



Update on the Actions Arising from the 21st Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB021)

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PURPOSE

To provide the Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the intersessional period, on the recommendations/requests arising from the 21st Session of the Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB021).

BACKGROUND

At the MSAB021, the members recommended/requested a series of actions to be taken by the IPHC Secretariat, as detailed in the MSAB021 meeting report ([IPHC-2025-MSAB021-R](#)) available from the IPHC website, and as provided in [Appendix A](#).

DISCUSSION

During the 22nd Session of the MSAB (MSAB022), efforts will be made to ensure that any recommendations/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 (such as the IPHC Staff or MSAB officers);
- 3) a desired time frame for delivery of the action (such as by the next session of the MSAB or by some other specified date).

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the MSAB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2026-MSAB022-04, that provided the MSAB with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period in relation to the consolidated list of recommendations/requests arising from the previous MSAB meeting (MSAB021).
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise the actions as necessary and to combine them with any new actions arising from MSAB022.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Update on actions arising from the 21st Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB021)

APPENDIX A
**Update on actions arising from the 21st Session of the IPHC Management Strategy
 Advisory Board (MSAB021)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Action No.	Description	Update
MSAB021– Rec.1 (para 44)	<p>The MSAB RECOMMENDED the following wording for the objectives in the Harvest Strategy Policy:</p> <p>a) maintain the long-term coastwide Pacific halibut female relative spawning biomass above a biomass limit reference point (RSB20%) at least 95% of the time;</p> <p>b) maintain the long-term coastwide Pacific halibut female relative spawning biomass at or above a threshold reference point (RSB36%) at least 50% of the time;</p> <p>c) subject to meeting the previous two objectives, maximise the sustainable coastwide yield while minimising annual changes in the coastwide mortality limit.</p>	<p>Status: Completed</p> <p>The Commission considered this language prior to adoption of the Harvest Strategy Policy.</p>
MSAB021– Rec.2 (para 48)	<p>The MSAB RECOMMENDED that the 22nd Session of the MSAB (MSAB022) be held over two (2) to three (3) days during the week of 20 October 2025 with a virtual option.</p>	<p>Status: Completed</p> <p>An informational session was held virtually in October. MSAB022 is scheduled for 12-14 May (online only) and a summary of the informational session will be reviewed.</p>

REQUESTS

Action No.	Description	Update
MSAB021– Req.1 (para 36)	<p>The MSAB REQUESTED further evaluations of the following MP elements, after the OM is conditioned following the full 2025 stock assessment:</p> <p>a) fishing intensities including, but not limited to, SPRs of 40%, 43%, 46%, 52%, 55%, and 100% (no directed fishing);</p> <p>b) a triennial assessment frequency;</p> <p>c) various empirical rules to determine the reference coastwide TCEY in nonassessment years;</p> <p>d) control rules with triggers at higher values than RSB30% or based on absolute spawning biomass</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>These are part of the MSE workplan for 2026 and may be modified at MSAB022, if necessary.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
	relative to the spawning biomass estimated at the beginning of 2024.	
MSAB021– Req.2 (para 37)	<p>The MSAB REQUESTED evaluating constraints and smoothers, along with MP elements listed in para. 36, that would potentially reduce the interannual variability in the TCEY, including:</p> <p>a) a 3-year rolling average (arithmetic or geometric) on the FISS O32 WPUE used in the empirical rule in a triennial stock assessment frequency;</p> <p>b) constraints applied only to non-assessment years and/or applied only to assessment years;</p> <p>c) a phase-in approach for the change in TCEY in assessment years; d) using the trends in fishery CPUE and/or FISS WPUE to determine if a bigger reduction should be taken than suggested by the unconstrained reference TCEY to curtail further reductions in the SB.</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>These are part of the MSE workplan for 2026 and may be updated at MSAB022, if necessary.</p>
MSAB021– Req.3 (para 38)	The MSAB REQUESTED the evaluation of some elements (e.g. SPR=43%, SPR=52%, and triennial assessment) in paras. 36 and 37 with each of the three FISS designs.	<p>Status: Completed</p> <p>These evaluations will be completed as a subset of the 2026 workplan.</p>
MSAB021– Req.4 (para 39)	<p>The MSAB REQUESTED conducting simulations assuming the following productivity regimes with a subset of the MPs from paras. 36 and 37 and all other sources of variability:</p> <p>a) low recruitment and low weight-at-age;</p> <p>b) low recruitment and current weight-at-age;</p> <p>c) high recruitment and low weight-at-age.</p>	<p>Status: In progress</p> <p>These are part of the MSE workplan for 2026 and may be updated at MSAB022, if necessary. Initial results were presented at AM102.</p>
MSAB021– Req.5 (para 40)	The MSAB REQUESTED conducting analyses of MPs, reference points, and the effects of recruitment regimes and variable weight-at-age after conditioning the OM following the full 2025 stock assessment.	<p>Status: Completed</p> <p>The new OM is ready.</p>
MSAB021– Req.6 (para 41)	The MSAB REQUESTED presenting dynamic unfished spawning biomass along with simulated spawning biomass, and trace plots (the purple plots in document IPHC-2025-MSAB021-06) with uncertainty for the productivity regimes at MSAB022 for productivity regimes described in para. 39, with SPRs of 43% and 52%.	<p>Status: Completed</p> <p>These plots were presented at AM102 and will be updated with the new OM.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
MSAB021– Req.7 (para 43)	The MSAB REQUESTED that the Commission clarify the intent of the phrase “spatial and temporal scale relevant to the fishery” which is stated in the objective in the draft Harvest Strategy Policy (IPHC-2025-MSAB021-09) related to a threshold reference point, but is not in objective b) from AM099 (para. 16 above).	Status: Completed This was considered by the Commission and removed before the adoption of the HSP.