



INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC



HALIBUT COMMISSION

# Independent peer review of the Pacific halibut stock assessment

Agenda item 6.3  
(IPHC-2020-AM096-08)

# PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to further consider the independent peer review report of the IPHC Stock Assessment for Pacific halibut.



# BACKGROUND

The Commission directed the IPHC Secretariat via Commission decisions AM095-Rec.10 and IPHC-2019-ID001 (shown below) to:

## **95<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) – 1 February 2019**

AM095–Rec.10 (para. 129) “*The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat develop terms of reference for a consultant to undertake a peer review of the IPHC Pacific halibut stock assessment, for implementation in early 2019. The terms of reference and budget shall be endorsed by the Commission inter-sessionally.*”

## **2019 Inter-sessional decision – 17 April 2019**

IPHC-2019-ID001: The Commission ENDORSED the “*Open call for expressions of interest: Independent peer reviewer for the IPHC stock assessment*”

Dr Kevin Stokes (New Zealand)



The report by the independent consultant was provided to the Commission on 2 August 2019, via IPHC Circular 2019-16, & considered by the SRB015 in Sept 2019.



# BACKGROUND/SCOPE

Terms of Reference (ToR) for the stock assessment (SA) review were intentionally wide, providing scope for discussion and focus as deemed appropriate on the stock assessment process, methods and reporting.

Nevertheless, specific topics that were addressed fall in the following categories:

1. Aspects of data collection and analysis.
2. Aspects of individual model development.
3. The collection of models contributing to the ensemble, and the methods for combining/weighting the results.
4. Comments on research priorities or avenues for data, model or management advice development as appropriate.
5. Comments on the document and background material provided for the review.

The review was also required to clearly delineate between tactical changes to be considered for the current (2019) stock assessment and research avenues for future work.



# OUTCOMES

A series of technical comments and suggestions for immediate and longer-term advancements

- Many incorporated into Dr. Stewart Stock Assessment paper  
**IPHC-2020-AM096-09 Rev\_1.**

*“The quality of analysis is excellent and aimed purposefully at providing science-based risk assessment to support IPHC decision-making.”*

*“The overall quality of documentation from all IPHC sources is of the highest quality with exceptional care taken in preparation.”*



# SRB015 CONSIDERATION

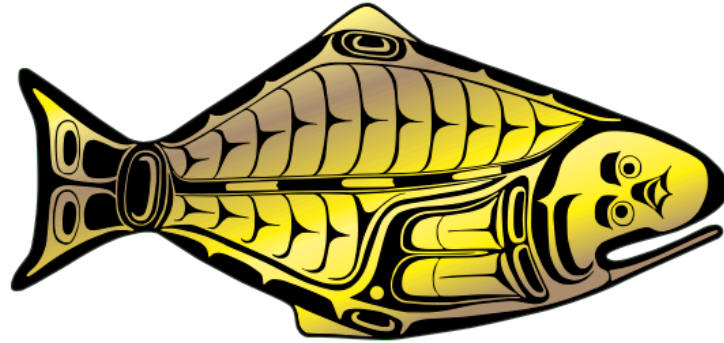
(para. 18) The SRB **AGREED** that the external peer review (IPHC-2019-SRB015-13) was of a high quality and appreciated the completeness of the document.

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.

(para. 20) The SRB **AGREED** that in light of scientific advances in the field, the SRB continue to be involved in developing the terms of reference for future stock assessment, scientific, and other technical reviews.



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