



**Update on actions arising from the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101),
2025 intersessional decisions, and 101st Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM101)**

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON; 08 DECEMBER 2025)

PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission.

BACKGROUND

At the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101), Contracting Parties agreed on a series of actions to be taken by Commissioners, subsidiary bodies, and the IPHC Secretariat on a range of issues as detailed in [Appendix A](#).

In addition, the Commission made a number of intersessional decisions, as detailed in [Appendix B](#), as well as at the 101st Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM101), as detailed in [Appendix C](#).

DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned to the IPHC Secretariat by the Commission, at each session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, any recommendations 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 staff, 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 a subsidiary body, or other date).

This involves numbering and tracking all action items from the Commission, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2026-AM102-03, that provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission.

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Update on actions arising from the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101: January 2025)

[Appendix B](#): Update on actions arising from 2025 intersessional decisions of the Commission

[Appendix C](#): Update on actions arising from the 101st Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM101: December 2025)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101: January 2025)

101 st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101)		
Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
Nil	Nil	Nil
REQUESTS		
AM101– Req.01 (para. 21)	<p>Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that additional Canadian membership beyond the two (2) current RAB members would be desirable and encouraged the Canadian delegation to explore recruiting new members from Canada.</p>	<p>Lead: Canada (M. Waddell) & IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson & J. Planas)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>Canada:</p> <p>IPHC Secretariat: a media release calling for Canadian RAB members was circulated on 24 February 2025 (IPHC-2025-MR-005).</p> <p>After the media release, we received and approved two (2) nominations for Canadian RAB members.</p>
AM101– Req.02 (para. 30)	<p>Port Operations</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED an annual compilation of reports of comments received by the IPHC's Fisheries Data Specialists (Field) on current harvesting conditions.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (M. Thom)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed & ongoing</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2026-AM102-06. A summary will be included in this paper moving forward to AM102.</p>
AM101– Req.03 (para. 32)	<p>Fisheries Data</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the description of data on non-directed discard mortality for IPHC Regulatory Areas 3A and 3B be updated to align with the information provided in IPHC-2025-AM101-NR02 Rev 1. (Note: A Rev_2 of this paper was published on 30 January 2025 to accommodate this request in-session: IPHC-2025-AM101-08 Rev 2).</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (B. Hutniczak)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed and ongoing</p> <p>A Rev_2 of this paper was published on 30 January 2025 to accommodate this request in-session: IPHC-2025-AM101-08 Rev 2).</p> <p>A process has been established to ensure this occurs prior to the Annual Meeting publication deadline each year.</p>
AM101– Req.04 (para. 53)	<p>Management Strategy Evaluation</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the Secretariat facilitate informal intersessional workshops, consisting of Commissioners and key advisors, to review and consider the draft</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (A. Hicks)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p>

101 st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101)		
Action No.	Description	Update
	Harvest Strategy Policy, for adoption in mid-to-late 2025.	The first workshop occurred on 23 April 2025, and the second on 6 August 2025.
AM101– Req.05 (para. 88)	<p>IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9) (Regulatory Area 2B)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat prepare an analysis detailing the biological, logistical and socioeconomic effects of year-round fishing in Canada, including challenges related to data compilation and marketing implications, for presentation at AM102.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (I. Stewart)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>See paper: IPHC-2026-AM102-INF04 Considerations relating to allowing year-round landings of Pacific halibut in Canada (I. Stewart, B. Hutniczak, A. Hicks, J. Planas, M. Thom, D. Wilson)</p>
AM101– Req.06 (para. 90)	<p>IPHC Fishery Regulations: Application of Commercial Fishery Limits (Sect. 12) – addressing concerns regarding localized depletion around St. Matthew Island</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the Secretariat communicate the details of proposal IPHC-2025-AM101-PropC2 to the NPFMC for their awareness and consideration and specifically to advise the NPFMC that the Commission considers that the proposal falls under the NPFMC purview.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson & B. Hutniczak)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>A letter was sent via email to the Chair of the NPFMC and Executive Director on 22 February 2025, with all IPHC Commissioners in CC.</p> <p>EL2025006 dtd 21 February 2025 - IPHC Letter to the NPFMC.</p> <p>Following a request from the NPFMC for additional information, received on 16 April 2025, an additional response was communicated on 26 June 2025, with all IPHC Commissioners in CC.</p> <p>EL2025038 dtd 26 June 2025 - IPHC Response Letter to the NPFMC.</p>
AM101– Req.07 (para. 124)	<p>IPHC Fishery Regulations</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC <i>Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2025)</i> as soon as possible, NOTING that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM101.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (B. Hutniczak)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>Published on the IPHC website 5 February 2025: IPHC-2025-FISHR25</p>

OTHER KEY ACTIONS

(para.
113)**Budget estimates: FY2026 (for approval); FY2027 and FY2028 (for information)**

The Commission **NOTED** and **AGREED** to the following FAC101 request:

FAC101-Req.01 (para. 28) *The FAC REQUESTED 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.*

Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson)

Status/Plan: **Completed** and **In Progress**

The Commission met on 4-5 September 2025 at the 2025 Work Meeting (WM2025). The following are the recommendations arising:

Part A: Options for restructuring future Annual Meetings to accomplish necessary business in three (3) or four (4) days rather than five (5) days.

Contracting Party National Reports:

Recommendation #1: The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that:

- 1) Contracting Party National Reports be submitted for pre-session review (30 days prior to each session in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure), and
- 2) that no presentation would be made at the Annual Meeting;
- 3) authors would be available for a 15-30 minute Q&A session during Plenary (maximum 1-hour for the agenda item).

Finance and Administration Committee (FAC):

Recommendation #2: The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the FAC meeting be moved to the week prior to the Annual Meeting each year, and for it to be held online/virtual only.

Recommendation #3: The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the upcoming FAC meeting in January 2026 (FAC102), be held for 2-3 hours in the afternoon of 14 January 2026.

Reduction or Removal of the Wednesday delegation caucus day:

Recommendation #4: The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that for AM102, Plenary would open at 09:00 hrs on Monday 19 January 2026, with the goal of presenting all key papers during the first day of the Annual Meeting.

		<p>Recommendation #5: The Commission RECOMMENDED that the CB and PAB meetings should commence their work at 09:00 hrs on Tuesday 20 January 2026, with the goal of completing their discussions and developing their recommendations for presentation to the Commission, starting mid-afternoon (15:30-17:00 hrs) on Wednesday the 21 January 2026.</p> <p>Recommendation #6: The Commission RECOMMENDED pausing discussion on reducing the Annual Meeting to 3 or 3.5 days, until after the discussions on the CB/PAB operations are completed, and Recommendations 1-5 have been implemented and tested at AM102 (in January 2026).</p> <p>Part B: Options for efficiency gains (operational and financial) in the activities of the Conference Board and Processor Advisory Board.</p> <p>Recommendation #7: The Commission RECOMMENDED that a separate working paper be developed and shared with the CB and PAB Co-Chairpersons, that incorporates the following elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) assigns the task of leading internal discussions on potential efficiency gains to be had with each body to the Co-Chairpersons; 2) includes a range of starting options, including 1) status quo, 2) status quo with efficiency gains; 3) a single Stakeholder Advisory Board with two (2) voting chambers, one for harvesters, and another for processors; and 4) A single Stakeholder Advisory Board with no voting chambers; 3) draft Terms of Reference and Voting Chamber description to aid in discussions; 4) request their consolidated feedback be provided to the Commission 30 days prior to AM102 for discussion in Plenary.
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		<p>Part C: Options for using more economical venues for future Annual Meetings.</p> <p>Recommendation #8: The Commission ACKNOWLEDGED that the process undertaken by the Secretariat each year to select annual meeting venues is robust and ensures that the most economical meeting venue is being selected, based on Commission space/operational needs, and city selected. Thus, the Commission RECOMMENDED that no further action was necessary at this time.</p> <p>Part D: Any other potential cost savings the Secretariat may identify for future Annual Meetings.</p> <p>The Commission AGREED that the Secretariat undertakes detailed consideration of the Annual Meeting series budgets and expenditures based on the operational needs of the Commission, as directed. While noting that the current operational needs may change based on other sections outlined and discussed within this Briefing Note, no further action was needed at this time.</p>
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APPENDIX B

Update on actions arising from 2025 Intersessional Decisions of the Commission

Intersessional Decisions (ID)														
IPHC-2025-ID001	<p>The Commission ENDORSED the appointment of the following new MSAB member for a four (4) year term commencing on the date of this Circular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Commercial harvester USA (1) (targeting Pacific halibut): Garrett Elwood <p>In addition, the following five (5) MSAB members whose terms expired at the end of 2024, have been renewed for another four (4) years, effective on the date of this Circular:</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Member</th><th>Position</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Hauknes, Robert</td><td>CDN Commercial harvester</td></tr><tr><td>Johnson, James</td><td>USA Commercial harvester</td></tr><tr><td>Mazzone, Scott</td><td>USA Treaty Tribes</td></tr><tr><td>Parker, Peggy</td><td>USA Processing</td></tr><tr><td>Braden, Forrest</td><td>USA sportfishing (AK)</td></tr></tbody></table>	Member	Position	Hauknes, Robert	CDN Commercial harvester	Johnson, James	USA Commercial harvester	Mazzone, Scott	USA Treaty Tribes	Parker, Peggy	USA Processing	Braden, Forrest	USA sportfishing (AK)	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson & A. Hicks)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The endorsed and renewed members were notified of their appointments.</p>
Member	Position													
Hauknes, Robert	CDN Commercial harvester													
Johnson, James	USA Commercial harvester													
Mazzone, Scott	USA Treaty Tribes													
Parker, Peggy	USA Processing													
Braden, Forrest	USA sportfishing (AK)													
IPHC-2025-ID002	<p>The Commission ADOPTED the FY2026 budget (1 October 2025 to 30 September 2026) as detailed in Appendix I, including the contributions from the Contracting Parties to the General Fund for FY2026 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Canada: Contribution to the General Fund: US\$1,019,136.94.U.S.A.: Contribution to the General Fund: US\$4,642,734.94.U.S.A.: Contribution to the headquarters building lease and maintenance costs: US\$418,599.43 (Rent = US\$289,623.08; Common area maintenance = US\$128,976.35).	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>7 April 2025: The FY2026 budgets were communicated to the respective Contracting Party contacts.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>7 May 2025: Canadian FY2026 contribution received in full (US\$1,019,136.94).</p>												
IPHC-2025-ID003	<p>The Commission NOTED the optional extra-budgetary (IFCP Fund deficit) contributions from each Contracting Party for FY2026 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Canada:<ul style="list-style-type: none">50% Contribution to the IFCP Fund deficit (former staff pension plan): US\$150,573U.S.A.:<ul style="list-style-type: none">50% Contribution to the IFCP Fund deficit (former staff pension plan): US\$150,573	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The IFCPF deficit payments are Invoiced in January of each year.</p> <p>The 2026 Invoices will be communicated in January 2026.</p>												

IPHC-2025-ID004	The Commission provisionally ENDORSED the budgets for FY2027 and FY2028 (1 October 2026 to 30 September 2027, & 1 October 2027 to 30 September 2028, as detailed in Appendix II and Appendix III , that should be used by each Contracting Party for their internal planning and budgeting processes.	Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson) Status/Plan: Completed
IPHC-2025-ID005	The Commission NOTED that the Pilot Study (Part I: IPHC-2024-BN05) was successfully conducted in the fall of 2024 (FY2025) to assess the viability (sampling and fiscal) of the fecundity study in 2025 and 2026 (ref. Objective 1). The Pilot Study sampled female Pacific halibut at 50 stations (Table 1 of Appendix I) in Biological Region 2.	Lead: IPHC Secretariat (J. Planas) Status/Plan: Completed
IPHC-2025-ID006	The Commission ENDORSED the implementation of Objectives 2 and 3 (Part II) (IPHC-2025-CR-016): a) Objective 2 will be conducted in the late summer/Fall of 2025 (FY2025). This study will sample female Pacific halibut at 50 stations in Biological Region 2 (IPHC Regulatory Area 2B); b) Objective 3 will be conducted in late summer/Fall of 2026 (FY2026). This study will investigate potential regional differences in fecundity by estimating fecundity in female Pacific halibut collected in different Biological Regions within the same year of collection.	Lead: IPHC Secretariat (J. Planas) Status/Plan: Completed and In progress The 2025 Fecundity study is completed. The 2026 Fecundity Study is scheduled for mid-2026.

APPENDIX C

Update on actions arising from the 101st Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM101: December 2025)

101 st Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM101)		
Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
Nil	Nil	Nil
REQUESTS		
IM101-Req.01 (para. 5)	<p>Update on actions arising from the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101), 2025 Special Sessions, and intersessional decisions</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that paper IPHC-2025-IM101-INF02 be expanded to include the following elements, to the extent possible, for consideration at AM102 in January 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An analysis of measures that would ensure no expansion of Pacific halibut effort; b) An analysis of the extent to which high prices and winter price premium incentives might create an incentive to maximize winter Pacific halibut landings; c) An analysis of whether approval of this proposal may lead other commercial fishery sectors in Canada or the U.S.A. to seek approval to retain Pacific halibut bycatch (e.g. the Amendment 80 fleet). 	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (B. Hutniczak)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>See paper: IPHC-2026-AM102-INF04 <i>Considerations relating to allowing year-round landings of Pacific halibut in Canada</i> (I. Stewart, B. Hutniczak, A. Hicks, J. Planas, M. Thom, D. Wilson)</p>
IM101-Req.02 (para. 12)	<p>IPHC Rules of Procedure</p> <p>The Commission ADOPTED the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2025), as provided in IPHC-2025-IM101-16, by consensus, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>IPHC Rules of Procedure (2025)</p>
IM101-Req.03 (para. 26)	<p>IPHC Harvest Strategy Policy</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED the following be added to the 2026 MSE program of work to be considered in the next HSP update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Investigation of potential changes to the reference SPR (F43%) with the updated MSE framework; b) Further development of the Depleted concept, including a threshold and 	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (A. Hicks)</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress</p>

101 st Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM101)		
Action No.	Description	Update
	<p>management action when approaching the threshold;</p> <p>c) A description of the interactions between overfished, depleted, and overfishing and further understanding how each fits within the management framework;</p> <p>d) Investigations of different productivity regimes and how management may change in response to different productivity;</p> <p>e) Expansion of the rebuilding section to include discussion of potential management actions while a rebuilding plan is in development, and how the rebuilding plan will meet policies of the two Contracting Parties;</p> <p>f) Development of guidance documents (e.g. rebuilding plan);</p> <p>g) Expansion of the definition of Net Economic Returns (NER) to include opportunities (e.g. Community-based Fisheries, recreational fisheries etc.), cultural aspects (e.g. Food, Social and Ceremonial fisheries), and other concepts that are important to Pacific halibut users.</p>	
IM101-Req.04 (para. 40)	<p><i>IPHC Fishery regulations: Proposals for the 2025-26 process</i></p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that interested stakeholders note the deadline for submission of IPHC Fishery Regulation proposals, for consideration at the 102nd Session of the Annual Meeting (AM102), of 20 December 2025. Late proposals will not be considered at AM102, but stakeholders may also submit statements up until the day before the AM102. More information is available via the updated IPHC website: https://iphc.int/the-commission/fishery-regulations/.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (B. Hutniczak)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p>