Update on actions arising from the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102), 2026 Special Sessions, and intersessional decisions

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON; 27 OCTOBER 2026)

Outcome sought: *NOTE the update; AGREE to close actions AM102–Req.01 and AM102–Req.02.*

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 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102) (IPHC-2026-AM102-R), 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.

No Special Sessions of the Commission were convened during 2026, and no intersessional decisions were taken.

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.

Against that standard, the position at the date of this paper is as follows. AM102 generated two (2) direct requests for action and no formal recommendations. Both requests have been completed, and no actions remain outstanding. As no Special Sessions were convened during 2026 and no intersessional decisions were taken, no further actions arise from those sources.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2026-IM102-03, which 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.
2) **NOTE** that both actions arising from AM102 have been completed, that no Special Sessions of the Commission were convened during 2026, and that no intersessional decisions were taken; and
3) **AGREE** to close actions AM102–Req.01 and AM102–Req.02.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Update on actions arising from the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102: January 2026)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102: January 2026)

102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102)		
Action No.	**Description**	**Update**
RECOMMENDATIONS		
Nil	Nil	Nil
REQUESTS		
AM102–Req.01 (para. 93)	***IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 28) – unguided sector bag limit*** The Commission **REQUESTED** that the Secretariat send a letter to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council transmitting copies of regulatory proposals C1 and C3 for the Council's awareness and consideration. The letter should inform the Council that the expansion of the unguided recreational harvest in Alaska prompted considerable feedback from IPHC stakeholders. In 2025 the final unguided harvest and removal estimate in Area 2C was 1.445 Mlb, compared to the preliminary removal estimate of 0.992 Mlb, and the increase is understood to be driven by growing harvest by anglers fishing from unguided rental boats. This poses both management and allocative concerns, particularly in light of the current low abundance of the halibut resource. Given the Council's important role in these matters, the Council may wish to consider measures to improve management and catch data collection for the unguided recreational sector of the Pacific halibut fishery.	**Lead**: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson & B. Hutniczak) **Status/Plan**: Completed A letter was sent via email to the Chair of the NPFMC and Executive Director on 26 January 2026, with all IPHC Commissioners in CC. **EL2026002** dtd 26 January 2026 - IPHC Letter to the NPFMC. **NPFMC response**: The NPFMC considered the IPHC letter at its February 2026 meeting. B8 IPHC Letter to NPFMC, and decided to take no action at that time.
AM102–Req.02 (para. 107)	***Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 102nd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM102)*** The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC *Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2026)* as soon as possible, **NOTING** that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM102.	**Lead**: IPHC Secretariat (B. Hutniczak) **Status/Plan**: Completed Published on the IPHC website 4 February 2026: IPHC-2026-FISHR26.