



Update on actions arising from the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) and Interim Meeting (IM095)

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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 during the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095, January 2019), and the 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095, November 2019).

BACKGROUND

At the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095), 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](#).

DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned to the IPHC Secretariat by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that 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 (see [Appendix A](#)) from the Commission, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2019-AM096-03, 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 during its 95th Annual Meeting (AM095, January 2019), and the 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095, November 2019).

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Update on actions arising from the 95th Annual Meeting \(AM095: January 2019\) and the 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting \(IM095: November 2019\)](#)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095: January 2019) and 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095)

95 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
AM095– Rec.01 (para. 59c)	<p>IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED the MSAB develop the following additional objective, as well as prioritize this objective in the evaluation of management procedures, for the Commission’s consideration.</p> <p>i. A conservation objective that meets a spawning biomass target.</p>	<p>Lead: Allan Hicks</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>The MSAB discussed this objective at MSAB013 and MSAB014 and the objective recommended at MSAB014 was presented at IM095 and will be presented at AM096.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-12</p>
AM095– Rec.02 (para. 62)	<p>Report of the 12th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB012)</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the MSAB and IPHC Secretariat continue its program of work on the Management Procedure for the Scale portion of the harvest strategy, NOTING that Scale and Distribution components will be evaluated and presented no later than at AM097 in 2021, for potential adoption and subsequent implementation as a harvest strategy. The management procedure that best meets the primary objectives for coastwide scale is:</p> <p>a) A target SPR of 40% with a fishery trigger of 30% and a fishery limit of 20% in the control rule;</p> <p>b) An annual constraint of 15% from the previous year’s mortality limit.</p>	<p>Lead: Allan Hicks</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress.</p> <p>Additional results from simulations for coastwide fishing intensity (Scale) were presented and discussed at MSAB013, with similar outcomes as presented at AM095. Work is now focused on defining objectives related to distribution, identifying management procedures for scale and distribution components, and developing a simulation framework that allows for the evaluation of management procedures with both scale and distribution components.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-12</p>
AM095– Rec.03 (para. 65)	<p>Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that Contracting Parties undertake a detailed review of the amendments to the IPHC Fishery Regulations contained in IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA1, and to provide initial feedback at the 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095) on whether agreement could be reached to adopt the amendments at the subsequent 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) in January 2020.</p>	<p>Lead: Steve Keith</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>Draft reviewed at IM095.</p> <p>To be considered for adoption at AM096.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA1</p>

95 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
AM095– Rec.04 (para. 66)	The Commission RECOMMENDED evaluating and redefining TCEY to include the U26 component of discard mortalities, including bycatch, as steps towards more comprehensive and responsible management of the resource, in coordination with the IPHC Secretariat and Contracting Parties. The intent is that each Contracting Party to the Treaty would be responsible for counting its U26 mortalities against its collective TCEY. This change would be intended to take effect for TCEYs established at the 2020 Annual Meeting.	Lead: Ian Stewart Status/Plan: Completed. Discussion paper comparing several alternatives for the treatment of U26 within a total mortality limit was considered at the 95 th Interim Meeting (IM095 - IPHC-2019-IM095-10). At IM095 (para 43) <i>The Commission NOTED that the options provided were sufficient for consideration at AM096, and made no specific requests for further action by the Secretariat at IM095.</i> See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-10
AM095– Rec.05 (para. 67)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat expand upon the analysis completed in IPHC-2019-AM095-INF08 “ <i>Treatment and effects of Pacific halibut discard mortality (bycatch) in non-directed fisheries projected for 2019</i> ”, to be reviewed by the SRB at its next meeting. The objective of this work is to estimate lost yield from bycatch of Pacific halibut in non-directed fisheries for the years of 1991-2018.	Lead: Ian Stewart Status/Plan: Completed. Discussion paper describing methods and results reviewed at SRB015 (IPHC-2019-SRB015-12), and IM095 (IPHC-2019-IM095-11). See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-INF06
AM095– Rec.06 (para. 71)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat continue to report out annually on Regulatory Area mortality against the TCEY adopted for each Regulatory Area.	Lead: Lara Erikson Status/Plan: Completed. Incorporated into regular reporting on the fishery provided to the Commission and stakeholders via the Landing Report which is updated bi-monthly: https://www.iphc.int/data/landings-2019
AM095– Rec.07 (para. 72)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat develop options for accounting for Pacific halibut mortalities associated with the FISS and their other research projects in the definition of the coastwide TCEY.	Lead: Ian Stewart & L. Erikson Status/Plan: Completed. Discussion paper comparing several accounting alternatives prepared for IM095 (IPHC-2019-IM095-INF03). IM095 (para 54) <i>The Commission REQUESTED that ‘Option 1: The status quo (no change to current accounting’ as detailed in paper IPHC-2019-IM095-INF03, should be the accounting practice for FISS landings.</i>

95 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
AM095– Rec.08 (para. 78)	<p>IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Non-Tribal Directed Commercial Fishery</p> <p>NOTING the indication made to the PFMC in a letter dated 25 January 2019, that the IPHC Secretariat would welcome the opportunity to further address the safety concerns in the fishery, and to examine other potential management options for the fishery such as an IFQ or limited entry, as well as its management responsibilities, the Commission RECOMMENDED that this workshop take place, given the desire for the IPHC to move full management of the fishery from the IPHC (an international fisheries management body) to the relevant domestic agencies.</p>	<p>Lead: Steve Keith</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress.</p> <p>Coordinating with relevant Contracting Party domestic agencies regarding shifting management of all Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A from the IPHC to the relevant domestic agencies.</p> <p>IM095 (para. 89) <i>The Commission WELCOMED the PFMC's commitment to transition management of Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A from the IPHC to domestic agencies and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat continue to support this process in the short-term, with the aim of transitioning management of the fishery to the domestic agencies at the earliest opportunity.</i></p>
AM095– Rec.09 (para. 82)	<p>IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that Contracting Parties undertake a detailed review of the amendments to the IPHC Fishery Regulations contained in IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA3 Rev_1, and to provide initial feedback at the 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095) on whether agreement could be reached to adopt the amendments at the subsequent 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) in January 2020.</p>	<p>Lead: Steve Keith</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>Draft reviewed at IM095.</p> <p>To be considered for adoption at AM096.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA3</p>
AM095– Rec.10 (para. 129)	<p>Peer review process for IPHC science products</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat develop terms of reference for a consultant to undertake a peer review of the IPHC Pacific halibut stock assessment, for implementation in early 2019. The terms of reference and budget shall be endorsed by the Commission inter-sessionally.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson & Ian Stewart</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>TORs drafted, sent and reviewed by SRB, sent to Commissioners for formal decision via Circular 2019-007. Approved by consensus. Contract awarded, peer review undertaken by Dr Kevin Stokes. Final report/review circulated to Commission on 2 Aug 2019 via IPHC Circular 2019-015, considered at IM095.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-08</p>

95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
AM095– Rec.11 (para. 130)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise terms of reference for an expert/consultant to undertake a peer review of the IPHC Pacific halibut MSE, for implementation in early November 2019 and July 2020. The terms of reference and budget shall be endorsed by the Commission inter-sessionally.	Lead: David Wilson & Allan Hicks Status/Plan: In progress. TORs in development. Plan is for the review to occur in 2020, not 2019. See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-INF03
REQUESTS		
AM095– Req.01 (para. 06)	Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2018) The Commission NOTED the new functionality added to the IPHC website in 2018, and REQUESTED that these initiatives continue to be enhanced, with the overall aim of further improving the transparency of the IPHC's operations and data collected (http://iphc.int/): a) Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data interactive b) Regulations portal , including the online regulatory proposal submission form c) Landings Report d) Mortality projection tool	Lead: All Branch Managers Status/Plan: Completed. Work for 2019 has now concluded. See IPHC website for improvements made to each section.
AM095– Req.02 (para. 12)	Fishery statistics (2018) NOTING the uncertainty associated with various estimates of removals, as listed below, the Commission REQUESTED each Contracting Party address these uncertainties in a report to the Commission at its next Session. The intention is to provide greater detail on how each removal category is quantified, and verified: Canada a) self-reporting of lodges for recreational estimates in Canada; b) subsistence estimates in Canada; United States of America c) self-reporting of lodges for recreational estimates in the U.S.A. (Alaska); d) recreational discard mortality estimates for U.S.A. (IPHC Regulatory Area 2A); e) subsistence estimates in the U.S.A.; f) estimates for the Pacific halibut commercial fishery discard mortality in U.S.A. (Alaska) due to the estimates calculated by the IPHC Secretariat differing from those provided by NMFS, due primarily to the way coverage is measured (by fish weight caught, versus fishing trip);	Lead: Lara Erikson Status/Plan: In progress. See papers: Canada: IPHC-2020-AM096-NR01 USA: IPHC-2020-AM096-NR02

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	g) the estimates for Pacific halibut bycatch mortality in other fisheries in the U.S.A., for the same reasons identified in the previous point.	
AM095– Req.03 (para. 23)	<i>Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; FISS expansion results, etc.)</i> NOTING that more FISS stations in the disputed area between Regulatory Areas 2B and 2C appear to be assigned to Regulatory Area 2C, and that the IPHC Secretariat indicated that this assignment is based on a ‘compromise’ boundary line previously developed, the Commission REQUESTED that this separation line be clarified and clearly marked on any future IPHC map to avoid confusion. The IPHC Secretariat shall develop such maps and distribute to the Commission in the coming weeks.	Lead: Ray Webster Status/Plan: Completed. Following discussions with Commissioners, all FISS stations within the overlap of Canadian and USA maritime claims are included in both Regulatory Areas 2B and 2C’s WPUE and NPUE indices. Use of a “compromise” boundary line has been discontinued.
AM095– Req.04 (para. 91)	<i>Contracting Party (by Agency) reports - Regulatory Area 2A (U.S.A.: West coast)</i> NOTING a lack of clarity regarding the accounting for Pacific halibut caught recreationally in British Columbia waters (Canada) and landed in Washington ports (U.S.A.), the Commission REQUESTED continued liaison between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the subject.	Lead: Steve Keith Status/Plan: In progress. See papers: Canada: IPHC-2020-AM096-NR01 USA: IPHC-2020-AM096-NR02
AM095– Req.05 (para. 117)	<i>Budget estimates for FY2020 (for approval), and tentatively for FY2021</i> The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat continue to develop a proposal for a potential Life History Modeller to join the IPHC Secretariat and for this to be provided to the Commission for consideration inter-sessionally.	Lead: Josep Planas Status/Plan: In progress. The position description was provided to the Commissioners inter-sessionally via IPHC Circular 2019-022 and will be discussed informally prior to the AM096 in February 2020 where the Commission may choose to appropriate funds for the position. See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-INF04
AM095– Req.06 (para. 120)	<i>IPHC Financial Regulations (2019)</i> The Commission ADOPTED the revised IPHC Financial Regulations (2019) by consensus, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed. IPHC Financial Regulations 2019 were published to the IPHC website on 4 February 2019.
AM095– Req.07 (para. 124)	<i>IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019)</i> The Commission ADOPTED the revised IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019) by consensus, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed. IPHC Rules of Procedure 2019 were published to the IPHC website on 4 February 2019.

95 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
AM095- Req.08 (para. 150)	<p>Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC <i>Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2019)</i> no later than 28 February 2019, NOTING that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM095.</p>	<p>Lead: Steve Keith</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed, IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations 2019 were published to the IPHC website on 19 February 2019.</p>

95 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
IM095- Rec.01 (para. 78)	<p>Management Strategy Evaluation</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the MSAB use the primary objectives and associated performance metrics detailed in Appendix V of IPHC-2019-MSAB014-R for the evaluation of management procedures.</p>	<p>Lead: Allan Hicks</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress.</p> <p>To be considered at MSAB meetings in 2020.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-12</p>
REQUESTS		
IM095- Req.01 (para. 23)	<p>Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; FISS expansion results, etc.)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that information on FISS cost and revenue projections for design options for 2021 and 2022 be presented at AM096 for further consideration.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson & Ray Webster</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-INF07</p>
IM095- Req.02 (para. 37)	<p>Data overview and preliminary stock assessment (2019), and draft harvest decision table (2019)</p> <p>NOTING that the Interim Management Procedure uses the previous year's estimated discard mortality in non-directed fisheries as the basis for mortality projections, and that the actual estimates the following year can differ from those predictions due to changes in both the Pacific halibut stock and in the non-directed fisheries, and noting that the Commission is seeking to generate a bycatch estimate that is as accurate as possible, the Commission REQUESTED an additional projection be prepared for comparison at AM096 based on an average of the most recent 3-years of discard mortality in non-directed fisheries.</p>	<p>Lead: Ian Stewart</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-09</p>

95 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
IM095-Req.03 (para. 49)	<p>Alternative projections for 2019 (last year) adjusted for the effects of U26 Pacific halibut discard mortality in non-directed fisheries ('bycatch')</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the method described in paper IPHC-2019-IM095-12, in addition to the adjustments to the Interim Management procedure adopted at AM095, be applied as a basis for the mortality projection tool for use in the decision-making processes at AM096.</p>	<p>Lead: Ian Stewart Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-10</p>
IM095-Req.04 (para. 50)	<p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat prepare the following alternatives for presentation at AM096:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> changing the relative harvest rate for IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE to a value of 1.0 (from 0.75) after the adjustments to the Interim Management Procedure; and comparing the adjusted management procedure (as presented, and including the U26 non-directed fishery discard mortality mitigation) further modified to add the TCEY pounds additional to the historical Interim Management Procedure calculation for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 2B to the total TCEY. 	<p>Lead: Ian Stewart Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-09</p>
IM095-Req.05 (para. 53)	<p>Options for FISS mortality accounting in projections</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat develop the time-series table of FISS mortality by IPHC Regulatory Area for comparison of Total and Distribution mortality as sampling designs vary in the future under a rationalised approach, and provide the table as a web-based resource to be updated each for the Annual Meeting.</p>	<p>Lead: Ian Stewart & Lara Erikson Status/Plan:</p> <p>See Website</p>
IM095-Req.06 (para. 54)	<p>The Commission REQUESTED that 'Option 1: The status quo (no change to current accounting)' as detailed in paper IPHC-2019-IM095-INF03, should be the accounting practice for FISS landings. Predicted commercial landings in the IPHC's current mortality projection tool include FISS mortality. This leaves the accounting for the mortality associated with the FISS to the managers implementing the applicable quota programs and CSPs. FISS landings have been relatively small in recent years, and have represented an average of only 3% of the total fish ticket landings (FISS and commercial combined). It does not appear that in recent year's managers have opted to set aside quota to offset FISS mortality, and the IPHC has not provided explicit projections of FISS landings. However, the magnitude of the actual mortality accruing to the TCEY compared to the adopted TCEY in recent years does not appear to be related to years of higher or lower FISS activity. This may suggest that the current approach is not causing actual mortality (FISS and commercial combined) to exceed the adopted mortality limits, although in concept if all other sources were fully harvested this would be the case. The status quo approach does not require use of uncertain</p>	<p>Lead: Ian Stewart Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-09</p>

95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
	projections of FISS landings, but as this paper outlines, does not provide for transparent accounting.	
IM095-Req.07 (para. 81)	Management Strategy Evaluation The Commission NOTED the MSE Program of Work (2019–21) and REQUESTED that the MSAB and IPHC Secretariat continue its program of work with delivery of recommended management procedures at AM097.	Lead: Allan Hicks Status/Plan: In progress. See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-12
IM095-Req.08 (para. 89)	Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) The Commission WELCOMED the PFMC's commitment to transition management of Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A from the IPHC to domestic agencies and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat continue to support this process in the short-term, with the aim of transitioning management of the fishery to the domestic agencies at the earliest opportunity.	Lead: Steve Keith Status/Plan: In progress. See papers IPHC-2020-AM096-04 and USA: IPHC-2020-AM096-NR02
IM095-Req.09 (para. 104)	Report of the 2nd IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC02) NOTING the 26 recommendations arising from the PRIPHC02, the Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat prepare a table for consideration at AM096 which would include each recommendation, and proposed/draft 1) responsibilities, 2) timeline, 3) priorities; and 4) any initial comments of relevance. The intention will be for the Commission to review the table at AM096, modify and adopt a plan for implementation moving forward.	Lead: David Wilson Status/Plan: Completed. See paper IPHC-2020-AM096-14