Published peer-reviewed journal papers

Planas, JV, Jasonowicz, AJ, Simeon, A, Simchick, C, Timmings-Schiffman, E, Nunn, BL, Kroska, AC, Wolf, N, Hurst, TP. 2025. Molecular mechanisms underlying thermally induced growth plasticity in juvenile Pacific halibut. *Journal of Experimental Biology*. 228: jeb251013. <https://doi.org/10.1242/jeb.251013>.

Ritchie, BA, Smeltz, TS, **Stewart, IJ,** Harris, BP, and N. Wolf. 2025. Exploring Spatial and Temporal Patterns in the Size-At-Age of Pacific Halibut in the Gulf of Alaska. *Fisheries Management and Ecology*. doi:10.1111/fme.12814.

Stewart, I.J., and Monnahan, C.C. 2025. Diagnosing common sources of lack of fit to composition data in fisheries stock assessment models using One-Step-Ahead (OSA) residuals. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1139/cjfas-2025-0158>.

Adams, G.D., Holsman, K., Rovellini, A., **Stewart, I.J.**, Privitera-Johnson, K., Wassermann, S.N., and Punt, A.E. 2025. Implications of predator–prey dynamics for single species management. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences **82**: 1–19. doi:10.1139/cjfas-2024-0225.

10.2 In press peer-reviewed journal papers

Nil

10.3 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.

11 RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission **NOTE** paper IPHC-2025-IM101-04 that provides the Commission with an update on the IPHC Secretariat activities in 2025 not detailed in other papers before the Commission.

12 APPENDICES

[Appendix I](#): IPHC Secretariat positions – Effective 01 July 2025



Appendix I
IPHC Secretariat positions – 29 October 2025

(<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 / May, Darran
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	Chin, Andrew
Administrative Services	-	Branch Manager (Administrative Services Branch)	Dr White, Brad
Administrative Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Coordinator	Chapman, Kelly
Administrative Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Specialist (Snr)	Wietecha, Ola
Administrative Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Specialist	Wickham, Kenneth
Administrative Services	Personnel Services	Administrative Specialist	Sherk, Sydney
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