



Update on actions arising from the 25th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025)

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PURPOSE

To provide the RAB with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 25th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025).

BACKGROUND

At the previous RAB meeting, a series of actions were agreed upon for implementation by the IPHC Secretariat. These action items and progress made on their implementation are detailed in Appendix A.

DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that any recommendations and requests for action are carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific Contracting Party, the IPHC Secretariat, a subsidiary body of the Commission or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time frame for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next session of an subsidiary body, or other date).

This involves numbering and tracking all action items (see Appendix A) from the RAB, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the RAB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2025-RAB026-03, that provided the RAB with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 25th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025).
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary the actions, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from RAB026.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Update on actions arising from the 25th IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 25th Session of the Research Advisory Board (RAB025)

Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
RAB025-Rec.01 (para. 17)	<i>Reproductive assessment of the female Pacific halibut population</i> The RAB RECOMMENDED adding maturity data from maturity samples collected in 2024 to establish a revised maturity schedule covering three consecutive years of data and determine its effects in stock assessment.	Completed: Update: Maturity data from 2022-2024 has been analyzed and will be presented at the RAB026 meeting.
RAB025-Rec.02 (para. 21)	<i>Whale depredation mitigation strategies involving longline catch protection devices</i> The RAB NOTED paper IPHC-2024-RAB025-06 , that provided a description of an ongoing study designed to identify and test new tools to minimize marine mammal depredation of hook-captured Pacific halibut and RECOMMENDED that the IPHC continue efforts towards this goal.	In Progress: Update: Results from the continuation of this work during 2025 will be presented at the RAB026 meeting.
RAB025-Rec.03 (para. 35)	<i>IPHC Meeting Calendar (2025)</i> The RAB AGREED that the placement of the RAB meeting in November, before the Pacific Marine Expo and prior to the Interim Meeting, over 1.5 days is optimal and RECOMMENDED to continue this meeting format moving forward.	Completed & Ongoing Update: The IPHC meeting calendar has been approved by the Commission to include 1.5 days for each RAB meeting.
REQUESTS		
RAB025-Req.01 (para. 10)	<i>IPHC 5-year program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26)</i> NOTING the substantial potential of incorporating AI techniques to supplement the IPHC Secretariat's current aging protocol informing on the population age structure and serving as input to the Pacific halibut stock assessment, the RAB REQUESTED ongoing updates on the project as part of the IPHC 5-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26).	Completed & Ongoing: Update: See paper IPHC-2025-RAB026-05 .
RAB025-Req.02 (para. 27)	<i>2025 FISS design evaluation</i> The RAB SUPPORTED an annual FISS design with sufficient coverage across all Biological Regions and REQUESTED that the IPHC	Completed & Ongoing: Update: See paper IPHC-2025-RAB026-08 .

Action No.	Description	Update
	Secretariat continue its efforts to obtain supplementary funding for FISS activities that would support this goal, including through direct increases in Contracting Party contribution.	
RAB025-Req.03 (para. 29)	The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat produce maps showing how long it has been since each FISS station was last sampled, and for these to be made available at RAB026, or earlier.	Completed Update: Map was created following RAB025 and has been presented at subsequent IPHC meetings.
RAB025-Req.04 (para. 30)	The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat work with relevant Contracting Party agencies to determine the feasibility of combining FISS charters alongside a vessel's commercial quota.	Completed Update: This idea was evaluated for Commissioners in 2023 and was not pursued further due to operational and legal risks to the IPHC.
RAB025-Req.05 (para. 32)	<i>Guidance on, and Discussion of, other Potential Applied Research Projects</i> The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat collect information on possible conditions that could lead to the observed increased prevalence of sand fleas affecting longline catches.	In Progress: Update: Information on sand flea affecting host species, including Pacific halibut, is being collected both from the published literature and from individual accounts.
RAB025-Req.06 (para. 33)	The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat continue investigations on Pacific halibut juvenile stages, including the mapping of juvenile habitat throughout IPHC Convention Waters.	In Progress: Update: Data on juvenile habitat for Pacific halibut in Alaskan waters are being analysed.
RAB025-Req.07 (para. 34)	The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat set up efforts to secure vessels to conduct field studies in 2025 to test catch protection devices in areas with known whale depredation.	Completed: Update: A vessel was secured and the field studies were successfully completed in May 2025. The preliminary results will be presented at the RAB026 meeting.