INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

IPHC–2020–AM096–R

Report of the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)

Anchorage, Alaska, USA, 3-7 February 2020

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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

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ACRONYMS

CB	Conference Board
CSP	Catch Sharing Plan
DFO	Fisheries and Ocean Canada
FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
HANA	Halibut Association of North America
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
MSAB	Management Strategy Advisory Board
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPFMC	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
PAB	Processor Advisory Board
PFMC	Pacific Fishery Management Council
RAB	Research Advisory Board
SB	Spawning Biomass
SRB	Scientific Review Board
SPR	Spawning Potential Ratio
TCEY	Total Constant Exploitation Yield

DEFINITIONS

A set of working definitions are provided in the IPHC Glossary of Terms and abbreviations: https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/glossary-of-terms-and-abbreviations

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

Level 1: **RECOMMENDED**; **RECOMMENDATION; ADOPTED** (formal); **REQUESTED; ENDORSED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary (advisory) body of the Commission and/or the IPHC Secretariat.

Level 2: **AGREED**: Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be elevated in the Commission's reporting structure.

Level 3: **NOTED/NOTING**; **CONSIDERED**; **URGED**; **ACKNOWLEDGED**: General terms to be used for consistency. Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference. Any other term may be used to highlight to the reader of an IPHC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. Other terms may be used but will be considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 96th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Annual Meeting (AM096) was held in Anchorage, Alaska, USA, from 3-7 February 2020. A total of 22 (16 in 2019) members (6 Commissioners; 16 (10 in 2019) advisors/experts) attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 200 (182 in 2019) members of the public in person and 128 (142 in 2019) via the webcast (total of 350 (340 in 2019) meeting participants). The list of participants is provided at Appendix I. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Chris Oliver (USA) and Vice-Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) who welcomed participants to Anchorage, Alaska, USA.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the AM096, which are provided at Appendix VIII.

IPHC PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATION 2020

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)

The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA1, which aimed to improve clarity and transparency of fishery limits in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, and to provide the framework for mortality limits adopted by the Commission. (para. 90)

The Commission **ADOPTED** the distributed mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by IPHC Regulatory Area, (Table 6) and sector, as provided in Appendix IV. [**Canada**: In favour=2, Against=1][**USA**: In favour=2, Against=1] (para. 91)

Table 6. Adopted TCEY mortality limits for 2020

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (metric tonnes)
2A	1.65	748
2B	6.83	3,098
2C	5.85	2,654
3A	12.20	5,534
3B	3.12	1,415
4A	1.75	794
4B	1.31	594
4CDE	3.90	1,769
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	**36.60**	**16,601**

The Commission **ADOPTED**: (para. 97)

a) a coastwide mortality limit (TCEY) of 36.6 million pounds; and

b) a fixed TCEY for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A of 1.65 million pounds is intended to apply for a period from 2019-2022, subject to any substantive conservation concerns; and

c) a share-based allocation for IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. The share will be defined based on a weighted average that assigns 30% weight to the current interim management procedure's target TCEY distribution and 70% on 2B's recent historical average share of 20%. This formula for defining IPHC Regulatory Areas 2B's annual allocation is intended to apply for a period of 2019 to 2022. For 2020, this equates to a share of 18.2% before accounting for U26; and

d) an accounting for some impacts of U26 non-directed discard mortality from US IPHC Regulatory Areas on available harvest in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. The accounting increases the 2B TCEY by 50% of the estimated yield lost due to U26 non-directed discard mortality in Alaskan waters and is intended to apply for the period 2020-2022. For 2020 this

calculation equates to 0.21 million pounds and reduces all Alaskan IPHC Regulatory Area TCEYs to maintain a coastwide TCEY of 36.6 million pounds; and

e) the use of a rolling three-year average for projecting non-directed fishery discard mortality by IPHC Regulatory Area; this is also intended to apply for a period of 2020 to 2022.

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)

The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA2, which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. (para. 98)

Commercial fishing periods

The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2020 as provided below, thereby superseding the relevant portions of Section 9 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations and specifying that: (para. 100)

f) All commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas may begin no earlier than 14 March and must cease on 15 November;

g) The IPHC Regulatory Area 2A non-tribal directed commercial fishery may take place during specific fishing periods of 3 days' duration, beginning on the fourth Monday in June, with fishing period limits (vessel quota) to be determined and communicated by the IPHC Secretariat.

IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA3, which proposed amendments to ensure clarity and consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, with minor modification as identified during AM096. (para. 101)

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Vessel Clearance in IPHC Regulatory Area 4 (Sect. 16)

The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA4, which proposed amendments to address the need for clearances when a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries observer or electronic monitoring device is present. (para. 102)

Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A

The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB1, which proposed IPHC Regulation changes for charter recreational Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, in order to achieve the charter Pacific halibut allocation under the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan. (para. 105)

Revising definition of IPHC Regulatory Area 2A-1

The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB2, which proposed an update to IPHC regulatory language regarding the usual and accustomed fishing areas of Indian tribes with treaty fishing rights to Pacific halibut, with the addition of the geographic reference for Point Chehalis (46° 53.30' N. lat.). (para. 106)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data

AM096–Rec.01 (para. 31) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that for the 2020 FISS season, the IPHC Secretariat shall employ the proposed subarea design for Regulatory Areas 2A, 4A, 4B, 4CDE, and an enhanced randomised subsampling FISS design in Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, and 3B to meet the primary design objective, while also considering secondary and tertiary objectives (Table 2). The IPHC Secretariat shall determine the number of

skates at each FISS station with the secondary objective in mind (Table 2). A demonstration of this design is provided at Fig. 2.

AM096–Rec.02 (para. 32) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the following specific additions to the new 2020 FISS design, on the basis of the tertiary objective specified in Table 2 on a cost recovery basis. Any other tertiary sampling objective shall be at the discretion of the IPHC Secretariat unless specifically directed by the Commission:

h) Regulatory Area 2A: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - rockfish sampling;

i) Regulatory Area 2B: DFO-Canada - rockfish sampling.

REQUESTS

Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data

AM096–Req.01 (para. 33) The Commission **REQUESTED** the 2020 consultation process in preparation for the 2021 FISS and beyond be enhanced to include input from the IPHC subsidiary bodies, particularly the Research Advisory Board and the Scientific Review Board, as well as from stakeholders who have performed survey work for the IPHC, with a view to finalizing the FISS sampling design for the coming year as early as possible in the annual planning cycle.

Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2019), and harvest decision table (2020)

AM096–Req.02 (para. 52) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC MSE process continue to evaluate status quo management related to discard mortality for non-directed fisheries (bycatch) under the current program of work for delivery of full MSE results at AM097 in 2021, noting that this source of mortality is currently modelled as a fixed component of the total (with variability).

Reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013 and MSAB014)

AM096–Req.03 (para. 89) The Commission **REQUESTED** the MSAB to confirm the proposed topics of work beyond the 2021 deliverables in time for the Interim Meeting (IM096), including work to investigate and provide advice on approaches for accounting for the impacts of bycatch in one Regulatory Area on harvesting opportunities in other Regulatory Areas.

Stakeholder statements

AM096–Req.04 (para. 110) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat organise and synopsize stakeholder statements by topic, in order to insert the stakeholder written inputs into public comment at appropriate points in the agenda for the Commission's consideration.

Contracting Party National Reports - United States of America

AM096–Req.05 (para. 113) The Commission **NOTED** that the NOAA Fisheries Observer Program has increased observer fees and has received increased government funding, and **REQUESTED** that NOAA Fisheries provide a synopsis of observer coverage rates over time and how coverage rates are expected to change in 2020 and beyond.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 96th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Annual Meeting (AM096) was held in Anchorage, Alaska, USA, from 3-7 February 2020. A total of 22 (16 in 2019) members (6 Commissioners; 16 (10 in 2019) advisors/experts) attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 200 (182 in 2019) members of the public in person and 128 (142 in 2019) via the webcast (total of 350 (340 in 2019) meeting participants). The list of participants is provided at Appendix I. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Chris Oliver (USA) and Vice-Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) who welcomed participants to Anchorage, Alaska, USA.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

2. The Commission **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at Appendix II. The documents provided to the AM096 are listed in Appendix III.

3. UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 95TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM095) AND THE 95TH SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM095)

3. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-03 which provided an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095, January 2019), and 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095; November 2019).

4. The Commission **AGREED** to consider and revise as necessary, the actions arising from the AM095 and IM095 meetings, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from the AM096.

4. REPORT OF THE IPHC SECRETARIAT (2019)

5. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-04 which provided the Commission with an update on activities of the IPHC Secretariat in 2019 not detailed in other papers before the Commission.

6. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC funds several Merit Scholarships to support university, technical college, and other post-secondary education for students from Canada and the USA who are connected to the Pacific halibut fishery, with a single new four-year scholarship valued at US$4,000 per year awarded every two years.

7. The Commission **NOTED** that the next scholarship announcement will occur in early 2020, and that the IPHC Secretariat intends to publicise it widely among the stakeholder community.

8. The Commission **CONGRATULATED** the IPHC Secretariat for the extensive communications, outreach, and educations activities carried out in 2019, which ranged from public outreach events, attending conferences and symposia, contributing expertise to the broader scientific community through participation on boards and committees, and seeking further education and training.

9. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** the ongoing efforts by the IPHC Secretariat to publish its research in peer-reviewed journals. In 2019, the IPHC Secretariat published five (5) peer-reviewed journal articles, four (4) that have been submitted and are currently undergoing peer review. Another ten (10) are currently in preparation for submission throughout 2020.

10. The Commission **ENCOURAGED** the movement towards increased peer-reviewed journal publication of IPHC science activities, and in particular those where the IPHC Secretariat are the lead author.

11. The Commission **NOTED** the continued improvements in functionality added to the IPHC website in 2019, and that these initiatives will continue to be enhanced during 2020, with the overall aim of further improving the transparency of the IPHC's operations and data collected (http://www.iphc.int/):

    a) Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data interactive
    b) Landings Report

c) Mortality projection tool

d) Commercial Fisheries data interactive (in development)

e) Time-series datasets

5. FISHERY STATISTICS (2019)

12. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-05 Rev_2 which provided an overview of the key fishery statistics from fisheries catching Pacific halibut during 2019, including the status of landings compared to fishery limits implemented by the Contracting Parties of the Commission.

13. The Commission **NOTED** the Pacific halibut that were landed in Canada in a head-off fresh condition and that the IPHC Secretariat continues to follow up with the relevant Contracting Party agency to address these regulatory breaches.

14. The Commission **NOTED** the following issues in regard to mortality exceeding projected mortalities, and overages (for commercial sectors) in the following Contracting Party sectors/fisheries in 2019 (Table 1):

Table 1. Fishery sectors with mortality overages in 2019. ^Projection

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit/ projection^		2019 Mortality		Percent
		t	Mlb	t	Mlb	
Directed commercial	2B – discard mortality	59	0.13	64	0.14	**108**
	2A – Incidental sablefish	32	0.07	36	0.08	**113**
	2A – discard mortality	9	0.02	13	0.03	**145**
	2C – discard mortality	27	0.06	36	0.08	**133**
	3A – discard mortality	141	0.31	160	0.35	**114**
	4A – discard mortality	41	0.09	47	0.10	**116**
	4B – discard mortality	9	0.02	17	0.04	**190**
	4CDE/Closed – discard mortality	18	0.04	34	0.08	**188**
Recreational^	3A – guided	857	1.89	916	2.02	**107**
	4A	5	0.01	6	0.01	**140**
Subsistence^	3B	5	0.01	8	0.02	**166**
	4A	5	0.01	6	0.01	**132**
	4B	0	0.00	<1	<0.01	**n/a**
Non-directed commercial O26 discard mortality^	2C	14	0.03	41	0.09	**303**
	3A	581	1.28	623	1.37	**107**
	3B	163	0.36	189	0.42	**116**
	4A	82	0.18	91	0.20	**111**
	4CDE/Closed	848	1.87	1,090	2.40	**129**

15. The Commission **NOTED** that the non-directed commercial fishery discard mortality projections were exceeded in numerous IPHC Regulatory Areas.

16. **NOTING** the uncertainty associated with various estimates of removals, as listed below, the Commission again **RECALLED** its previous recommendation that each Contracting Party address these uncertainties in a report to the Commission at its next Session (noting that no report of this nature was provided at AM096). 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;

b) subsistence estimates;

United States of America

a) self-reporting of lodges for recreational estimates (in Alaska);

b) subsistence estimates;

c) estimates for the Pacific halibut commercial fishery discard mortality (in Alaska), due to the estimates calculated by the IPHC Secretariat differing from those provided by NOAA Fisheries, due primarily to the way coverage is measured (by landed weight, versus fishing trip);

d) the estimates for Pacific halibut non-directed commercial fishery discard mortality in the U.S.A, for the same reasons identified in the previous point.

6. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2019) AND HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2020)

6.1 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2019

17. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-06 which provided an overview of the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2019.

18. The Commission **RECALLED** that the IPHC Secretariat employs objective (non-subjective) methods to determine whether a FISS station is ineffective due to whale depredation. A fishery-independent setline survey station is deemed to be ineffective as a result of toothed whale depredation, when sperm whales are sighted within 3 nm during the haul-back of the gear (this was an improved protocol for the 2018 and 2019 FISS seasons). Ineffective stations are also recorded for killer whales when greater than or equal to two (2) hooks are returned with Pacific halibut lips attached.

19. The Commission **NOTED** that few expansion stations were deemed ineffective in 2019, and that because those stations that were deemed ineffective are spatially close to effectively fished stations, the space-time model provided good-quality predictions at those locations. Three percent of the FISS stations were considered ineffective due to whale depredation in 2018 and less than 3% in 2019.

6.2 Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data

20. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-07 which provided alternatives for FISS sampling in 2020 to 2022, ranging from the full grid to randomized subsampling and subarea options.

21. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC has now completed a six year series of FISS expansions from 2014-19 (following a 2011 pilot in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A). The expansion program was undertaken as follows:

a) 2014: IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 4A

b) 2015: IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE eastern Bering Sea flats

c) 2016: IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE shelf edge

d) 2017: IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 4B

e) 2018: IPHC Regulatory Areas 2B and 2C

f) 2019: IPHC Regulatory Areas 3A and 3B

22. The Commission **RECALLED** that the purpose of the expansion series has been to fill in the often large gaps in the FISS spatial sampling grid to build a complete picture of Pacific halibut density throughout its

known range in Convention Area waters, and thereby anticipated to reduce bias while improving precision in density indices and other quantities calculated from the FISS data gathered.

23. The Commission **NOTED** that with the expansion series completed in 2019, the intention is to use our improved understanding of the Pacific halibut distribution to re-design the annual FISS spatial sampling grid by sub-sampling the entire range of 1,890 fishable stations at a level sufficient to maintain precision targets. As a result, it is likely that stations that were previously fished annually may require less frequent sampling, and it may be efficient to annually fish some expansion stations that have been sampled just once to date.

24. The Commission **RECALLED** that preliminary results for Regulatory Area 4B were presented at the 14th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB014) in June 2019, and also to the Commission at its 2019 Work Meeting (WM2019; September 2019) for initial feedback, a sampling design for 2020 was subsequently presented at the 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095 in November 2019) followed by a sampling design for 2020-22 at the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096 in January 2020) for agreement.

25. **NOTING** that the primary purpose of the annual FISS is to sample Pacific halibut to provide data for the stock assessment and estimates of stock distribution, the Commission **AGREED** that once those minimum data standards are met, then additional design criteria should be considered as long as they do not undermine the scientific data collection needs.

26. The Commission **AGREED** that the priority of a rationalised FISS sampling design is therefore to maintain or enhance data quality (precision and bias) by establishing minimum sampling requirements in terms of station count, station distribution and skates per station. Potential considerations that could add to or modify the design are logistics and cost (secondary design layer), and FISS removals (impact on the stock), data collection assistance for other agencies, and IPHC policies (tertiary design layer). These priorities are outlined in Table 2.

Table 2. Prioritization of FISS objectives and corresponding design layers.

Priority	**Objective**	**Design Layer**
Primary	Sample Pacific halibut for stock assessment and stock distribution estimation.	Minimum sampling requirements in terms of: • Station distribution; • Station count; • Skates per station.
Secondary	Long-term revenue neutrality.	Logistics and cost: operational feasibility and cost/revenue neutrality.
Tertiary	Minimize removals, and assist others where feasible on a cost-recovery basis.	Removals: minimize impact on the stock while meeting primary priority; Assist: assist others to collect data on a cost-recovery basis; IPHC policies: ad-hoc decisions of the Commission regarding the FISS design.

27. The Commission **NOTED** that historical sampling, combined with the FISS expansion program undertaken from 2014-19, has determined that there are 1,890 fishable stations within the IPHC Convention Area from San Francisco Bay (California) to the Bering Sea shelf edge with Russia (Alaska) on a 10 nmi grid in the depth range of 10–400 fm (18 to 732 m) in the Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands, and in the depth range of 75-400 fm (137 to 732 m) in the Bering Sea (Fig. 1).

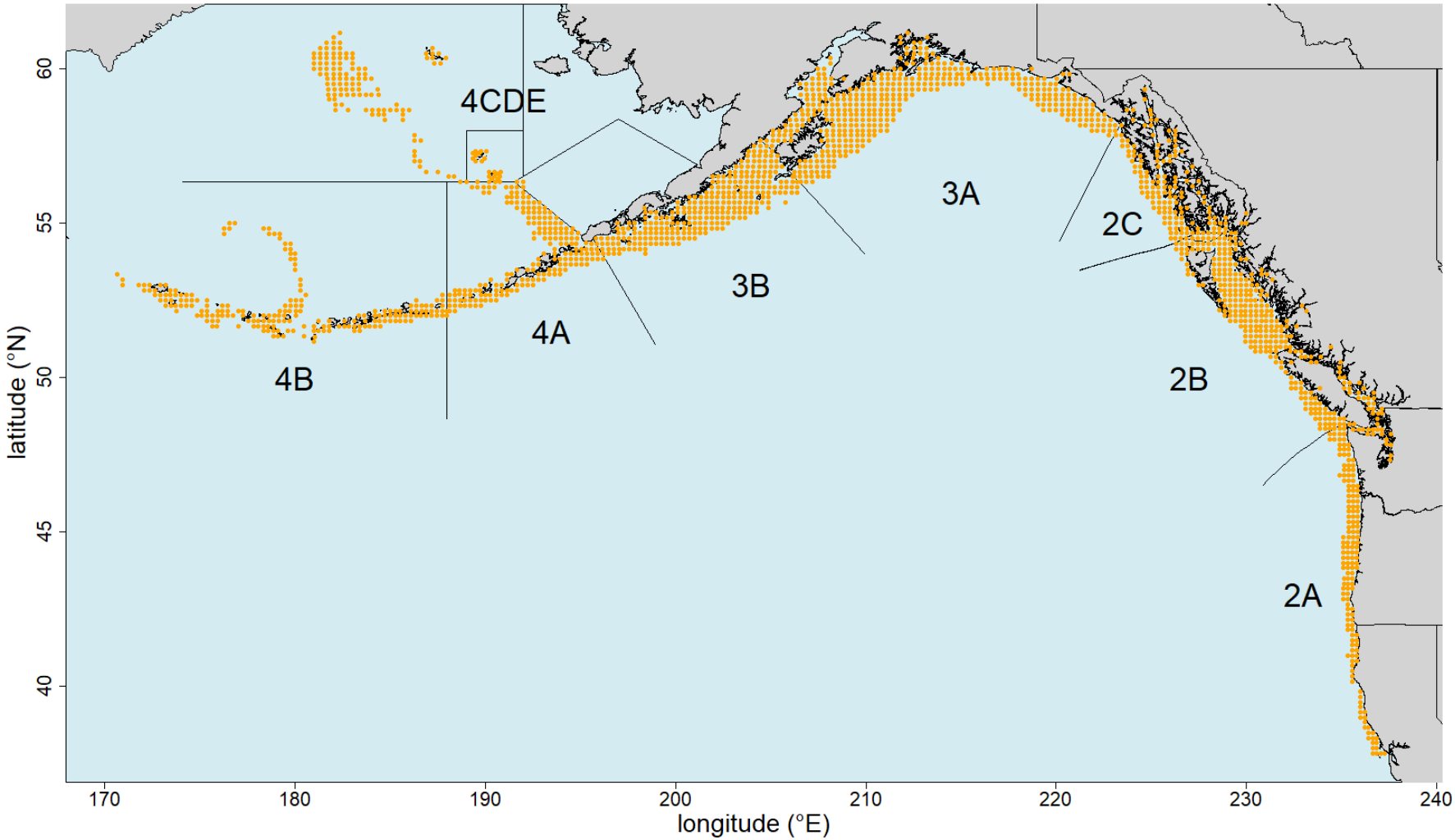

Fig. 1. The IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) sampling grid within the IPHC Convention Area (1,890 fishable stations), from San Francisco Bay (California) to the Bering Sea shelf edge with Russia (Alaska) on a 10 nmi grid in the depth range of 10–400 fm (18 to 732 m). Each orange circle represents one FISS station.

28. The Commission **AGREED** that from a scientific perspective, more information is always better; however, sampling the full FISS grid (Fig. 1) on an annual basis is unnecessary as the scientific objectives can be achieved with substantial subsampling. While a fully randomised subsampling design (or a randomised cluster subsampling design) with sufficient sample size will still meet scientific needs, in several Regulatory Areas where Pacific halibut are concentrated in a subset of the available habitat, such a design can be statistically and operationally inefficient.

29. The Commission **NOTED** the range of FISS design options provided by the IPHC Secretariat, including a completely randomized sampling design within each Regulatory Area, and a randomized cluster sampling design.

30. The Commission **NOTED** that:

    a) the 2000 otolith per Regulatory Area sampling target, and that this target is sufficient to maintain the quality of the age data for stock assessment purposes at the Regulatory Area level;

    b) where a FISS station is not fished in a given year, prediction at that station is informed by data obtained there in prior years and data obtained at nearby stations in the current year;

    c) that a fully randomised subsampling design may incur additional FISS charter costs relative to other designs, but that there is the potential to add additional stations to mitigate these costs;

    d) the FISS design proposals have considerable flexibility, e.g. stations can be added, the order in which subareas are fished can be changed, and sampling rates can be increased in randomised subsampling designs; the core area sampling rate in the proposed Compromise Design was selected to target a FISS station total that was somewhat lower than the pre-2014 total, producing a potentially less costly annual FISS while still meeting the Primary Objective.

Recommendations

31. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that for the 2020 FISS season, the IPHC Secretariat shall employ the proposed subarea design for Regulatory Areas 2A, 4A, 4B, 4CDE, and an enhanced randomised subsampling FISS design in Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, and 3B to meet the primary design objective, while also considering secondary and tertiary objectives (Table 2). The IPHC Secretariat shall determine the number of skates at each FISS station with the secondary objective in mind (Table 2). A demonstration of this design is provided at Fig. 2.

32. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the following specific additions to the new 2020 FISS design, on the basis of the tertiary objective specified in Table 2 on a cost recovery basis. Any other tertiary sampling objective shall be at the discretion of the IPHC Secretariat unless specifically directed by the Commission:

    a) Regulatory Area 2A: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - rockfish sampling;

    b) Regulatory Area 2B: DFO-Canada - rockfish sampling.

33. The Commission **REQUESTED** the 2020 consultation process in preparation for the 2021 FISS and beyond be enhanced to include input from the IPHC subsidiary bodies, particularly the Research Advisory Board and the Scientific Review Board, as well as from stakeholders who have performed survey work for the IPHC, with a view to finalizing the FISS sampling design for the coming year as early as possible in the annual planning cycle.

34. The Commission **NOTED** the IPHC Secretariat's intent to follow up with Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding the possibility of sampling, at least on a periodic basis, those stations in the FISS design that lie within protected areas in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B that the IPHC has been prevented from sampling in recent years.

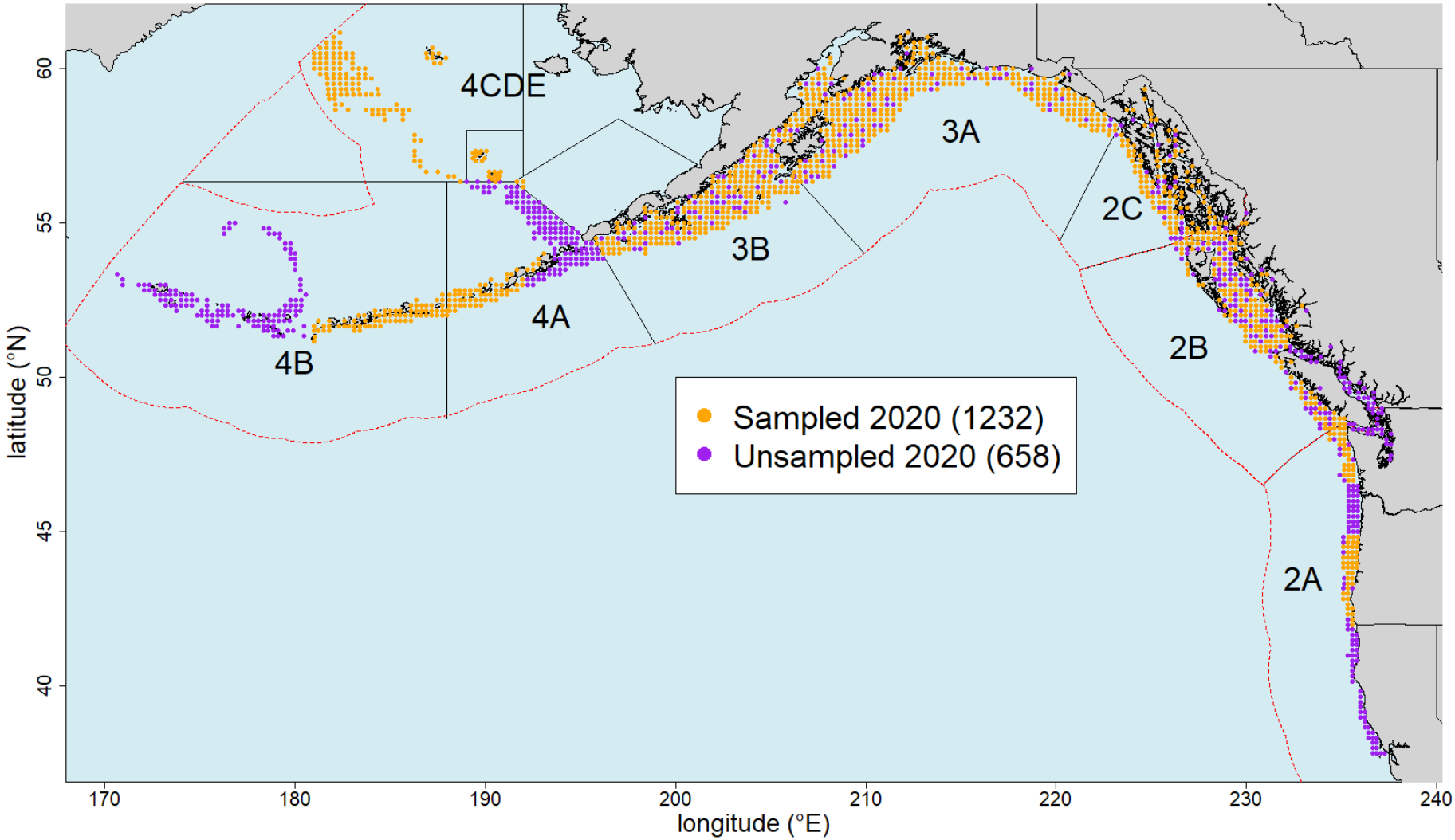

Fig. 2. The proposed "enhanced" IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design for 2020, based on a compromise of meeting Primary, Secondary and Tertiary objectives (Table 2).

6.3 Stock Assessment: Independent peer review of the Pacific halibut stock assessment

35. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-08 which provided the Commission with an opportunity to further consider the independent peer review of the IPHC Stock Assessment for Pacific halibut.

36. The Commission **NOTED** that the report by the independent peer reviewer, Dr Kevin Stokes, available on the Stock Assessment page of the IPHC website under the 'Peer Review' tab for transparency and accountability purposes: https://www.iphc.int/management/science-and-research/stock-assessment. A direct link to the pdf is also provided below: https://www.iphc.int/uploads/pdf/sa/2019/stokes_2019-independent_peer_review_for_the_2019_iphc_stock_assessment.pdf.

37. The Commission **NOTED** that:

    a) the SRB will continue to act as the primary peer review mechanism for the Pacific halibut stock assessment (and associated data input series) on an annual basis;

    b) the stock assessment will be undertaken in full every 3-4 years, with stock assessment updates being undertaken in the intervening years. Ideally, an external peer review would occur each time a full assessment is undertaken, with the SRB involved to the extent identified by the Commission.

6.4 Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2019), and harvest decision table (2020)

38. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-09 Rev_2, which provided the Commission with a summary of data, the 2019 stock assessment and the harvest decision table for 2020.

39. The Commission **NOTED** that the 2019 stock assessment represents the first full analysis since 2015 incorporating new data sources, improved model structure, and comments from both Scientific Review Board and external peer reviews.

40. The Commission **NOTED** the following scientific advice from the IPHC Secretariat:

    a) ***Fishing intensity:*** *The IPHC does not have an explicit coastwide fishing intensity target or limit reference point, making it difficult to determine if current levels of fishing intensity are consistent with the interim harvest strategy policy objectives. The 2019 mortality corresponded to a point estimate of SPR = 42%; there is a 59% chance that fishing intensity exceeded the IPHC's reference level of 46% Although the stock is projected to decline over the next three years, the estimated probability of dropping below the $SB_{20\%}$ limit reference point remains less than 23% for all levels of mortality less than or equal to the status quo, the stock is therefore classified as* ***not subject to overfishing****. However, at current catch limits, there is a 1 in 2 chance that the stock will be below the $SB_{30\%}$ fishery trigger in each of the next 3 years, and a 1 in 5 chance of being below the $SB_{20\%}$ biological limit in 2023.*

    b) ***Spawning biomass****: Based on the dynamic reference point calculations, female spawning stock biomass of Pacific halibut at the beginning of 2020 was estimated to be 32% (22–46%) of the SB_0 (unfished levels) (Table 1). The probability that the stock is below the $SB_{30\%}$ level (IPHC trigger) is estimated to be 46%, with less than a 1% chance that the stock is below $SB_{20\%}$ (IPHC limit reference point). Thus, on the weight-of-evidence available, the Pacific halibut stock is determined to be* ***not overfished*** *($SB_{2020} > SB_{20\%}$).*

    c) ***Outlook.*** *The stock is projected to decrease over the period from 2021-23 for all TCEYs greater than 18.4 million pounds (~8,350 t), corresponding to a Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) of 63%. At the reference level (SPR of 46% and a TCEY of 31.9 Mlbs or ~14,500 t) the probability of a decrease in stock size decreases over time from 89% (2021) to 75% (2023). There is a 43%*

chance that the stock will decline below the threshold reference point ($SB_{30\%}$) in one-year at the reference level of fishing intensity and a 49% chance at the status quo TCEY.

41. The Commission **NOTED** that stock projections were conducted using the integrated results from the stock assessment ensemble, summaries of the 2019 directed fisheries and other sources of mortality. The harvest decision table (Table 3) provides a comparison of the relative risk (in times out of 100), using stock and fishery metrics (rows), against a range of alternative harvest levels for 2020 (columns).

42. The Commission **NOTED** that:

a) the harvest alternatives (columns) provided in the harvest decision table include several extreme levels of mortality (set aside in the left and right sections of the table) intended to provide for evaluation of stock dynamics:
   i. No fishing mortality (useful to evaluate the stock trend due solely to population processes);
   ii. A 10 million pound (~4,500 t) 2020 Total Constant Exploitation Yield (TCEY[1])
   iii. A 60 million pound (~27,200 t) 2020 TCEY

b) A finer grid of alternative TCEY values is provided around the column corresponding to the reference level of fishing intensity (SPR=46%; for 2020 a TCEY of 31.9 million pounds, ~14,500 t):
   i. The 'replacement yield' for the next three-year period (a 18.4 million pound, ~8,350 t, TCEY) corresponding to a 50/100 chance of stock decrease. This column represents the maximum yield available that will provide a equal chance that the spawning stock is above or below its current level at the end of the projection.
   ii. The status quo TCEY (38.61 million pounds; ~17,500 t) from 2019.
   iii. A grid of TCEY values corresponding to SPRs from 47-40% in 1% increments.

Table 3. Harvest decision table for 2020. Columns correspond to yield alternatives and rows to risk metrics. Values in the table represent the probability, in "times out of 100" (or percent chance) of a particular risk.

2020 Alternative					3-Year Surplus				*Reference SPR=46%*						Status quo	
Total mortality (M lb)			0.0	11.6	20.0	23.6	27.6	32.3	33.5	34.6	35.7	36.8	37.8	38.9	40.2	61.6
TCEY (M lb)			0.0	10.0	18.4	22.0	26.0	30.7	31.9	33.0	34.1	35.2	36.2	37.3	38.6	60.0
2020 fishing intensity			$F_{100\%}$	$F_{78\%}$	$F_{63\%}$	$F_{58\%}$	$F_{53\%}$	$F_{47\%}$	$F_{46\%}$	$F_{45\%}$	$F_{44\%}$	$F_{43\%}$	$F_{42\%}$	$F_{41\%}$	$F_{40\%}$	$F_{27\%}$
Fishing intensity interval			--	59-87%	44-75%	39-71%	35-67%	31-62%	30-61%	29-60%	28-59%	28-58%	27-57%	26-56%	25-56%	17-43%
Stock Trend (spawning biomass)	In 2021	Is less than 2020	1	29	61	71	79	87	89	91	93	94	95	96	97	>99
		Is 5% less than 2020	<1	<1	11	23	30	42	46	50	54	58	61	64	67	98
	In 2022	Is less than 2020	<1	16	50	60	68	77	79	81	83	85	87	89	90	>99
		Is 5% less than 2020	<1	1	23	33	45	59	61	64	66	68	69	71	74	99
	In 2023	Is less than 2020	1	22	50	58	65	73	75	77	79	81	83	85	87	>99
		Is 5% less than 2020	<1	6	33	43	53	62	64	66	67	69	71	73	75	99
Stock Status (Spawning biomass)	In 2021	Is less than 30%	35	39	43	44	46	47	48	48	48	48	48	49	49	51
		Is less than 20%	<1	<1	<1	<1	<1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	16
	In 2022	Is less than 30%	26	31	40	43	46	48	48	49	49	49	49	50	50	54
		Is less than 20%	<1	<1	<1	1	2	6	7	8	9	11	12	14	15	27
	In 2023	Is less than 30%	18	27	37	41	45	48	49	49	49	49	50	50	50	60
		Is less than 20%	<1	<1	<1	2	6	13	15	17	18	20	21	22	23	40
Fishery Trend (TCEY)	In 2021	Is less than 2020	0	<1	11	24	36	50	51	52	54	57	59	63	67	>99
		Is 10% less than 2020	0	<1	1	12	25	40	44	46	48	50	51	52	53	>99
	In 2022	Is less than 2020	0	<1	11	25	39	50	51	52	54	56	59	62	66	>99
		Is 10% less than 2020	0	<1	2	14	27	43	46	48	49	50	51	52	54	>99
	In 2023	Is less than 2020	0	<1	13	27	41	50	51	52	54	56	58	61	65	>99
		Is 10% less than 2020	0	<1	4	16	30	45	47	48	49	50	51	52	54	>99
Fishery Status (Fishing intensity)	In 2020	Is above $F_{46\%}$	0	<1	7	22	31	48	50	51	53	55	57	60	64	>99

Terms: *Constant Exploitation Yield (CEY)*: A specific concept from the IPHC's interim management procedure: the Total CEY (TCEY) is the current basis for Commission mortality limits. Includes all sources and sizes of mortality, except discard mortality in non-directed fisheries less than 26 inches in length (66cm; U26). The Fishery CEY (FCEY) is the amount of yield for directed Pacific halibut fisheries as defined by IPHC Regulatory Area-specific catch agreements, where applicable. *Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR)*: A commonly used metric of fishing intensity. SPR is the ratio of the equilibrium spawning biomass per recruit given some level of fishing and the equilibrium spawning biomass per recruit in the absence of fishing. Sometimes referred to as SBR, relative Spawning Biomass per Recruit.

[1] The TCEY corresponds approximately to the mortality comprised of Pacific halibut greater than 26 inches (66 cm) in length.

43. The Commission **RECALLED** that the 2019 mortality limits implemented by the Contracting Parties corresponded to a projected SPR of 47%. Estimates provided at AM095 indicated that a mortality at this level corresponded to an 84% probability that the spawning biomass would decline from 2019 to 2020.

44. The Commission **NOTED** the differences among the results from the four stock assessment models related to the treatment of indices of abundance as separate time-series (Areas-As-Fleets models) or aggregate coastwide trends (coastwide models) as well as the scaling of recruitment estimates due to differences in natural mortality estimates.

45. The Commission **NOTED** that the change from historical static reference points, to dynamic reference points based on current biology and recent recruitment, revised the Commission's understanding of the relative effects of fishing, now indicating the stock to be at a lower relative biomass level (32% in 2020), and having been below the $SB_{30\%}$ trigger from 2009-2015, but increasing since that period due to reduced effects of fishing, despite continued absolute stock decline due to environmental factors.

46. The Commission **NOTED** that the dynamic reference point approach was reviewed by the SRB and independent peer reviewer and determined to be an improvement over previous methods.

47. The Commission **NOTED** that the uncertainty in estimates of fishing intensity (SPR) are highly asymmetric, reflecting the differences among the stock assessment model estimates and the information content of the fishery data, ruling out extremely high levels of fishing intensity, but not those associated with lower fishing intensity and higher biomass.

48. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-10, which provided the Commission with a set of options and a discussion of those options in response to:

> "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.*"

49. The Commission **NOTED** that U26 discard mortality in non-directed fisheries is a source of mortality not currently included in the TCEY; however, it is included in all stock assessment and harvest strategy calculations.

50. The Commission **NOTED** that the terms FCEY and TCEY are used in domestic catch sharing agreements/plans, and that retaining these terms would be efficient for these processes.

51. The Commission **NOTED** that the effects of U26 mortality differs from O26 mortality in its effect on fishing intensity due to the small size and young age of U26 fish.

52. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC MSE process continue to evaluate status quo management related to discard mortality for non-directed fisheries (bycatch) under the current program of work for delivery of full MSE results at AM097 in 2021, noting that this source of mortality is currently modelled as a fixed component of the total (with variability).

53. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-INF06, which provided the Commission with a response to: AM095–Rec.05 (para. 67)

> "*The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat expand upon the analysis completed in IPHC-2019-AM095-INF08 "Treatment and effects of Pacific halibut discard mortality (bycatch) in non-directed fisheries projected for 2019", 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.*"

54. The Commission **NOTED** that the effects of non-directed fishery discard mortality depend on the biology and age-structure of the stock, the selectivity of the various fisheries, the relative level of fishing intensity and other factors, such that there is no single 'exchange rate' of directed fishery yield and non-directed fishery discard mortality.

55. The Commission **NOTED** that the commercial fishery yield gain rate (pounds gained per pound of non-directed fishery discards) has varied among historical analyses. Over the time series included in this paper, the rate has averaged 1.15 ranging from a low of 0.86 to a high of 1.39 and the estimated cumulative lost yield of over 350 million pounds.

6.5 Pacific halibut mortality projections using the IPHC mortality projection tool

56. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC's web-based mortality projection tool (https://www.iphc.int/data/projection-tool) for decision making purposes. This tool provides all user groups the ability to create alternative projection tables as necessary for discussion and decision-making.

57. The Commission **NOTED** the summary of IPHC Regulatory Area-specific mortality projections for 2020 based on the interim management procedure and other alternatives.

58. The Commission **NOTED** that the 'interim management procedure' uses the O32 modelled stock distribution and relative harvest rates (1.0 for Regulatory Areas 2A-3A and 0.75 for Regulatory Areas 3B-4CDE; consistent with the method from recent years), along with the reference level of fishing intensity ($F_{46\%}$) to generate the starting point for mortality projections. This starting point is then modified to reflect agreements from AM095 setting the TCEY for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A to a value of 1.65 million pounds and using a percentage of the total TCEY to calculate the value for IPHC Regulatory Area 2B based on 20% (with a weight of 0.7) and the O32 stock distribution and relative harvest rate (as above; with a weight of 0.3). Finally, at IM095 (Req.03, para 49) an additional adjustment was added to IPHC Regulatory Area 2B for the purposes of the default calculations for populating the mortality projection tool to include accounting for estimated yield lost due to U26 discard mortality in non-directed fisheries ('bycatch') in Alaskan waters. This adjustment was equal to 0.42 million pounds at the reference level of fishing intensity.

59. The Commission **NOTED** that the reference projection results in a 2019 TCEY of 31.9 million lbs, (~14,500 t; Table 4). This represents a decrease of 20% from the reference level calculated based on the 2018 stock assessment, and 17% from the catch limits adopted for 2019. Because components within the TCEY have changed since 2018, the Fishery Constant Exploitation Yields (FCEYs), and allocations to specific fisheries based on domestic catch agreements have also changed.

60. The Commission **NOTED** that although the 2018 reference TCEY was similar (31 million pounds), the 2020 results indicated a substantially different distribution among IPHC Regulatory Areas. The large proportional reduction in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A from the 2019 to 2020 reference levels was a result of both the reduced total and large drop (17%) in 2019 modelled O32 survey results.

Table 4. Comparison of TCEY values (Mlbs) among IPHC Regulatory Areas from 2019 and projected for 2020 using the reference SPR (SPR46%) along with the current management procedure for TCEY distribution, and the adopted limits from 2019.

	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
2019 Reference SPR (46%)	0.78	4.91	6.26	16.35	2.97	2.21	1.95	4.59	40.00
2019 Adopted SPR (41%)[1]	1.65	6.83	6.34	13.50	2.90	1.94	1.45	4.00	38.61
2020 Reference SPR (46%)	1.65	6.22	4.88	9.63	2.89	2.22	1.25	3.16	31.90

[1] This SPR value represents the current estimate, which is subject to uncertainty and is based on the 2019 stock assessment. At the time the 2019 catch limits were adopted, they were predicted to result in an SPR of 47%.

61. The Commission **AGREED** that the Pacific halibut mortality projections for 2020 based on the attainment of full Protected Species Catch (PSC, a.k.a. bycatch) by the non-directed fleets fishing in Alaska, while maintaining the reference SPR of 46% (Table 5, and as reported in the mortality projection tool), was not

acceptable, as it would result in zero or substantially lower catch limits for directed fleets operating in a number of Regulatory Areas.

62. The Commission **NOTED** that the three-year average discard mortality in non-directed fisheries (bycatch) was somewhat lower than that estimated in 2019 (particularly for IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE).

Table 5. Pacific halibut mortality projected for 2020 based on the reference SPR (46%) and *interim management procedure* for TCEY distribution, with adjustments for 2A, 2B and U26 accounting. All values reported in millions of net pounds.

	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial Discard Mortality	0.03	0.12	NA	NA	0.15	0.12	0.04	0.03	0.48
O26 Non-Directed Discard Mortality	0.12	0.22	0.09	1.37	0.42	0.20	0.15	2.40	4.97
Non-FCEY Recreational	NA	0.04	1.15	1.66	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	2.87
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.37	0.19	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.04	1.03
Total non-FCEY	0.15	0.78	1.61	3.22	0.59	0.35	0.19	2.47	9.36
Commercial Discard Mortality	NA	NA	0.05	0.21	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.26
FCEY Recreational	0.60	0.80	0.60	1.21	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.21
Subsistence	0.03	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.03
Commercial Landings	0.86	4.64	2.62	4.99	2.30	1.87	1.06	0.69	19.04
Total FCEY	1.50	5.44	3.28	6.41	2.30	1.87	1.06	0.69	22.54
TCEY	1.65	6.22	4.88	9.63	2.89	2.22	1.25	3.16	31.90
U26 Non-directed discard mortality	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.27	0.06	0.15	0.01	1.09	1.61
Total Mortality	1.65	6.24	4.88	9.91	2.95	2.37	1.25	4.26	33.51

7. IPHC 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM

7.1 IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Sciences research program: update

63. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-11 which provided a description of progress on Biological and Ecosystem Science Research by the IPHC Secretariat.

64. The Commission **NOTED** the primary biological research activities at the IPHC that follow Commission objectives are identified and described in the IPHC 5-Year Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Plan (2017-21). These activities are summarized in five broad research areas designed to provide inputs into stock assessment and the management strategy evaluation processes, as follows:

1) **Migration**. Studies are aimed at further understanding reproductive migration and identification of spawning times and locations as well as larval and juvenile dispersal.

2) **Reproduction**. Studies are aimed at providing information on the sex ratio of the commercial catch and to improve current estimates of maturity in female Pacific halibut.

3) **Growth and Physiological Condition**. Studies are aimed at describing the role of some of the factors responsible for the observed changes in size-at-age and to provide tools for measuring growth and physiological condition in Pacific halibut.

4) **Discard Mortality Rates (DMRs) and Survival**. Studies are aimed at providing updated estimates of DMRs in both the longline and the guided recreational fisheries.

5) **Genetics and Genomics**. Studies are aimed at describing the genetic structure of the Pacific halibut population and at applying genetics and genomics to improve our current understanding of migration and distribution.

65. The Commission **NOTED** the Pacific halibut workshop co-organized by the IPHC Secretariat within the 2019 PICES Annual Meeting to bring together scientists from countries invested in the Pacific halibut resource and to establish plans to engage in international data sharing and collaborative research activities. These efforts will be continued with the organisation of a second Pacific halibut workshop that will be held at the 2020 PICES Annual Meeting and that will include topics related to climate variability and potential changes in the distribution of flatfish species in the North Pacific Ocean.

8. REPORT OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE IPHC RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (RAB020)

66. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 20th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB020) (IPHC-2019-RAB020-R) which was presented by the Co-Chairperson, Dr Josep Planas.

67. The Commission **NOTED** that the RAB020 made two (2) recommendations to the Commission as follows:

IPHC Closed Area

RAB020-Rec.01 (para. 10) *The RAB AGREED that the IPHC Closed Area (Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations 2019, Sect. 11) is not currently meeting its intended objective of protecting juvenile Pacific halibut when it is open to non-directed fisheries, and RECOMMENDED, in coordination with the NPMFC, that the IPHC Secretariat examine alternative management regimes for the Closed Area, and for these to be presented at the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) in 2020.*

Hook standardisation

RAB020-Rec.02 (para. 33) *The RAB RECOMMENDED that the IPHC consider standardising the FISS to use a particular model hook and to encourage each vessel to begin its FISS contract work each year with all new hooks.*

68. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the RAB020 and **AGREED** to take them into consideration when deliberating on relevant agenda items throughout the meeting.

9. REPORTS OF THE 14TH AND 15TH SESSIONS OF THE IPHC SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD (SRB014 AND SRB015)

69. The Commission **NOTED** the Reports of the 14th and 15th Sessions of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB014 - IPHC-2019-SRB014-R; SRB015 - IPHC-2019-SRB015-R) which were presented by the Chairperson, Dr Sean Cox (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada), one of the five (5) SRB members.

70. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the SRB015 and **AGREED** to take them into consideration when deliberating on relevant agenda items throughout the meeting.

71. The Commission **NOTED** that the SRB015 made seven (7) recommendations to the Commission as follows:

Discard mortality in non-directed fisheries

SRB015–Rec.01 (para. 10) *The SRB RECOMMENDED that the analysis of the effects of historical discard mortality in non-directed fisheries ('bycatch'), be interpreted with caution, as there are multiple methods for evaluating how bycatch in non-directed fisheries impact stock productivity and biomass over time. The estimated rates of bycatch impact on directed fishery changed over time in part due to the variability in recruitment and/or sublegal abundance*

relative to the vulnerable stock. The choice of the appropriate method will depend on how the results feed into management advice.

SRB015–Rec.02 (para. 11) *The SRB RECOMMENDED that, if a bycatch management strategy is a priority for the Commission, then the MSE process would be a more appropriate venue for evaluating methods of bycatch accounting for reasons outlined at SRB012:*
"NOTING the request for "replay" analyses, the SRB AGREED that "what if" questions about past behaviour are not appropriate for stock assessment models because those analyses do not adequately reflect the information available at the time or information feedbacks to future decision over time. An MSE analysis, on the other hand is specifically designed to answer "what if" questions under particular future scenarios while properly accounting for stock assessment errors in response to changing information." (IPHC-2018-SRB012-R, para. 23)

Independent external peer review of the IPHC stock assessment

SRB015–Rec.03 (para. 19) *The SRB RECOMMENDED that as was the case in the 2019 external peer review, any future external review would also benefit from an in-person review component. The biannual peer review that the SRB undertakes should continue as a complimentary element, thereby providing ongoing verification for the Commission.*

Pacific halibut stock assessment: 2019

SRB015–Rec.04 (para. 34) *NOTING the discussion of recommendations arising from the external peer review of the IPHC stock assessment (Section 4), the SRB RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat:*

a) Update data weighting for the 2019 assessment;

b) For SRB016:

i. evaluate the types of weightings (e.g., Dirichlet-multinomial) for compositional data;

ii. advise on the impact of data re-weighting as new information arises. This could be more sensitive as new sex-composition data are included;

iii. keep apprised of new software developments (e.g. CAPAM meeting in NZ) and report on potential future directions (e.g. if alternatives provide improved Bayesian integration or adaptations for simulation testing etc.).

Management Strategy Evaluation: Goals, Objectives and Performance Metrics

SRB015–Rec.05 (para. 41) *The SRB RECOMMENDED that if the original objective to have annual mortality limits related to local abundances was of broad interest to the Commission, then candidate management procedures be developed and tested in which regional mortality limits are set annually in proportion to modelled survey abundance trends by IPHC Regulatory Area (noting that splitting regions into Regulatory Areas would require assumptions about within-region abundance proportions).*

Management Strategy Evaluation: Dynamic reference points

SRB015–Rec.06 (para. 45) *The SRB RECOMMENDED that the MSAB define objectives independently of the management procedures used to achieve them and, instead, focus on the outcomes/consequences they wish to avoid (e.g. low catch, fishery closures, large drops in TCEY, public perceptions of poor stock status).*

Management Strategy Evaluation: Updates to MSE framework and closed-loop simulations

SRB015–Rec.07 (para. 51) *The SRB RECOMMENDED that the Commission develop a standard criterion for achieving a limited set of (or one over-arching) objectives. This would ensure that*

any candidate management procedure achieves common goals with differences in trade-offs between risks and benefits. Doing so will improve the efficiency of the iterative approach that is required for MSE.

72. The Commission **NOTED** the departure of Dr Marc Mangel from the SRB in 2019 after completing six (6) years of outstanding contributions to IPHC scientific activities. As a founding member of the Board, Dr Mangel's contributions and advice have played a very large part in shaping IPHC science.

73. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the need to hold a joint meeting with the SRB members once a year to discuss and highlight matters of importance for Commissioners, and for this to be explored as a possibility.

74. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat will be making a call for expressions of interest to replace applicable SRB members in the coming months. This will involve both a public announcement, and a targeted recruitment based on the expertise needs of the board.

10. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

10.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update

75. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-12 which provided the Commission with an update on the IPHC MSE process including defining objectives, developing management procedures for scale and distribution, a framework for distributing the TCEY, and a program of work.

76. The Commission **RECALLED** the IPHC interim Management Procedure (https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/harvest-strategy-policy) includes the following components:

    a) A biological limit ($SB_{20\%}$), the minimum relative spawning biomass needed to meet conservation objectives;

    b) A fishery trigger ($SB_{30\%}$), the relative spawning biomass below which the reference level of fishing intensity is reduced to avoid reaching the $SB_{20\%}$ biological limit;

    c) A reference level of fishing intensity, $F_{46\%}$, corresponding to a Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) of 46%;

    d) A control rule, reducing the fishing intensity linearly from the reference level at $SB_{30\%}$ to no directed fishing at $SB_{20\%}$.

77. The Commission **NOTED** that non-directed fishing discard mortality is currently treated as a scenario in the MSE with a simulated level representing a reasonable range of potential non-directed fishing discard mortality based on recent observations and **RECALLED** paragraph 37 of IPHC-2017-AM093-R:

    *"The Commission **NOTED** the presentation of an SPR-based harvest policy to update the current harvest policy, and that MSE will be used to evaluate alternative SPR values that are robust to possible bycatch scenarios."*

78. The Commission **AGREED** that although the relative spawning biomass has been retrospectively estimated to have fallen below $SB_{30\%}$ over the period 2009-2015, it was not determined to be below the fishery trigger during that time period when the mortality limits were set.

79. The Commission **NOTED** the following recommendations from the MSAB and IPHC Secretariat, and **AGREED** to hold an inter-sessional meeting soon after the AM096 to provide direction:

    - *Recommended that the primary coastwide biological sustainability objective of maintaining the female spawning biomass above a biomass limit of $SB_{20\%}$ at least 95% of the time be used to evaluate management procedures.*

- *Recommended primary coastwide fishery objectives to be used for evaluation of management procedures (Table 1), including:*

  a) maintain the female spawning biomass around a proxy target biomass of $SB_{36\%}$;
  b) limit annual changes in the TCEY; and
  c) optimize directed fishing yield.

- *Recommended that the primary biological sustainability objective of conserving spatial population structure across Biological Regions be used to evaluate management procedures.*

- *Recommended primary fishery objectives at the IPHC Regulatory Area scale for evaluation of management procedures (Table 1), including*

  a) limit annual changes in the TCEY for each IPHC Regulatory Area;
  b) optimize the TCEY among IPHC Regulatory Areas;
  c) optimize a percentage of the coastwide TCEY among IPHC Regulatory Areas;
  d) maintain the TCEY above a minimum absolute level within each IPHC Regulatory Area; and
  e) maintain a percentage of the coastwide TCEY above a minimum level within each IPHC Regulatory Area;

- *Recommended that given the results from the coastwide MSE, the following elements from the scale (coastwide) component of the management procedure meet the coastwide objectives*

  a) SPR values greater than 40%;
  b) A control rule of 30:20;
  c) A constraint on the annual change in the TCEY do one of the following: limit it to 15%, use a slow-up, fast-down approach, or fix the mortality limits for three-year periods.

- *Recommended a reference SPR fishing intensity of 43% with a 30:20 control rule and allocations to 2A and 2B, as defined in IPHC-2019-AM095-R paragraphs 69 b and c, be used as an updated interim management procedure consistent with MSE results for the development of 2020 stock assessment results pending delivery of the final MSE results at AM097.*

80. The Commission **NOTED** that various elements of the scale and distribution components of the management procedure, including those listed in IPHC-2019-MSAB014-R will be evaluated for consideration at AM097 in 2021.

81. The Commission **NOTED** that an independent peer review of the MSE will take place in April 2020 and August 2020 with a report supplied to the SRB, MSAB, and Commission.

82. The Commission **NOTED** that the SRB will review MSE results in September 2020, and these results including scale and distribution management procedures will be presented to the Commission at AM097 in 2021.

83. The Commission **NOTED** that MSE is the appropriate tool to evaluate management procedures related to discard mortality for non-directed fisheries (*bycatch*) because it can capture downstream effects, biological implications, and the management performance relative to objectives.

10.2 Reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013 and MSAB014)

84. The Commission **NOTED** the Reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013 - IPHC-2019-MSAB013-R; MSAB014 - IPHC-2019-MSAB014-R) which was presented by Mr Adam Keizer (Canada) and Dr Carey McGillard (USA).

85. The Commission **NOTED** that the MSAB014 made five (5) recommendations to the Commission as follows:

A review of the coastwide goals and objectives of the IPHC MSE process

MSAB014–Rec.01 (para. 34) *The MSAB RECOMMENDED a coastwide fishery objective, in response to a request from the Commissioners, to maintain the spawning biomass above a target reference point of RSB36%, 50% of the time over the long-term.*

Identification of goals and objectives related to distributing the TCEY

MSAB014–Rec.02 (para. 41) *The MSAB RECOMMENDED the primary objectives and associated performance metrics detailed in Appendix V to be used for the evaluation of management procedures at MSAB015.*

Performance metrics for evaluation

MSAB014–Rec.03 (para. 46) *NOTING the current progress on evaluating coastwide fishing intensity, the MSAB RECOMMENDED that:*

1) a coastwide fishing intensity SPR of 43%, with a 30:20 HCR, and with one of two constraints 1) +/-15% maximum change in total mortality, and/or 2) slow up, fast down, be used in harvest strategy development process; and

2) a range of management procedures including fishing intensity SPR of 40-46% be considered in light of implementation variability within the closed-loop simulations when investigating distribution.

Management procedures for coastwide scale

MSAB014–Rec.04 (para. 49) *The MSAB RECOMMENDED that SPR values of 0.3, 0.34, 0.38, 0.40, 0.42, 0.46, and 0.50 with a 30:20 control rule be evaluated at MSAB015 along with constraints defined by a maximum change in the TCEY of 15%, a slow-up fast-down approach, and/or setting quotas every third year.*

Management procedures for distributing the TCEY

MSAB014–Rec.05 (para. 56) *The MSAB RECOMMENDED that the management procedures listed in Table 2 in Appendix VI be evaluated at MSAB015.*

86. The Commission **NOTED** that the MSAB will use the primary objectives and associated performance metrics detailed in Appendix V of IPHC-2019-MSAB014-R for the evaluation of management procedures.

87. The Commission **NOTED** that relative harvest rates will be evaluated as a component of management procedures at MSAB015 and MSAB016.

88. The Commission **NOTED** the MSE Program of Work (2019–21) and that the MSAB and IPHC Secretariat will continue its program of work with delivery of recommended management procedures at AM097.

89. The Commission **REQUESTED** the MSAB to confirm the proposed topics of work beyond the 2021 deliverables in time for the Interim Meeting (IM096), including work to investigate and provide advice on approaches for accounting for the impacts of bycatch in one Regulatory Area on harvesting opportunities in other Regulatory Areas.

11. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2020

11.1 IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals

11.1.1 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)

90. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA1, which aimed to improve clarity and transparency of fishery limits in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, and to provide the framework for mortality limits adopted by the Commission.

91. The Commission **ADOPTED** the distributed mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by IPHC Regulatory Area, (Table 6) and sector, as provided in Appendix IV. [**Canada**: In favour=2, Against=1][**USA**: In favour=2, Against=1]

Table 6. Adopted TCEY mortality limits for 2020

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)	Mortality limit (TCEY) (metric tonnes)
2A	1.65	748
2B	6.83	3,098
2C	5.85	2,654
3A	12.20	5,534
3B	3.12	1,415
4A	1.75	794
4B	1.31	594
4CDE	3.90	1,769
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	**36.60**	**16,601**

92. The Commission **NOTED** that the FCEY values resulting from the adopted TCEY mortality limits, listed in Appendix IV, are used by the Contracting Parties to determine fishery sector allocations, recognizing that each Contracting Party may implement more restrictive limits.

93. The Commission **AGREED** that the IPHC Secretariat should continue to report out on Regulatory Area mortality against the TCEY adopted for each Regulatory Area.

94. The Commission **AGREED** to continue the development of a workplan to explore methods for improvement of monitoring requirements in directed and non-directed fisheries.

95. The Commission **AGREED** to continue work on evaluating and redefining TCEY to include the U26 component of discard mortalities, including non-directed commercial fisheries, 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.

96. The Commission **AGREED** to account for some of the impact of U26 non-directed discard mortality from US IPHC Regulatory Areas on available harvest in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. The estimated lost yield is calculated following the method described in paper IPHC-2019-IM095-12, considering a rolling three-year average of U26 non-directed discard mortality. The accounting is calculated as one half of the estimated lost yield and is applied as an adjustment to the interim management procedure adopted at AM095 and described in paragraph 4(c). This approach will apply until 2022.

97. The Commission **ADOPTED**:

    a) a coastwide mortality limit (TCEY) of 36.6 million pounds; and

    b) a fixed TCEY for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A of 1.65 million pounds is intended to apply for a period from 2019-2022, subject to any substantive conservation concerns; and

c) a share-based allocation for IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. The share will be defined based on a weighted average that assigns 30% weight to the current interim management procedure's target TCEY distribution and 70% on 2B's recent historical average share of 20%. This formula for defining IPHC Regulatory Areas 2B's annual allocation is intended to apply for a period of 2019 to 2022. For 2020, this equates to a share of 18.2% before accounting for U26 ; and

d) an accounting for some impacts of U26 non-directed discard mortality from US IPHC Regulatory Areas on available harvest in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. The accounting increases the 2B TCEY by 50% of the estimated yield lost due to U26 non-directed discard mortality in Alaskan waters and is intended to apply for the period 2020-2022. For 2020 this calculation equates to 0.21 million pounds and reduces all Alaskan IPHC Regulatory Area TCEYs to maintain a coastwide TCEY of 36.6 million pounds; and

e) the use of a rolling three-year average for projecting non-directed fishery discard mortality by IPHC Regulatory Area; this is also intended to apply for a period of 2020 to 2022.

11.1.2 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)

98. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA2, which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries.

IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Non-Tribal Directed Commercial Fishery

99. The Commission **NOTED** that of the license holders from 2017-19 that were surveyed regarding their preference between the 2-day (34 hr) and 3-day (58 hr) options for the non-tribal directed commercial fishing period, 76% of respondents preferred the 3-day option.

Commercial fishing periods

100. The Commission **ADOPTED** fishing periods for 2020 as provided below, thereby superseding the relevant portions of Section 9 of the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations and specifying that:

a) All commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas may begin no earlier than 14 March and must cease on 15 November;

b) The IPHC Regulatory Area 2A non-tribal directed commercial fishery may take place during specific fishing periods of 3 days' duration, beginning on the fourth Monday in June, with fishing period limits (vessel quota) to be determined and communicated by the IPHC Secretariat.

11.1.3 IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

101. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA3, which proposed amendments to ensure clarity and consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, with minor modification as identified during AM096.

11.1.4 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Vessel Clearance in IPHC Regulatory Area 4 (Sect. 16)

102. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA4, which proposed amendments to address the need for clearances when a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries observer or electronic monitoring device is present.

11.1.5 IPHC Fishery Regulations: IPHC Closed Area (Sect. 11)

103. The Commission **NOTED** and **DEFERRED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA5, which proposed amendments to consider the intent and purpose of the IPHC Closed Area, as defined in the Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2019) Section 11, which currently excludes directed Pacific halibut fishing, but allows other forms of mortality such as trawling, and to propose the removal of the IPHC Closed Area from the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations.

104. The Commission **NOTED** that further discussion of this proposal would be deferred to the IPHC Work Meeting in September 2020.

11.2 Contracting Party regulatory proposals

11.2.1 Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A

105. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB1, which proposed IPHC Regulation changes for charter recreational Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, in order to achieve the charter Pacific halibut allocation under the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan.

11.2.2 Revising definition of IPHC Regulatory Area 2A-1

106. The Commission **NOTED** and **ADOPTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB2, which proposed an update to IPHC regulatory language regarding the usual and accustomed fishing areas of Indian tribes with treaty fishing rights to Pacific halibut, with the addition of the geographic reference for Point Chehalis (46° 53.30' N. lat.).

11.3 Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals

11.3.1 Alaska Recreational Fisheries

107. The Commission **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropC1, which proposed a series of common regulations to be applied to all recreational fisheries in Alaska, and referred the proponent to the NPFMC.

11.3.2 Alaska Recreational Fisheries

108. The Commission **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropC2, which proposed a common daily bag limit for all non-resident fishers in the recreational fisheries in Alaska, and referred the proponent to the NPFMC.

11.4 Stakeholder statements

109. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-INF01 Rev_1 which provided the Commission with a consolidated document containing submitted '*Statements*' from stakeholders on the range of Regulatory Proposals and other topics submitted to the Commission for its consideration at the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096).

110. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat organise and synopsize stakeholder statements by topic, in order to insert the stakeholder written inputs into public comment at appropriate points in the agenda for the Commission's consideration.

12. CONTRACTING PARTY NATIONAL REPORTS

12.1 Canada

111. The Commission **NOTED** the Contracting Party report from Canada (IPHC Regulatory Area 2B; IPHC-2020-AM096-NR01 Rev_1).

12.2 United States of America

112. The Commission **NOTED** the Contracting Party report from the United States of America IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A/2C/3/4; IPHC-2020-AM096-NR02 Rev_1).

113. The Commission **NOTED** that the NOAA Fisheries Observer Program has increased observer fees and has received increased government funding, and **REQUESTED** that NOAA Fisheries provide a

synopsis of observer coverage rates over time and how coverage rates are expected to change in 2020 and beyond.

114. The Commission **NOTED** the update of the Alaska Seafood Cooperative's deck-sorting experiment to reduce Pacific halibut non-directed commercial discard mortality (a.k.a. bycatch) in the trawl sector.

12.3 IPHC Contracting Party Report format

115. **NOTING** that efficiencies were gained by modifying the format and content for Contracting Parties' reports to the Commission, the Commission **AGREED** that the Contracting Parties, via Commissioners, should continue to work with the IPHC Secretariat to improve the reporting format. This could include removing redundancies and coordinating presentations to highlight the most important information and enhance the reports' usefulness to the Commission in its deliberations.

13. REPORT OF THE 96TH SESSION OF THE IPHC FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC096)

116. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 96th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC096) (IPHC-2020-FAC096-R) which was presented by Dr David T. Wilson (IPHC Executive Director).

13.1 Financial Statement for FY2019

117. The Commission **NOTED** that in FY2019, the IPHC budgeted with the aim of drawing down on the carryover. Specifically, the IPHC adopted an expense budget that was US$1,086,618 greater than the expected income. Due to significantly lower Pacific halibut catches and associated prices, that deficit increased to US$2,042,069, resulting in a much larger draw down on the carryover.

a) FY2019 Income: US$10,984,805

b) FY2019 Expenses: US$13,026,874

c) FY2019 Fund Balance: US$1,881,113

118. The Commission **NOTED** the contributions (in USD) received from Contracting Parties as follows:

a) ***Canada Contribution*** – In FY2019, the Canadian government contributed **$848,970** to the IPHC.

b) ***U.S.A. Contribution*** – In FY2019, the U.S.A. Government appropriated **$4,395,000** to the IPHC.

119. The Commission **NOTED** that for FY2019, US$111,250 was budgeted from Canada for a contribution to the International Fisheries Commissions Pension Society (the Plan). Canada indicated that in 2013 it agreed to an annual pension liability payment schedule. Canada has indicated that as a result of additional payments in 2017, they are now $400,537 ahead of the agreed schedule. As a result, no additional funds were contributed in 2019. At this time, overall payments and contributions are being reviewed for proper application to the Plan. Further details will be forthcoming intersessionally for noting.

120. The Commission **NOTED** the Financial Statements for FY2019, as detailed in paper IPHC-2020-FAC096-04 Rev_3, and that the IPHC Secretariat would facilitate a deeper review of the corrections and write-offs as part of the FY2019 Financial Statements, and to provide a report to the Commission intersessionally.

13.2 Annual independent auditor's report (2018 & 2019)

121. The Commission **NOTED** the status of the FY2018 and FY2019 audit reports, and that the audits will be communicated to the Commission for intersessional endorsement.

13.3 FY2020 Budget – update

122. The Commission **RECALLED** the Contracting Party contributions adopted as part of the FY2020 budget (Appendix V) as follows: (Para. 114, of IPHC-2019-AM095-R):

a) **Canadian Contribution** – **US$985,432** (**US$874,182** for contributions to the General Fund, and **US$111,250** to cover pension deficit payments);

b) **U.S.A. Contribution** – **US$4,532,000** (**US$4,020,093** for contributions to the General Fund; **US$139,424** to cover pension deficit payments, and **US$371,673** to cover the headquarters building lease (US$274,665) and maintenance (US$97,008) costs).

123. The Commission **NOTED** that as of 3 February 2020 (4 months into the FY2020 fiscal year), contributions have not yet been received by the IPHC Secretariat from either Contracting Party for FY2020. This is placing a strain on cash flow at the IPHC Secretariat and may soon result in forced reductions in operations.

124. The Commission **NOTED** that the FY2020 General Fund was approved with the expectation that it would run at a loss of US$759,838 to draw down the carry-over. However, given that the previously targeted level of carry-over funds has been reached one year ahead of schedule (due to FISS fish sales ~$1,200,000 less than budgeted), the IPHC Secretariat would seek to reduce operating expenses to match income. The IPHC Secretariat intends on providing the Commission with a list of budget lines to be reduced intersessionally.

125. The Commission **NOTED** and **AGREED** that the IPHC Secretariat will seek to ensure that all FISS activities are accurately cost-recovered from the Supplemental Fund to the General Fund.

126. The Commission **NOTED** and **AGREED** that all auxillary activities requested by other parties (e.g. government agencies) should be fully cost recovered.

13.4 Budget estimates: FY2021 (for approval); FY2022 (for information)

FY2021

127. The Commission **RECALLED** that subsequent to the Commission approving an annual budget, with associated Contracting Party contributions, the Contracting Parties go through an internal process of review and appropriation. Should an appropriation be lower than the Commission approved budget, an intersessional meeting would need to be held to agree on in-year budget reductions to match the contributions received.

128. The Commission **ADOPTED** Contracting Party contributions for FY2021 as follows:

a) **Canadian Contribution** – **US$1,011,657** (**US$900,407** for contributions to the General Fund, and **US$111,250** to cover pension deficit payments, noting that the pension fund will be valued in April of 2020 and may result in a variation of the deficit payment required by Canada);

b) **U.S.A. Contribution** – **US$4,767,901** (**US$4,157,760** for contributions to the General Fund; **US$139,424** to cover pension deficit payments (noting that the pension fund will be valued in April of 2020 and may result in a variation of the deficit payment required by USA), and **US$470,717** to cover the headquarters building lease (US$370,798) and maintenance (US$99,919) costs.

129. The Commission **ADOPTED** the FY2021 budget (financial period: 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021) (Appendix VI).

130. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Headquarters Lease is currently being renewed for the period 1 Oct 2020 to 30 September 2025. The draft was received in-session and provided to the Commission for information. The new lease represents a significant increase from the previous lease (~50%) for the first year, and continues to increase incrementally for each of the 4 subsequent years. The IPHC Secretariat

will commence investigations into potential options to move the Headquarters and keep the Commission informed consistent with the provisions of the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982.

FY2022

131. The Commission **RECALLED** that subsequent to the Commission approving an annual budget, with associated Contracting Party contributions, the Contracting Parties go through an internal process of review and appropriation. Should an appropriation be lower than the Commission approved budget, an intersessional meeting would need to be held to agree on in-year budget reductions to match the contributions received.

132. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat's proposed budget for FY2022 is based on a 3% increase in general contributions for Canada and U.S.A. to cover expected matching increases in costs, including a 2.5% increase in salaries (based on cost of living and step increases) and a 5% increase in health care costs.

13.5 IPHC Financial Regulations (2020)

133. The Commission **AGREED** to consider the revised IPHC Financial Regulations (2020) intersessionally for final approval, with additional review and input from Commissioners.

13.6 IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020)

134. The Commission **NOTED** the revised IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020) (IPHC-2020-FAC096-09 Rev_1) which proposed amendments to the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019), and included edits from the CB090 and FAC096.

135. The Commission **ADOPTED** the revised IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020) by consensus, and **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.

14. IPHC PERFORMANCE REVIEW

14.1 Report of the 2nd IPHC Performance Review

136. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-14 which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the Report of the 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPHC02), and direct the IPHC Secretariat accordingly in terms of addressing recommendations from the PRIPHC02.

137. The Commission **NOTED** that the PRIPHC02 was carried out over the course of 2019 via three face-to-face meetings: one in Seattle, USA (4-6 June 2019), one in New York City, USA (25 August 2019) and one in Ottawa, Canada (7-11 October 2019). The Panel held several additional tele-conferences, both among themselves, and with stakeholders. The meeting was also supported by Independent Legal and Science Experts who each dedicated additional working days to providing technical reviews and reports on specific components of the review criteria relevant to their areas of expertise.

138. The Commission **NOTED** para. 22 of the report which stated:

> (para. 22) "*The PRIPHC02 CONGRATULATED the Commission and Secretariat for the positive strides in response to the first performance review. Through the course of the consultations, document review and interviews, the panel saw consistent and significant improvements in transparency, availability and modernisation of documentation and background information, and heard resounding praise for this increased transparency and the movement away from previously "closed-door" and perceived "secretive" processes and decision-making.*"

139. The Commission **REQUESTED** that paper IPHC-2020-AM096-14 be reviewed intersessionally by each Contracting Party, with the intention of providing edits/additions, for endorsement. The IPHC Secretariat will facilitate this request by proposing intersessional meeting dates.

15. REPORT OF THE 90TH SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB090)

140. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 90th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB090) (IPHC-2020-CB090-R) which was presented by the Co-Chairpersons of the CB, Mr Jim Lane (Canada) and Ms Linda Behnken (USA). A total of 55 members from the two Contracting Parties (70 in 2019) were represented at the Session.

141. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the CB090 (IPHC-2020-CB090-R) and provided comment or endorsement as specified below.

142. The Commission **NOTED** the CB proposed 2020 fishing period (season) dates for the commercial fishery:

a) Opening: 14 March 2020
b) Closing: 15 November 2020
c) Non-treaty directed commercial fishery 3-day fishing period as stated in IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA2

143. The Commission **NOTED** the indication from the CB that it will be forming an ad-hoc stakeholder working group to review options for shifting to a year round fishery. The work group will work with the IPHC Secretariat and Contracting Party staff to determine feasibility for an extended or year round Pacific halibut fishery.

144. The Commission **NOTED** the CB proposed TCEY catch limits for the 2020 fishing period as provided in Table 7.

Table 7. Conference Board (CB) recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2020, with each Contracting Party not agreeing to the other's recommended limits.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Canada Mortality limit (TCEY) (Mlbs)	USA Mortality limit (TCEY) (Mlbs)
2A	1.65	1.65
2B	6.84	6.72
2C		5.82
3A		12.11
3B		3.12
4A		1.94
4B		1.37
4CDE		4.17
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	**35.20**	**36.90**

16. REPORT OF THE 25TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB025)

145. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB025) (IPHC-2020-PAB025-R) which was presented by the Chairperson of the PAB, Ms Jessie Kiplinger (USA). A total of 15 voting members (18 in 2019) attended the Session (5 from Canada and 10 from the U.S.A.).

146. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the recommendations made by the PAB025 from its 2020 report (IPHC-2020-PAB025-R) and provided comment or endorsement as specified below.

147. The Commission **NOTED** the PAB proposed 2020 fishing period (season) dates for the commercial fishery:

a) Opening: 21 March 2020 at noon local time

b) Closing: 31 October at noon local time

148. The Commission **NOTED** the PAB proposed TCEY catch limits for the 2020 fishing period as provided in Table 8.

Table 8. Processor Advisory Board (PAB) proposed TCEY mortality limits for 2020 and an SPR of 41.5% [in favour=08 (Canada: 1; USA: 7); against=07 (Canada: 4; USA: 3); abstain=0].

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)
2A	1.65
2B	6.72
2C	5.82
3A	12.11
3B	3.12
4A	1.94
4B	1.37
4CDE	4.17
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	**36.90**

17. OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 IPHC meetings calendar (2020-22)

149. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-AM096-15 which provided an opportunity to consider the draft IPHC meetings calendar (2020-22).

150. The Commission **NOTED** the offer by the USA to host the 98th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098) in 2022 in Seattle/Bellevue area, U.S.A. from 24 to 28 January 2022.

151. The Commission **ADOPTED** the proposed dates and places for the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as provided in Appendix VII.

17.2 Media release

152. The Commission **AGREED** to the contents of an initial media release on 7 February 2020 announcing the 2020 mortality limits and fishing periods, and that a subsequent, more detailed media release will be published within 14 days of the close of the Session.

17.3 Election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

153. The Commission **NOTED** that the term of the current Chairperson, Mr Chris Oliver (USA), is due to expire at the closing of the current Session, and as per Rule 9 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019) the Commission is required to elect a new Chairperson for the next year.

154. **NOTING** Rule 9 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019), the Commission **CALLED** for nominations for the newly vacated position of Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year. Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) was nominated, seconded, and **ELECTED** as Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year.

155. The Commission **NOTED** that the term of the current Vice-Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), is due to expire at the closing of the current Session, and as per Rule 9 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019) the Commission is required to elect a new Vice-Chairperson for the next year.

156. **NOTING** Rule 9 of the Rules of Procedure (2019), the Commission **CALLED** for nominations for the newly vacated position of Vice-Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year. Mr Chris Oliver (U.S.A.) was nominated, seconded, and **ELECTED** as Vice-Chairperson of the IPHC for the next year.

17.4 Size limits

157. The Commission **NOTED** the stakeholder questions regarding the current minimum size limit applied to the directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery. In light of the newly available sex-ratio information from the directed commercial fishery, the Commission identified the need for a better understanding of the effects of the minimum size limit on available fishery yield and potential changes from previous analyses. Further, investigation of the use of a maximum size limit has also been a topic on ongoing discussion.

158. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat prepare an updated discussion of the costs and benefits of removing or adjusting the current minimum size limit and/or adding a maximum size limit. This analysis would be presented during the 2020 Work Meeting and IM096.

18. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 96TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM096)

159. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC *Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2020)* no later than 28 February 2020, **NOTING** that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM096.

160. The Report of the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (IPHC-2020-AM096-R) was **ADOPTED** on 07 February 2020, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from AM096, provided at Appendix VIII.

APPENDIX I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 96TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM096)

Commission Officers

Vice-Chairperson	Chairperson
Mr Paul **Ryall** (Canada)	Mr Chris **Oliver** (United States of America)

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Mr Paul **Ryall**	Mr Chris **Oliver**
Mr Neil **Davis**	Mr Robert **Alverson**
Mr Peter **DeGreef**	Mr Richard **Yamada**

Advisors/experts

Ms Maureen **Finn –** Policy Advisor	Dr. Jim **Balsiger** – Policy Advisor
Ms Ann-Marie **Huang –** Scientific Advisor	Ms. Kathryn **Blair** – Technical Advisor
Mr Adam **Keizer –** Policy Advisor	Ms. Caitlin **Imaki** – Technical Advisor
	Mr. Kurt **Iverson** – Technical Advisor
	Mr. John **Lepore** – Legal Advisor
	Mr. Frank **Lockhart** – Technical / Policy Advisor
	Ms. Staci **MacCorkle** – Financial Advisor
	Dr. Carey **McGilliard** – Scientific Advisor
	Mr. Glenn **Merrill** – Technical /Policy Advisor
	Ms. Alicia **Miller** – Technical Advisor
	Dr. Alesia **Read** – Staff Advisor
	Mr. Demian **Schane** – Legal Advisor
	Ms. Maggie **Smith** – Legal Advisor

Observers

Participant	Organisation	Email
Lyle **Almond**	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	Lyle.almond@elwha.org
Phil **Anderson**	Pacific Fishery Management Council	Pmand001@comcast.net
Chuck **Ashcroft**	Sport Fishing Advisory Board	Chuckashcroft@telus.net
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Margaret **Bauman**	Fishermen's News	Fisheriesreporter@gmail.com
Steve **Becic**	Pacific Seafood	Sbecic@pacseafood.com
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APPENDIX II
AGENDA FOR THE 96TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM096)

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

3. UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 95th SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM095) AND THE 95th SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM095)

4. REPORT OF THE IPHC SECRETARIAT (2019)

5. FISHERY STATISTICS (2019)

6. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2019) & HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2020)

- 6.1 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2019
- 6.2 Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data
- 6.3 Stock Assessment: Independent peer review of the Pacific halibut stock assessment
- 6.4 Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2019), and harvest decision table (2020)
- 6.5 Pacific halibut mortality projections using the IPHC mortality projection tool

7. IPHC 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM

- 7.1 IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Science Research Plan: update

8. REPORT OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE IPHC RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (RAB020)

9. REPORTS OF THE 14th AND 15TH SESSIONS OF THE IPHC SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD (SRB014; SRB015)

10. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

- 10.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update
- 10.2 Reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013; MSAB014)

11. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2020

- 11.1 IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals
- 11.2 Contracting Party regulatory proposals
- 11.3 Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals
- 11.4 Stakeholder statements

12. CONTRACTING PARTY: NATIONAL REPORTS

- 12.1 Canada
- 12.2 United States of America

13. REPORT OF THE 96th SESSION OF THE IPHC FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC096)

14. IPHC PERFORMANCE REVIEW

14.1 Report of the 2nd IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC02)

15. REPORT OF THE 90th SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB090)

16. REPORT OF THE 25th SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB025)

17. OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 IPHC meetings calendar (2020-22)

17.2 Media release

17.3 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

18. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 96th SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM096)

APPENDIX III
LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 96TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM096)

Meeting documents	Title	Availability
IPHC-2020-AM096-01	Agenda & Schedule for the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)	✓ 25 Oct 2019 ✓ 4 Dec 2019 ✓ 31 Jan 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-02	List of Documents for the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)	✓ 25 Oct 2019 ✓ 6 Dec 2019 ✓ 10 Jan 2020 ✓ 31 Jan 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-03	Update on actions arising from the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) and the 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 4 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-04	Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2019) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 6 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-05 Rev_2	Fishery statistics (2019) (L. Erikson & H. Tran)	✓ 24 Dec 2019 ✓ 9 Jan 2020 ✓ 31 Jan 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-06	IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2019 (L. Erikson & R. Webster)	✓ 24 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-07	Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data (R. Webster)	✓ 20 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-08	Stock Assessment: Independent peer review of the Pacific halibut stock assessment (D. Wilson)	✓ 4 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-09 Rev_2	Stock Assessment: Summary of the data, stock assessment, and harvest decision table for Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) at the end of 2019 (I. Stewart, A. Hicks, R. Webster & D. Wilson)	✓ 19 Dec 2019 ✓ 9 Jan 2020 ✓ 31 Jan 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-10	Options for the treatment of U26 discard mortality from non-directed fisheries (bycatch) within a total mortality limit (I. Stewart)	✓ 16 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-11	IPHC 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Plan: update (J. Planas)	✓ 16 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-12	IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): update (A. Hicks, P. Carpi, S. Berukoff, & I. Stewart)	✓ 13 Dec 2019

IPHC-2020-AM096-13 Rev_1	Regulatory Proposal (2020) implementation notes (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 03 Jan 2020 ✓ 31 Jan 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-14	2nd IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC02): Update (D. Wilson)	✓ 6 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-15	IPHC 3-year meetings calendar (2020-22) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 10 Dec 2019
Contracting Party: National reports		
IPHC-2020-AM096-NR01 Rev_1	Canada	✓ 03 Jan 2020 ✓ 31 Jan 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-NR02 Rev_1	United States of America	✓ 04 Jan 2020 ✓ 10 Jan 2020
Regulatory proposals for 2020		
IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals for 2020		
IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA1	Fishery Limits (Sect. 4) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 30 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA2	Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 30 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA3	IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: minor amendments (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 30 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA4	Vessel clearance in IPHC Regulatory Area 4 (Sect. 16) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 03 Jan 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA5	IPHC Closed Area (Sect. 11) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 30 Dec 2019
Contracting Party regulatory proposals for 2020		
IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB1 Rev_1	Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A (USA - NOAA Fisheries)	✓ 03 Jan 2020 ✓ 31 Jan 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB2	Revising definition of IPHC Regulatory Area 2A-1 (USA - NOAA Fisheries)	✓ 31 Dec 2019
Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals for 2020		
IPHC-2020-AM096-PropC1	Alaska recreational fisheries (J. Kearns)	✓ 19 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-PropC2	Alaska recreational fisheries (L. Jarrett)	✓ 19 Dec 2019
Information papers		
IPHC-2020-AM096-INF01 Rev_3	Stakeholder statements on regulatory proposals for 2020 (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 03 Jan 2020 ✓ 24 Jan 2020 ✓ 31 Jan 2020 ✓ 02 Feb 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-INF02	Review of the use of pot gear in the Gulf of Alaska 2017-19 (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 30 Dec 2019

IPHC-2020-AM096-INF03	Draft announcement for the IPHC MSE peer review – External expert/consultant (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 30 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-INF04	Terms of reference for a Life-History Modeler (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 16 Dec 2019
IPHC-2020-AM096-INF05	IPHC science posters for AM096 (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 31 Jan 2020
IPHC-2020-AM096-INF06	Analysis of the effects of historical discard mortality in non-directed fisheries ('bycatch') (I. Stewart, A. Hicks, P. Carpi)	✓ 16 Dec 2019
Report of the 2nd IPHC Performance Review		
IPHC-2019-PRIPHC02-R	Report of the 2nd Performance Review of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (PRIPHC02)	✓ 15 Oct 2019
Reports from IPHC subsidiary bodies (2019/20)		
IPHC-2019-RAB020-R	Report of the 20th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB020)	✓ 6 March 2019
IPHC-2019-SRB014-R	Report of the 14th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB014)	✓ 28 June 2019
IPHC-2019-SRB015-R	Report of the 15th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB015)	✓ 27 Sept 2019
IPHC-2019-MSAB013-R	Report of the 13th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013)	✓ 10 May 2019
IPHC-2019-MSAB014-R	Report of the 14th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB014)	✓ 25 Oct 2019
IPHC-2019-IM095-R	Report of the 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095)	✓ 26 Nov 2019
IPHC-2020-FAC096-R	Report of the 96th Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC096)	✓ 4 Feb 2020
IPHC-2020-CB090-R	Report of the 90th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB090)	✓ 6 Feb 2020
IPHC-2020-PAB025-R	Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB025)	✓ 6 Feb 2020

APPENDIX IV
MORTALITY TABLE PROJECTED FOR THE 2020 MORTALITY LIMITS BY IPHC REGULATORY AREA

(All values reported in millions of net pounds)

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	**2B**	**2C**	**3A**	**3B**	**4A**	**4B**	**4CDE**	**Total**
Commercial discard mortality	0.03	0.13	NA	NA	0.16	0.09	0.04	0.08	0.52
O26 Non-directed discard mortality	0.12	0.24	0.07	1.29	0.53	0.22	0.16	2.06	4.69
Recreational	NA	0.05	1.15	1.66	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	2.88
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.37	0.19	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.04	1.03
Total Non-FCEY	0.15	0.82	1.59	3.14	0.71	0.34	0.20	2.17	9.12
Commercial discard mortality	NA	NA	0.07	0.29	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.36
Recreational	0.61	0.88	0.78	1.71	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.98
Subsistence	0.03	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.03
Commercial Landings	0.87	5.12	3.41	7.05	2.41	1.41	1.10	1.73	23.11
Total FCEY	**1.50**	**6.00**	**4.26**	**9.06**	**2.41**	**1.41**	**1.10**	**1.73**	**27.48**
TCEY	**1.65**	**6.83**	**5.85**	**12.20**	**3.12**	**1.75**	**1.31**	**3.90**	**36.60**
U26 Non-directed discard mortality	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.29	0.12	0.14	0.01	1.02	1.60
Total Mortality	**1.65**	**6.85**	**5.85**	**12.49**	**3.24**	**1.89**	**1.32**	**4.92**	**38.19**

APPENDIX V
FY2020 ADOPTED BUDGET

(1 Oct. 2019 to 30 Sept. 2020)

General Fund

Income			*Expenses*	
Contributions			**Core IPHC Activities**	
United States of America	$4,532,000	[1,2]	Administration	$2,288,847
Canada	$985,432	[1]	Scientific	$3,652,199
			Catch Sampling	$638,132
Other Income			**Research Activities**	
Grants & Contracts	$449,562		Field Research	$0
Interest Income	$5,000		Other Research	$550,000
Misc. Income	$0			
			FISS Program Cost Recovery	($397,346)
General Fund Total	$5,971,994		*General Fund Total*	$6,731,832
General Fund - Gain/Loss	***($759,838)***		***Year-end Carryover***	***$434,954***

Supplemental Fund

Income		*Expenses*	
Fish Sales Income		**FISS Expenses**	
FISS Program	$4,904,582	FISS Program	$4,539,501
Other Research	$46,400	FISS Program Cost Recovery	$397,346
Other Income			
Interest	$1,125		
Rollover from Reserve Account	$10,000		
Supplemental Fund Total	$4,962,106	*Supplemental Fund Total*	$4,936,847
Supplemental Fund - Gain/Loss	***$25,260***	***Year-end Carryover***	***$558,949***

Combined General/Supplemental Funds

Combined Gain/Loss	***($734,578)***	***Year-end Combined Balance***	***$993,903***

Notes: [1] - Includes Pension Funding Payment. In 2013 Canada agreed to an annual pension liability payment schedule. Canada have indicated that as a result of additional payments in 2017, they are now $400,537 ahead of the agreed schedule. As a result no additional funds are expected to be contributed in 2020.

[2] - Includes Headquarters Lease and Building Maintenance Payments.

APPENDIX VI
FY2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

(1 Oct. 2020 to 30 Sept. 2021)

General Fund

Income			*Expenses*	
Contributions			**Core IPHC Activities**	
United States of America	$4,767,960	[1,2]	Administration	$2,402,610
Canada	$1,011,657	[1]	Scientific	$3,427,938
			Catch Sampling	$646,945
Other Income			**Research Activities**	
Grants & Contracts	$478,599		Field Research	$0
Interest Income	$5,000		Other Research	$425,000
Misc. Income	$0			
			FISS Program Cost Recovery	($639,277)
General Fund Total	$6,263,216		*General Fund Total*	$6,263,216
General Fund - Gain/Loss	***($0)***		***Year-end Carryover***	***$434,954***

Supplemental Fund

Income		*Expenses*	
Fish Sales Income		**FISS Expenses**	
FISS Program	$5,010,798	FISS Program	$4,608,624
Other Research	$46,400	FISS Program Cost Recovery	$639,277
Other Income			
Interest	$1,125		
Rollover from Reserve Account	$25,000		
Supplemental Fund Total	$5,083,323	*Supplemental Fund Total*	$5,247,901
Supplemental Fund - Gain/Loss	***$164,579***	***Year-end Carryover***	***$451,858***

Combined General/Supplemental Funds

Combined Gain/Loss	***($164,579)***	***Year-end Combined Balance***	***$886,812***

Notes: [1] - Includes Pension Funding Payment.
[2] - Includes Headquarters Lease and Building Maintenance Payments.

APPENDIX VII
IPHC MEETINGS CALENDAR (2020-22)

	2020			2021			2022		
Meeting	**No.**	**Dates**	**Location**	**No.**	**Dates**	**Location**	**No.**	**Dates**	**Location**
Annual Meeting (AM)	**96th**	**3-7 Feb**	**Anchorage, USA**	**97th**	**25-29 Jan**	**Victoria, Canada**	**98th**	**24-28 Jan**	**TBD, USA**
Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)	96th	3 Feb	Anchorage, USA	97th	25 Jan	Victoria, Canada	98th	24 Jan	TBD, USA
Conference Board (CB)	90th	4-5 Feb	Anchorage, USA	91st	26-27 Jan	Victoria, Canada	92nd	25-26 Jan	TBD, USA
Processor Advisory Board (PAB)	25th	4-5 Feb	Anchorage, USA	26th	26-27 Jan	Victoria, Canada	27th	25-26 Jan	TBD, USA
Research Advisory Board (RAB)	21st	26 Feb	Seattle, USA	22nd	10 Feb	Seattle, USA	23rd	9 Feb	Seattle, USA
Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)	15th	11-14 May	Courtenay, Canada	-	-	-	-	-	-
	16th	19-22 Oct	Seattle, USA	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scientific Review Board (SRB)	16th	23-25 June	Seattle, USA	18th	22-24 June	Seattle, USA	20th	21-23 June	Seattle, USA
	17th	22-24 Sept	Seattle, USA	19th	21-23 Sept	Seattle, USA	21st	20-22 Sept	Seattle, USA
Work Meeting (WM)	--	16-17 Sept (tentative)	Bellingham, USA	--	15-16 Sept	Bellingham, USA	--	14-15 Sept	Bellingham, USA
Interim Meeting (IM)	**96th**	**18-19 Nov**	**Seattle, USA**	**97th**	**30 Nov-1 Dec**	**Seattle, USA**	**98th**	**29-30 Nov**	**Seattle, USA**

APPENDIX VIII
CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 96TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM096) (03-07 FEBRUARY 2020)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data

AM096–Rec.01 (para. 31) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that for the 2020 FISS season, the IPHC Secretariat shall employ the proposed subarea design for Regulatory Areas 2A, 4A, 4B, 4CDE, and an enhanced randomised subsampling FISS design in Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, and 3B to meet the primary design objective, while also considering secondary and tertiary objectives (Table 2). The IPHC Secretariat shall determine the number of skates at each FISS station with the secondary objective in mind (Table 2). A demonstration of this design is provided at Fig. 2.

AM096–Rec.02 (para. 32) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the following specific additions to the new 2020 FISS design, on the basis of the tertiary objective specified in Table 2 on a cost recovery basis. Any other tertiary sampling objective shall be at the discretion of the IPHC Secretariat unless specifically directed by the Commission:

a) Regulatory Area 2A: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - rockfish sampling;

b) Regulatory Area 2B: DFO-Canada - rockfish sampling.

REQUESTS

Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data

AM096–Req.01 (para. 33) The Commission **REQUESTED** the 2020 consultation process in preparation for the 2021 FISS and beyond be enhanced to include input from the IPHC subsidiary bodies, particularly the Research Advisory Board and the Scientific Review Board, as well as from stakeholders who have performed survey work for the IPHC, with a view to finalizing the FISS sampling design for the coming year as early as possible in the annual planning cycle.

Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2019), and harvest decision table (2020)

AM096–Req.02 (para. 52) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC MSE process continue to evaluate status quo management related to discard mortality for non-directed fisheries (bycatch) under the current program of work for delivery of full MSE results at AM097 in 2021, noting that this source of mortality is currently modelled as a fixed component of the total (with variability).

Reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013 and MSAB014)

AM096–Req.03 (para. 89) The Commission **REQUESTED** the MSAB to confirm the proposed topics of work beyond the 2021 deliverables in time for the Interim Meeting (IM096), including work to investigate and provide advice on approaches for accounting for the impacts of bycatch in one Regulatory Area on harvesting opportunities in other Regulatory Areas.

Stakeholder statements

AM096–Req.04 (para. 110) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat organise and synopsize stakeholder statements by topic, in order to insert the stakeholder written inputs into public comment at appropriate points in the agenda for the Commission's consideration.

Contracting Party National Reports - United States of America

AM096–Req.05 (para. 113) The Commission **NOTED** that the NOAA Fisheries Observer Program has increased observer fees and has received increased government funding, and **REQUESTED** that NOAA Fisheries provide a synopsis of observer coverage rates over time and how coverage rates are expected to change in 2020 and beyond.

IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020)

AM096–Req.06 (para. 135) The Commission **ADOPTED** the revised IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020) by consensus, and **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.

Report of the 2nd IPHC Performance Review

AM096–Req.07 (para. 139) The Commission **REQUESTED** that paper IPHC-2020-AM096-14 be reviewed intersessionally by each Contracting Party, with the intention of providing edits/additions, for endorsement. The IPHC Secretariat will facilitate this request by proposing intersessional meeting dates.

Size limits

AM096–Req.08 (para. 158) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat prepare an updated discussion of the costs and benefits of removing or adjusting the current minimum size limit and/or adding a maximum size limit. This analysis would be presented during the 2020 Work Meeting and IM096.

Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)

AM096–Req.09 (para. 159) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC *Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2020)* no later than 28 February 2020, **NOTING** that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM096.