



UPDATE ON THE ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 28TH SESSION OF THE IPHC SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD (SRB028)

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PURPOSE

To provide the Scientific Review Board (SRB) with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the intersessional period, on the recommendations/requests arising from the SRB028.

BACKGROUND

At the SRB028, the members recommended/requested a series of actions to be taken by the IPHC Secretariat, as detailed in the SRB026 meeting report ([IPHC-2026-SRB028-R](#)) available from the IPHC website, and as provided in [Appendix A](#).

DISCUSSION

During the 29th Session of the SRB (SRB029), 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 Secretariat or SRB officers);
- 3) a desired time frame for delivery of the action (such as by the next session of the SRB or by some other specified date).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the SRB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2026-SRB029-03, that provided the SRB 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 SRB meeting (SRB028).
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise the actions as necessary, and to combine them with any new actions arising from SRB029.

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Update on actions arising from the 28th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB028).

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 28th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB028)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Action No.	Description	Update
SRB028– Rec.01 (para. 27)	Management strategy evaluation The SRB NOTED that a single control rule based on relative biomass is unlikely to reach the ramp (descending limb) where reduction in F are triggered. Therefore, the SRB RECOMMENDED investigating HCRs based on absolute biomass.	In Progress Update: This work will continue following the conditioning of the OM.
SRB028– Rec.02 (para. 35)	Age composition data (both fishery-dependent and fishery-independent) NOTING that the Secretariat has developed multiple aging methods (epigenetic, AI-based, traditional break and burn otolith aging), the SRB RECOMMENDED that a table be developed – with a column for each method - describing: a) the different anticipated use cases; b) the relative costs (split into development and production) and benefits of these approaches; c) timelines for development; and d) decision points that will determine future allocation of effort to this method.	Completed & Ongoing Update: Preliminary tables will be included in: IPHC-2026-SRB029-05 , and IPHC-2026-SRB029-INF02 .

REQUESTS

Action No.	Description	Update
SRB028– Req.01 (para. 16)	Biology and ecology The SRB REQUESTED an analysis that separates year and biological region effects on maturity ogives. This would answer whether variation in age at maturity is driven by variation in the spatial distribution of the	Completed & Ongoing Update: The IPHC Secretariat has conducted analyses of histology-based maturity data separating year and biological region using best-fit logistic GAM. These data were provided in IPHC-2025-

	stock or by interannual variation in environmental conditions.	SRB026-06. Potential drivers of variation in age at maturity are being investigated.
SRB028– Req.02 (para. 17)	The SRB REQUESTED that the Secretariat investigate: a) environmental predictors of interannual variation in maturity ogives; and b) the potential to include time-varying maturity ogives in the stock assessment.	In Progress Update: The IPHC Secretariat is investigating potential predictors of interannual variation in maturity ogives during the period of time (2002-2024) during which visual maturity was calibrated by applying the calibration using histological and visual data (2022-2024).
SRB028– Req.03 (para. 18)	The SRB REQUESTED that, as more epigenetic aging data become available, a more systematic approach to cross-validation be developed in which performance is evaluated across space and time. For example, applying a model trained on samples from all but one area to the withheld area and applying a model trained on samples from all but one year to the withheld year. Ideally, a full factorial approach could be used to determine whether any training-test combinations perform inadequately.	In Progress Update: The IPHC Secretariat is investigating approaches to cross-validate epigenetic data across sampled areas (space) and (years) time.
SRB028– Req.04 (para. 21)	<i>Pacific halibut stock assessment</i> NOTING the progress presented in IPHC-2026-SRB028-07 on assembling a list of state space modelling platforms and their associated features, the SRB REQUESTED an update at SRB029 on progress to develop initial models, including approaches to mimic essential features of the Pacific halibut assessment (e.g. sex specific modelling) using other means (e.g. the spatial area features in multi-WHAM).	In Progress Update: Progress to date is summarized in IPHC-2026-SRB029-06 and will be presented during the meeting.
SRB028– Req.05 (para. 23)	<i>Management strategy evaluation</i> The SRB REQUESTED that the Secretariat investigate, via the MSE, control rules based on changes to the risk of overfishing (often referred to as p^* , see Shertzer et al. 2008 ¹).	In Progress Update: This work will continue following the conditioning of the OM.

SRB028– Req.06 (para. 25)	RECALLING that at SRB026, the SRB made the following recommendation, IPHC-2025-SRB026-R, SRB026–Rec.07 (para. 24) “<i>The SRB RECOMMENDED that recruitment projections in the stock assessment and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) incorporate a random-walk starting from the most recent reliable recruitment estimate to constrain expected short-term recruitment around recent estimates rather than immediately reverting to the stock-recruitment relationship.</i>” and NOTING the update provided by the Secretariat at SRB028, the SRB REQUESTED an analysis of projecting recruitment via projections in environmental drivers (Pacific Decadal Oscillation) in addition to autocorrelated recruitment, which tends to rapidly revert to the mean.	Completed & Ongoing Update: The IPhC Secretariat has described the challenges with linking PDO projections to environmental drivers and described some alternatives in IPHC-2026-SRB029-07.
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