



## Report of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB093)

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Victoria, B.C., Canada, 24-26 January 2023

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## ACRONYMS

AM	Annual Meeting, of the IPHC
CB	Conference Board
FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
FISS	Fishery-independent setline survey
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
SPR	Spawning Potential Ratio
TCEY	Total Constant Exploitation Yield
WPUE	Weight Per Unit Effort

## 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; ACCEPTED** (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.
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Conference Board (CB093) was held in Victoria, B.C., Canada from 24-26 January 2023. A total of 56 (60 in 2022) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by Mr. Jim Lane (Canada) and Ms. Linda Behnken (U.S.A.) (Co-Chairpersons), who welcomed participants.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the CB093, which are provided at [Appendix IV](#).

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Management Strategy Evaluation*

CB093-Rec.01 ([para. 14](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission address the decision points from paper [IPHC-2023-AM099-13](#) during a Special Session that allows public input and in time to develop a MSE program of work for 2023. [*Canada: In favour=23; against=0; abstain=1;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=25; against=0; abstain=5*]

### *Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates*

CB093-Rec.04 ([para. 24](#)) The CB **NOTED** the following from Canada members: **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2023:

- a) Opening: 4 March
- b) Closing: 7 December

CB093-Rec.05 ([para. 25](#)) The CB **NOTED** that following from USA members: **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2023:

- a) Opening: 4 March or 11 March
- b) Closing: 7 December

### *Mortality limits*

CB093-Rec.06 ([para. 26](#)) The CB **NOTED** a motion from the Canadian delegation to reduce the coastwide TCEY by 10% from adopted 2022 levels, for a coastwide TCEY of 37.10 million pounds (2022 coastwide TCEY was 41.22 million pounds). Canada needs to be part of the reduction and we **RECOMMENDED** an 10% reduction for Canada from its adopted 2022 TCEY for a Canada TCEY of 6.804 million pounds (2022 Canadian TCEY was 7.56 million pounds) and that Canada be mitigated for 100% of the impact of the Alaska U26 bycatch of halibut in Canada. [*Canada: In favour=22; against=1 abstain=1;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=0; against=27; abstain=3*]

CB093-Rec.07 ([para. 30](#)) The CB **NOTED** that the USA CB members **RECOMMENDED** that the 2023 TCEYs be based on 2022 TCEY reduced by the 2022 survey change in WPUE, with a max change per area of 15%. Minor adjustments to the rule have been made in some areas. The USA Motion represents a compromise among US stakeholders intended as a one-year bridge to a longer-term agreement on distribution. The expectation from the USA is that Canada takes a cut equivalent to the drop in the Area 2B 2022 survey WPUE, and that this is a one-year deal. The USA will continue to work toward a long-term distribution procedure that is equitable to all, and the US does not endorse this high a percentage to Canada for the long-term (even if Canada takes the 11% cut). Finally, the inclusion of a 1.65 M TCEY for Area 2A is included with the understanding that it is a part of the one-year bridge agreement and not intended to signal support for future management procedures.

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)***

CB093-Rec.08 ([para. 35](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA1](#), with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in Section 5.3, but also include all mortality (e.g. subsistence, bycatch, and non-guided sport) in annual summary framework table [*Canada: unanimous*][*U.S.A.: unanimous*].

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

CB093-Rec.09 ([para. 36](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA2](#), which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. See Section 4 for a summary of discussions and recommendations. [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*].

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: Fishing Period Limits (Sect. 14) & Licensing Vessels for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Sect. 15) – Accommodation of the transition of management in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A***

CB093-Rec.10 ([para. 37](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA3](#), to accommodate the transition of management in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A from the IPHC to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and NOAA Fisheries. [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*].

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments***

CB093-Rec.11 ([para. 38](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2022-AM098-PropA4 Rev\\_1](#) that proposed minor amendments to the existing IPHC Fishery Regulations to improve clarity and consistency. [*Canada: unanimous; U.S.A.: unanimous*]

***Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut—IPHC Regulatory areas 2c, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e (Sect. 29) – Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A***

CB093-Rec.12 ([para. 39](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB1](#), that 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 Fishery Management Council's (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan: [*Canada: abstain*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29) - Onboard consumption***

CB093-Rec.13 ([para. 46](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB3](#), that proposed adding flexibility to existing recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing regulations in Alaska Regulatory Areas and allow limited consumption of recreationally caught Pacific halibut on board charter vessels and pleasure craft, while retaining existing regulations that provide effective enforcement of daily bag limits and possession limits. [*Canada: In favour=1; against=10 abstain=11*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=28; against=2; abstain=2*]

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect. 20) – Logs requirements***

CB093-Rec.14 ([para. 48](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB4](#), that proposed updates to IPHC regulatory language regarding the qualifying logbooks in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]

## 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Conference Board (CB093) was held in Victoria, B.C., Canada from 24-25 January 2023. A total of 56 (60 in 2022) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by Mr. Jim Lane (Canada) and Ms Linda Behnken (U.S.A.) (Co-Chairpersons), who welcomed participants.

### 1.1 *Accreditation of CB Membership (2021-25): new members*

2. Canada accredited 0 new members and the USA accredited 1 new member, for participation in the 2023 Conference Board proceedings.

## 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

3. The CB **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#). The documents provided to the CB093 are those submitted for the 99<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099). To assist the CB in navigating its meeting, all documents relevant to the agenda were posted as links on the CB webpage: <https://www.iphc.int/venues/details/93rd-session-of-the-iphc-conference-board-cb093>.

## 3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

### 3.1 *Mortality Limits and TCEY*

4. The CB **NOTED** the question-and-answer period by Dr. Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
5. The CB members asked for clarification of change in natural mortality and impact on risk in stock assessment process. The CB **NOTED** that maintaining the same level of risk requires building additional precaution into the management process.
6. The CB **NOTED** the relationship between spawning biomass and recruitment is unknown although recognize that small spawning biomass can produce a strong recruitment event.
7. The CB **NOTED** maturity data indicate high resilience to environmental conditions. More detailed analysis to be performed in 2023.
8. The CB **NOTED** from Dr. Stewart's presentation that the 3-year surplus is a short-term calculation that is primarily driven by recruitment and weight-at-age estimates and by definition produces a number for fishing mortality that is not expected to influence spawning biomass up or down.
9. The CB **NOTED** from Dr. Stewart that without strong recruitment, additional yield in the short-term comes at a cost to future yield.

### 3.2 *MSE update*

10. The CB **NOTED** the question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Allan Hicks (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
11. The CB **NOTED** the numerous decision points related to performance metrics, priority objectives, size limits, multi-year assessments, and future tasks for the MSE and MSAB.
12. The CB **NOTED** the following from USA members:
  - a) Indication that "median annual change" is a useful metric to evaluate volatility as it provides insight into the magnitude of change from year to year and allows evaluation of MPs at discrete thresholds, such as 5, 10, or 15% changes from year to year.
  - b) The benefits associated with a reduced size limit largely result from the increased yield. If yield is not a constraining factor, a reduced size limit may reduce the economic value of the fishery as lower value smaller fish replace larger more valuable fish. Increases in efficiency and reduced waste may offset these economic losses, but if yield is not constraining, the benefits of a size limit change are significantly reduced.

13. The CB **NOTED** that reducing the minimum size limit at this time would put more fishing pressure on the 2012-year class which is only 29% mature and future growth of the stock relies heavily on this year class.
14. The CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission address the decision points from paper [IPHC-2023-AM099-13](#) during a Special Session that allows public input and in time to develop a MSE program of work for 2023. [*Canada: In favour=23; against=0; abstain=1;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=25; against=0; abstain=5*]
15. The CB **RECOMMENDED** that there be no reduction in the MSAB term limits for members, noting that there are not many applicants and understanding the MSE takes time. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=1; abstain=18;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=20; against=1; abstain=9*]
16. The CB **RECOMMENDED** not reducing the number of MSAB member seats, noting the importance of geographical representation. [*Canada: In favour=0; against=14; abstain=10;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=27; against=0; abstain=3*]
17. The CB **NOTED** the work by the IPHC Secretariat and in particular Dr. Hicks and thanked them—as well as the MSAB members—for their commitment.

### 3.3 *FISS 2023*

18. The CB **NOTED** the question-and-answer session provided by Dr. Ray Webster (IPHC Quantitative Scientist).
19. The CB **NOTED** that stock assessment still relies heavily on the FISS; as the FISS footprint is reduced, fishery-dependent data will become more important in the stock assessment process and additional caution will be indicated to counter increased uncertainty.

## 4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

20. The CB **NOTED** an initial motion from the USA for the following opening date for 2023: 11 March 2023. [*Canada: In favour=0; against=23 abstain=1;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=13; against=6; abstain=11*]
21. The CB members supporting the motion **NOTED** good tides (waning) and importance of minimizing gear loss often associated with fishing during big tides. Those opposed are in support of the longest season possible given administrative constraints faced by USA management agencies.
22. The CB **NOTED** a second motion from Canada for the following opening date for 2023: 4 March 2023. [*Canada: In favour=23; against=0; abstain=1;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=11; against=8; abstain=11*]
23. The CB **NOTED** a motion from the USA for the following closing date for 2023: 07 December 2023 [*Canada: In favour=24; against=0 abstain=1;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=17; against=2; abstain=10*] CB **NOTED** that as long a season as possible, given US administrative constraints, benefits the markets as well as providing maximum fishing opportunity.
24. The CB **NOTED** the following from Canada members: **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2023:
- a) Opening: 4 March
  - b) Closing: 7 December
25. The CB **NOTED** that following from USA members: **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2023:
- a) Opening: 4 March or 11 March
  - b) Closing: 7 December



## 5. MORTALITY LIMITS

### 5.1 Coastwide perspectives

26. The CB **NOTED** a motion from the Canadian delegation to reduce the coastwide TCEY by 10% from adopted 2022 levels, for a coastwide TCEY of 37.10 million pounds (2022 coastwide TCEY was 41.22 million pounds). Canada needs to be part of the reduction and we **RECOMMENDED** an 10% reduction for Canada from its adopted 2022 TCEY for a Canada TCEY of 6.804 million pounds (2022 Canadian TCEY was 7.56 million pounds) and that Canada be mitigated for 100% of the impact of the Alaska U26 bycatch of halibut in Canada. [*Canada: In favour=22; against=1 abstain=1;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=0; against=27; abstain=3*]
27. The CB **NOTED** the Canadian delegation comment that the 2022 IPHC FISS results at the regional and regulatory area levels, the quantifiable risks and the additional risks outlined in the presentation of IPHC document IPHC-2023-AM099-11, specifically:
- All coastwide indices, FISS and directed commercial fishery catch rates, were at the lowest values observed in the last 30 years.
  - The FISS and fishery have transitioned to the 2012-year class and now rely on a single year class which was 29% mature in 2022 and the stock projections rely heavily on this single year class growing and maturing on schedule;
  - The stock is at an unprecedented low population level due to poor recruitment and ecosystem/climate uncertainty remains high;
  - All IPHC regulatory areas take at least a similar cut, so that all areas share in the burden of conservation and there be continued mitigation of U26 bycatch;
  - As part of the previous interim agreement, Canada and the US agreed that each country would be responsible for accounting its U26 mortality against its collective TCEY ([IPHC-2019-AM095-R](#), para. 66). Additionally, commitments were made to mitigate the impact of bycatch in one IPHC Regulatory Area on available harvest in other IPHC Regulatory Areas (para 68). These commitments need to continue, and Canada is seeking mitigation for 100% of the impacts of U26 bycatch.
28. The CB **NOTED** the USA delegation comment that the 2022 IPHC Regulatory Area 2B TCEY of 7.56 mlbs was the result of the base interim agreement 70/30 formula plus a U26 adjustment. To apply the 10% decrease to this inflated number, which already included U26 compensation, then add an additional
29. Th CB **NOTED** that U26 compensation is inappropriate and results in a net 2B reduction of 6.6%. The US delegation for the CB **NOTED** that U26 compensation was part of the agreement and has since expired and that U26 compensation should not be considered outside the long-term agreement.
30. The CB **NOTED** that the USA CB members **RECOMMENDED** that the 2023 TCEYs be based on 2022 TCEY reduced by the 2022 survey change in WPUE, with a max change per area of 15%. Minor adjustments to the rule have been made in some areas. The USA Motion represents a compromise among US stakeholders intended as a one-year bridge to a longer-term agreement on distribution. The expectation from the USA is that Canada takes a cut equivalent to the drop in the Area 2B 2022 survey WPUE, and that this is a one-year deal. The USA will continue to work toward a long-term distribution procedure that is equitable to all, and the US does not endorse this high a percentage to Canada for the long-term (even if Canada takes the 11% cut). Finally, the inclusion of a 1.65 M TCEY for Area 2A is included with the understanding that it is a part of the one-year bridge agreement and not intended to signal support for future management procedures. [*Canada: In favour=0; against=24 abstain=0*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=30; against=0; abstain=1*]

Area	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
<b>2022 TCEY</b>	1.650	7.560	5.910	14.550	3.900	2.100	1.450	4.100	<b>41.220</b>
<b>% Change in FISS</b>	10.0%	-11.0%	-1.0%	-37.0%	-13.0%	-26.0%	5.0%	-6.0%	
<b>2023 TCEY-Full Down, 15% Max</b>	1.650		5.851	12.368	4.080	1.785	1.450	3.854	
<b>% Change from 2022</b>	0.0%		-1.0%	-15.0%	4.6%	-15.0%	0.0%	-6.0%	
<b>Reduction in Pounds from 2022 [USA only]</b>	0		0.06	2.18	-0.18	0.32	0.00	0.25	<b>2.62</b>

Table: All areas, 1 year FISS, full down, 15% max, correction for 3B and 4B

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
<b>Commercial discards</b>	0.05	0.17	NA	NA	0.33	0.05	0.01	0.08	0.70
<b>O26 Non-directed discards</b>	0.08	0.24	0.06	0.39	0.27	0.25	0.13	1.72	3.13
<b>Recreational</b>	NA	0.04	1.14	1.20	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	2.40
<b>Subsistence</b>	NA	0.41	0.29	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.94
<b>Total non-FCEY</b>	0.13	0.86	1.49	1.77	0.62	0.33	0.14	1.83	7.16
<b>Commercial discards</b>	NA	NA	0.15	0.60	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.75
<b>Recreational</b>	0.62	0.88	0.80	1.89	NA	NA	NA	NA	4.23
<b>Subsistence</b>	0.02	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.02
<b>Commercial landings</b>	0.88	4.99	3.41	8.11	3.46	1.46	1.31	2.02	25.64
<b>Total FCEY</b>	1.52	5.87	4.36	10.60	3.46	1.46	1.31	2.02	30.60
							<b>4C FCEY</b>	0.90	
							<b>4D FCEY</b>	0.90	
							<b>4E FCEY</b>	0.22	
<b>TCEY</b>	1.65	6.73	5.85	12.37	4.08	1.79	1.45	3.85	37.77
<b>U26 Non-directed discards</b>	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.24	0.10	0.10	0.01	0.88	1.37
<b>Total</b>	1.65	6.76	5.85	12.61	4.18	1.89	1.46	4.73	39.13

31. The CB **NOTED** the following from the USA members:

- a) That USA stakeholders have a commitment to science-based management but this year it was hard to know what science to follow. The model and revised natural mortality created an optimistic estimate of stock productivity, but the FISS is capturing significant declines. The new estimate for natural mortality is less time tested; the FISS is time tested, and the driver of TCEYs in this motion. The USA recommends that the 2023 TCEYs be based on 2022 TCEY reduced by the 2022 survey change in WPUE, with a max change per area of 15%. Minor adjustments to the rule have been made in some areas. The USA noted his approach is transparent, linked to the FISS, defensible, and easily understood.
- b) The expectation from the USA is that Canada takes a cut equivalent to the drop in the Area 2B 2022 survey WPUE, and that this is a one-year deal. The USA will continue to work toward a long-term distribution procedure that is equitable to all, and the US does not endorse this high a percentage to Canada for the long-term (even if Canada does take the 11% cut).
- c) The USA Motion represents a compromise among area US stakeholders intended as a one-year bridge to a longer-term agreement on distribution that might include a distribution based on a 3 year average of FISS with a 15% maximum annual change per area control rule. The inclusion of a 1.65 M TCEY for Area 2A is included with the understanding that it is a part of the one-year bridge agreement and not intended to signal support for future management procedures.
- d) Rationale for Area 2C experienced only a 1% reduction O32 FISS, a 5% increase in all sizes WPUE, increase in the estimated biomass percentage in Regulatory Area 2, the fishery O32 WPUE is down 7% for fixed gear and flat for snap gear; 2C has the highest FISS WPUE of any IPHC Regulatory Area, twice that of 2B, 3A; all sizes of NPUE is up 1%.

- e) Rationale for coastwide 3A indices are down, very low recruitment from 2006-2011, the stock is at unprecedented levels, with low productivity, ecosystem, and climate change creating uncertainty. The FISS down by 37%. All sizes WPUE is down 6%, with a decreased estimated biomass projection. The US applied the maximum 15% limit for 3A reduction.
- f) Rationale for Area 3B: 3B has the second highest WPUE behind 2C in 2022, O32 distribution has been increasing for 5 years and is estimated to be 20.2%, adjusted for 0.75 harvest rate. The 3B total removals is 9.4% of coastwide removals while reference TCEY for 3B was 15.8%. 3B has the largest deficit between reference TCEY and adopted TCEY of all Alaska areas resulting in 3.1 million pounds of lost yield to stakeholders in 2022. 3B and 2B have nearly identical spatial extent but 3B WPUE is 35% higher than 2B, 3B 3-year O32 distribution is 14.3% while 2B 3-year O32 distribution is 13.5%, 2B removals were 90% greater than 3B in 2022. The 3B stakeholders support a consistent harvest policy based on O32 distribution and management procedures including 3-year averaging of FISS and maximum yearly changes to area TCEY's of 15%
- g) Rationale for Regulatory Area 4A: 4A O26 Survey WPUE is down by 26%, commercial catches by fixed gear was down by 13%, and snap gear was down 21%. The FISS is at the lowest point in recent history - down 26% across all sizes. The WPUE and NPUE were down by 27%. The 15% maximum limit is applied to smooth inter-annual change.
- h) Rationale for Regulatory Area 4B: The FISS in area 4B increased 5%. The long term biological trends are stable with considerable underutilization because of lack of local processing capacity, remoteness, and as processing became unavailable in the western Aleutians fewer vessels are fishing in 4B. Commercial WPUE is down 12% for fixed gear and up 44% for snap gear. There is a 4% increase all sizes in WPUE and 4% increase in NPUE. Stakeholders prefer to leave the allocation unchanged from 2022 rather than taking a 5% increase in 2023. All Area 4 has a conservative 0.75 harvest rate
- i) Rationale for Area 4CDE: O32 FISS is down by 6% in Area 4CDE. The area has the largest WPUE % increase in all sizes (+10%), the commercial fishery WPUE is stable – (8% increase in 4C and 8% decrease in 4D). This area has the second largest increase in NPUE (+10%), the estimated biomass has increased, and 4CDE has a conservative 0.75 harvest rate.
32. The CB **NOTED** that Canadian members voiced opposition to the USA motion, stating that the reduction in the USA did not go far enough, that U26 mitigation needed to be included, and Canada does not agree with using O32 biomass distribution for distributing the coastwide TCEY, Canada and the US agree at MSAB that the TCEY distribution can be science driven, policy driven, or some combination of both.
33. The CB **NOTED** that USA Stakeholders overall USA reduction was close to 8% while 2B reduction in motion from Canada was 6.6% due to double U26 compensation.
34. The CB **NOTED** shared conservation concerns and express support for smoothing or limiting annual change as part of the 2023 and future TCEYs.

## 6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2022-23 PROCESS

### 6.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals

#### 6.1.1 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)

35. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA1](#), with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in Section 5.3, but also include all mortality (e.g. subsistence, bycatch, and non-guided sport) in annual summary framework table [*Canada: unanimous*][*U.S.A.: unanimous*].

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

36. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA2](#), which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. See Section 4 for a summary of discussions and recommendations. [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*].

**6.1.3 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Fishing Period Limits (Sect. 14) & Licensing Vessels for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Sect. 15) – Accommodation of the transition of management in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A**

37. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA3](#), to accommodate the transition of management in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A from the IPHC to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and NOAA Fisheries. [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*].

**6.1.4 IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments**

38. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2022-AM098-PropA4 Rev 1](#) that proposed minor amendments to the existing IPHC Fishery Regulations to improve clarity and consistency. [*Canada: unanimous*; *U.S.A.: unanimous*]

**6.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals**

**6.2.1 Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut—IPHC Regulatory areas 2c, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e (Sect. 29) – Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A**

39. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB1](#), that 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 Fishery Management Council’s (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan: [*Canada: abstain*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]

**6.2.2 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) - Daily bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B**

40. The CB **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB2](#), that proposed IPHC Regulation changes to allow the daily bag limit of up to three fish per day per person in the recreational fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B.

41. The CB **NOTED** that stated in the Canadian National Report IPHC-2023-AM099-NR01, the SFAB maintains an active and highly collaborative relationship with the department of fisheries and Oceans and the Province of BC. This collaboration can include several preseason technical data meetings along with more Halibut Committee Mtgs to determine a conservative approach for our fishery. Additionally, we meet monthly in season (June through October) to review data that arrives monthly from our creel and iREC surveys (iREC being internet Recreational estimate of catch). These meetings include DFO, C&P, DFO Science, the Province, and our SFAB Committee representatives. Both of these surveys are mandatory when asked (Creel) - or assigned at the time of license issuance (in the case of iREC). The surveys include the size of the fish by length in cm.

42. The CB **NOTED** that Canadian CB members indication that:

- a) every license holder is required to report all catch within 20 days to iREC during the month stated on their particular license;
- b) participants are not required to delineate between lodges, guides or public fishers including non-residents. It is one fishery with the same rules;
- c) in the last 9 out of 11 years we have 1,111,974 lbs of fish in the water, and this total includes overages in 2 of those years.

43. The CB **NOTED** the following from Canada members, changes to the proposal language from the Canadian delegation:

- a) Canada manages the Pacific Coast recreational Halibut fishery to daily and possession limits, along with size limits as well as annual limits, and whereas, the size limits and annual limits cannot be varied in season, and whereas, the maximum allowable daily limit per person in Canadian Regulations is three with a maximum possession limit of three, and whereas, Canada has implemented a carryover provision which means that should the recreational fishery have an overage



up to a certain percentage it will be deducted in full from the recreational TAC for the following year. And whereas, if the Canadian Department of Fisheries ascertains the sector is likely to have an overage, it can and has closed the recreational fishery in season, therefore, the Sport Fishing Advisory Board moves that the Conference Board recommend acceptance of regulatory proposal (IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB2) from Canada for a change to Section 28 of the IPHC Fisheries Regulations (Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B) to allow a daily bag limit of three fish per person.

- b) The USA delegation moved an amendment to the proposal to extend the allowance for a three-fish bag limit to 31 March 2025 with a seasonal actionable date no earlier than August 15 each year. The allowance sunsets 31 March 2025. [Canada: In favour=0; against=22; abstain=1] [U.S.A.: In favour=21; against=1; abstain=2].
- c) Rationale: The CB **NOTED** that the USA members do not support a three-fish bag limit in perpetuity for the Canadian recreational fishery at this time. A temporary increase to a three-fish bag limit was granted as a provision to address COVID-related conditions tied to the Covid-19 pandemic. The amendment extends the allowance for two years to provide Canadian recreational fisheries and DFO time to revert to previous pre-COVID practices or to develop alternative regulatory processes to address the mechanics and need for flexibility of the Canadian recreational fishery moving forward. A two-fish recreational bag limit has been implemented since the 1970s. Recreational fisheries and Pacific halibut management plans across all regulatory areas were developed based on this bag limit. The effects of the proposed three-fish bag limit are unvetted and unknown. No origin for the two-fish bag limit or consequences of a departure from it are addressed by the proposal.
44. The CB **NOTED** the following motion from the USA: the amended main motion from 6.2.2(27a) above, as amended by 6.2.2(28) above be adopted. [Canada: Canada: In favour=0; against=24; abstain=0] [U.S.A.: In favour=15; against=3; abstain=4].
45. The CB **NOTED** the following motion from the Canadian delegation: the main motion from 6.2.2(27a) above be adopted with an amendment: seasonable action date of August 1; five-year review and no sunset. [Canada: In favour=22; against=1; abstain=1] [U.S.A.: In favour=0; against=30; abstain=0].

### **6.2.3 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29) - Onboard consumption**

46. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB3](#), that proposed adding flexibility to existing recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing regulations in Alaska Regulatory Areas and allow limited consumption of recreationally caught Pacific halibut on board charter vessels and pleasure craft, while retaining existing regulations that provide effective enforcement of daily bag limits and possession limits. [Canada: In favour=1; against=10; abstain=11] [U.S.A.: In favour=28; against=2; abstain=2]
47. The Canada CB **NOTED** that if a USA vessel with partially consumed Pacific halibut aboard were to transit through Canada waters in 2B, the USA vessel would be subject to the Canadian no consumption rule and should be made aware of the regulatory difference between countries.

### **6.2.4 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect. 20) – Logs requirements**

48. The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB4](#), that proposed updates to IPHC regulatory language regarding the qualifying logbooks in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. [Canada: unanimous] [U.S.A.: unanimous]

## **6.3 Other Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals**

### **6.3.1 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29) - Processing Pacific halibut for eating and preservation**

49. The CB **NOTED** and **CONSIDERED** but took no action on fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropC1](#), that proposed amendments to include an exception that allows recreational fishermen in

Alaska Regulatory Areas who do not return to port each day to process Pacific halibut for eating and/or preservation, subject to measures to facilitate enforcement of the applicable daily bag limits (Proposal No. 1); or exclude preserved and consumed on board fish from applicable possession limits (Proposal No. 2); or create a narrow exception that allows for limited processing of a single fish per day for consumption only (Proposal No. 3). The representative of the proponent spoke in support of this proposal.

### **6.3.2 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5) - TCEY floor in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A**

50. The CB **NOTED** and **CONSIDERED** and did not take action on fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropC2](#), that proposed amendments to include a constant TCEY floor in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.
51. The CB **NOTED** that Makah tribe fishery manager spoke to the support of the proposal and stated they are working with IPHC and NOAA to develop a proposal that would refer the 1.65 million pound allocation to 2A as a base and not a floor. As well the base allocation would also be responsive to changes in abundance to address times of conservation concerns and increases in abundances in 2A.
52. The CB **NOTED** that the Makah tribe acknowledged that B30 and B20 harvest policies would still hold and take precedence over the proposed floor.
53. The CB **NOTED** that the USA and IPHC Regulatory Area 2 Tribes indication that an alternative to regulatory language through the IPHC might be preferable to achieve the objective of this proposal.
54. The CB **NOTED** the query from the Canadian CB members regarding if there were any other Nations in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A with Treaty rights to Pacific halibut outside of Washington State. The Makah tribe **ACKNOWLEDGED** that there are 13 tribes that Treaty Rights to Pacific halibut and all are in Washington State.
55. The CB **NOTED** Canadian members concern with having a fixed number allocation not tied to abundance. Canada has existing First Nations treaty obligations and that Canada is in the process of reconciliation.

### **6.3.3 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29) - Onboard consumption in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C**

56. The CB **NOTED** and took no action on fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropC3](#), that proposed adding flexibility to existing recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing regulations in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C and allow limited consumption of Pacific halibut on board of unguided recreational vessels.

## **7. INCIDENTAL CATCH (BYCATCH)**

57. The CB **NOTED** a motion from the Canadian members to recommend that Commissioners advance Recommendation 9 from the 2<sup>nd</sup> IPHC Performance Review (IPHC-2019-PRIPHC02-R) to completion, as was agreed upon by both Parties; [Canada: In favour=21; against=0; abstain=0] [U.S.A.: In favour=1; against=22; abstain=8]

*“The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat, in consultation with the Commission, develop minimum data collection standards for Pacific halibut by scientific observer programs. The intention would be for the Commission to review and approve the minimum standards and recommend them for implementation by domestic agencies.”*

58. The CB **NOTED** USA members indication that the IPHC Secretariat has prepared a report for this meeting ([IPHC-2023-AM099-NR02 Rev\\_1](#)) identifying elements of a robust monitoring strategy with ‘no coverage’ vessels accounting for 0.17% of the combined groundfish and halibut harvest off Alaska in 2022.
59. The CB **NOTED** the USA members indication that monitoring strategies need to be closely tied to monitoring objectives, which can be complex.

60. The CB **NOTED** USA members believed that the IPHC cannot prohibit bycatch or impose monitoring standards on contracting parties.
61. The CB **NOTED** the USA members indication that improvements in bycatch as communicated from NOAA Fisheries by the USA CB Co-Chairperson, and that she believed that the IPHC has no jurisdiction in determining the standards for vessel monitoring of Pacific halibut fisheries.
62. In response to comments from the USA delegates, the Canadian CB members **NOTED**:
- a) IPHC 2023 document ([IPHC-2023-AM099-07 Rev 2](#), page 13) notes “Estimates of non-directed commercial discard mortality in IPHC Regulatory Area 3 reflect different levels of observer coverage by gear and type of fishing trip. 2021 coverage rates vary from 100% to 15% of the estimated discarded groundfish pounds by gear and fishery (Table 3-4 in AFSC 2021). The lowest coverage rates are realized for the non-pelagic trawl fishery, which also has the highest likelihood of encountering Pacific halibut. Analyses of observed and unobserved trip properties (magnitude of the landings, trip duration, species composition of the landed catch, etc.) have shown that observed trips are not representative of all trips in some of these metrics (observed and unobserved) (Appendix A in AFSC 2019). Therefore, non-directed discard mortality estimates for IPHC Regulatory Area 3 have both a greater uncertainty and potential for bias than those from areas with higher coverage rates and/or where there is no evidence of different behaviour when observed. Canadian CB members requested an update on US electronic monitoring and observer coverage, including percentages, in directed and non-directed commercial fisheries off the USA.
  - b) This concern has also been raised in past IPHC fisheries data overview documents (e.g. [IPHC-2022-AM098-06](#), page 14).
  - c) Further, in 2012, a NPFMC/IPHC Workshop on Halibut Bycatch Estimation, Halibut Growth and Migration, & Effects on Harvest Strategy (January 2012) concluded that the biases in observer deployment when there is partial coverage make it impossible to estimate the magnitude of bias embedded in current estimation procedures.
  - d) Finally, gaps in halibut bycatch data in Biological Region 3 (Gulf of Alaska) were also identified in the Alaska Bycatch Review Task Force process, (e.g., tendering exemption which may mean halibut bycatch in the Western Gulf is being underestimated)
  - e) IPHC has the authority to address bycatch, the “Protocol Amending the Convention Between Canada and the United States of America for the Preservation of the Pacific Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea” signed by the parties in 1980 explicitly speaks to bycatch. Clause d states:

“during both open and closed seasons, permit, limit, regulate or prohibit ***the incidental catch of Pacific Halibut*** that may be taken, retained, possessed, or landed from each area or portion of an area, by vessels fishing for other species of fish;” [emphasis added]

## 8. OTHER BUSINESS

### 8.1 *Election of Co-Chairpersons for the next biennium*

63. In accordance with Appendix IV, Section III of the [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2022\)](#), the CB **NOTED** the requirement to elect Co-Chairpersons, and the option to elect up to two (2) Vice-Chairpersons, of the CB until the end of the Session in 2025.
64. The CB **CALLED** for nominations for the positions of Co-Chairpersons of the CB until the end of the session in 2025. Mr Jim Lane (Canada) and Ms Linda Behnken (United States of America) were each nominated, seconded, and elected unanimously as Co-Chairpersons.
65. The CB **NOTED** a motion to nominate a vice-chairperson for the U.S.A. Mr. Brian Ritchie was nominated, seconded, and elected for a one-year term by unanimous vote.

**9. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 93<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB093)**

66. The CB **THANKED** the IPHC Secretariat for the excellent preparation and support for the 2023 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IPHC Conference Board.
67. The Report of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IPHC Conference Board ([IPHC-2023-CB093-R](#)) was **ADOPTED** on 26 January 2023, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from CB093, provided at [Appendix IV](#). [*Canada: In favour=unanimous*][*U.S.A.: In favour=unanimous*].



**APPENDIX I**  
**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 93RD SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD**  
**(CB093)**

**Officers**

Co-Chairperson	Co-Chairperson
Mr. Jim Lane (Canada)	Ms. Linda Behnken (United States of America)

**CB Members**

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**APPENDIX II****AGENDA FOR THE 93<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB093)****Date:** 24-25 January 2023**Location:** Victoria, BC, Canada**Venue:** [Fairmont Empress](#)**Time:** 24<sup>th</sup>: 14:00-17:30; 25<sup>th</sup>: 09:00-17:30; 26<sup>th</sup>: 0900-11:00**Co-Chairperson:** Mr Jim Lane (Canada); Ms Linda Behnken (United States of America)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION (Co-Chairpersons)**
  - 1.1 Accreditation of CB Membership (2021-25): new members
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION (Co-Chairpersons)**
- 3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION**
  - 3.1 Mortality Limits and TCEY (I. Stewart)
  - 3.2 MSE Update (A. Hicks)
  - 3.3 FISS 2023 (R. Webster & K. Ualesi)
- 4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES**
- 5. MORTALITY LIMITS (Co-Chairpersons)**
  - 5.1 Coastwide perspectives
  - 5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives
  - 5.3 Distribution Strategy – discussion/recommendations
  - 5.4 TCEY Recommendations
- 6. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2022-23 PROCESS**
  - 6.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals (B. Hutniczak)
  - 6.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals (Contracting Parties)
  - 6.3 Other Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals (Stakeholders)
- 7. INCIDENTAL CATCH (BYCATCH) (Co-Chairpersons)**
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS (Co-Chairpersons)**
  - 8.1 Election of Co-Chairpersons for the next biennium
- 9. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 93<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB093) (Co-Chairpersons; IPHC Secretariat)**

**APPENDIX III  
PACIFIC HALIBUT MORTALITY PROJECTED FOR 2023 BASED ON THE CB RECOMMENDED  
TCEY MORTALITY LIMITS**

**Note:** All values reported in millions of net pounds.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Detailed 2023 projections, by sector, based on the TCEY mortality limits consistent with the Canadian motion at the CB.

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discards		0.18	NA	NA					
<b>O26 Non-directed discards</b>	0.08	0.24	0.06	0.39	0.27	0.25	0.13	1.72	3.13
Recreational	NA	0.04	1.14	1.20	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	2.40
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.29	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.94
<b>Total non-FCEY</b>		0.87	1.49	1.77					
Commercial discards		NA							
Recreational		0.93							
Subsistence	0.02	NA							
<b>Commercial landings</b>		5.26							
<b>Total FCEY</b>		6.19							
						<i>4C FCEY</i>			
						<i>4D FCEY</i>			
						<i>4E FCEY</i>			
<b>TCEY</b>		7.06							37.10
<b>U26 Non-directed discards</b>	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.24	0.10	0.10	0.01	0.88	1.37
<b>Total</b>		7.10							38.46

Detailed 2023 projections, by sector, based on the TCEY mortality limits consistent with the U.S. motion at the CB.

Sector	IPHC Regulatory Area								
	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discards	0.05		NA	NA	0.33	0.05	0.01	0.08	
<b>O26 Non-directed discards</b>	0.08	0.24	0.06	0.39	0.27	0.25	0.13	1.72	3.13
Recreational	NA		1.14	1.20	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.29	0.18	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.04	0.94
<b>Total non-FCEY</b>	0.13		1.49	1.77	0.62	0.33	0.14	1.83	
Commercial discards	NA		0.15	0.60	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Recreational	0.62		0.80	1.89	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Subsistence	0.02		NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
<b>Commercial landings</b>	0.88		3.41	8.11	3.46	1.46	1.31	2.02	
<b>Total FCEY</b>	1.52		4.36	10.60	3.46	1.46	1.31	2.02	
						<i>4C FCEY</i>			0.90
						<i>4D FCEY</i>			0.90
						<i>4E FCEY</i>			0.22
<b>TCEY</b>	1.65		5.85	12.37	4.08	1.79	1.45	3.85	
<b>U26 Non-directed discards</b>	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.24	0.10	0.10	0.01	0.88	1.37
<b>Total</b>	1.65		5.85	12.61	4.18	1.89	1.46	4.73	

## APPENDIX IV

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 93<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE  
IPHC CONFERENCE BOARD (CB093) (24-25 JANUARY 2023)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Management Strategy Evaluation***

- CB093-Rec.01 ([para. 14](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission address the decision points from paper [IPHC-2023-AM099-13](#) during a Special Session that allows public input and in time to develop a MSE program of work for 2023. [*Canada: In favour=23; against=0; abstain=1;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=25; against=0; abstain=5*]
- CB093-Rec.02 ([para. 15](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** that there be no reduction in the MSAB term limits for members, noting that there are not many applicants and understanding the MSE takes time. [*Canada: In favour=5; against=1; abstain=18;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=20; against=1; abstain=9*]
- CB093-Rec.03 ([para. 16](#)) The CB **RECOMMENDED** not reducing the number of MSAB member seats, noting the importance of geographical representation. [*Canada: In favour=0; against=14; abstain=10;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=27; against=0; abstain=3*]

***Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates***

- CB093-Rec.04 ([para. 24](#)) The CB **NOTED** the following from Canada members: **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2023:
- a) Opening: 4 March
  - b) Closing: 7 December
- CB093-Rec.05 ([para. 25](#)) The CB **NOTED** that following from USA members: **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing periods for 2023:
- c) Opening: 4 March or 11 March
  - d) Closing: 7 December

***Mortality limits***

- CB093-Rec.06 ([para. 26](#)) The CB **NOTED** a motion from the Canadian delegation to reduce the coastwide TCEY by 10% from adopted 2022 levels, for a coastwide TCEY of 37.10 million pounds (2022 coastwide TCEY was 41.22 million pounds). Canada needs to be part of the reduction and we **RECOMMENDED** an 10% reduction for Canada from its adopted 2022 TCEY for a Canada TCEY of 6.804 million pounds (2022 Canadian TCEY was 7.56 million pounds) and that Canada be mitigated for 100% of the impact of the Alaska U26 bycatch of halibut in Canada. [*Canada: In favour=22; against=1 abstain=1;*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=0; against=27; abstain=3*]
- CB093-Rec.07 ([para. 30](#)) The CB **NOTED** that the USA CB members **RECOMMENDED** that the 2023 TCEYs be based on 2022 TCEY reduced by the 2022 survey change in WPUE, with a max change per area of 15%. Minor adjustments to the rule have been made in some areas. The USA Motion represents a compromise among US stakeholders intended as a one-year bridge to a longer-term agreement on distribution. The expectation from the USA is that Canada takes a cut equivalent to the drop in the Area 2B 2022 survey WPUE, and that this is a one-year deal. The USA will continue to work toward a long-term distribution procedure that is equitable to all, and the US does not endorse this high a percentage to Canada for the long-term (even if Canada takes the 11% cut). Finally, the inclusion of a 1.65 M TCEY for Area 2A is included with the understanding that it is a part of the one-year bridge agreement and not intended to signal support for future management

procedures. [*Canada: In favour=0; against=24 abstain=0*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=30; against=0; abstain=1*]

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)***

CB093-Rec.08 ([para. 35](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA1](#), with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in Section 5.3, but also include all mortality (e.g. subsistence, bycatch, and non-guided sport) in annual summary framework table [*Canada: unanimous*][*U.S.A.: unanimous*].

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

CB093-Rec.09 ([para. 36](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA2](#), which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. See Section 4 for a summary of discussions and recommendations. [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*].

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: Fishing Period Limits (Sect. 14) & Licensing Vessels for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Sect. 15) – Accommodation of the transition of management in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A***

CB093-Rec.10 ([para. 37](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropA3](#), to accommodate the transition of management in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A from the IPHC to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and NOAA Fisheries. [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*].

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments***

CB093-Rec.11 ([para. 38](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2022-AM098-PropA4 Rev\\_1](#) that proposed minor amendments to the existing IPHC Fishery Regulations to improve clarity and consistency. [*Canada: unanimous; U.S.A.: unanimous*]

***Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut—IPHC Regulatory areas 2c, 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4e (Sect. 29) – Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A***

CB093-Rec.12 ([para. 39](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB1](#), that 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 Fishery Management Council’s (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan: [*Canada: abstain*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29) - Onboard consumption***

CB093-Rec.13 ([para. 46](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB3](#), that proposed adding flexibility to existing recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing regulations in Alaska Regulatory Areas and allow limited consumption of recreationally caught Pacific halibut on board charter vessels and pleasure craft, while retaining existing regulations that provide effective enforcement of daily bag limits and possession limits. [*Canada: In favour=1; against=10 abstain=11*] [*U.S.A.: In favour=28; against=2; abstain=2*]

***IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect. 20) – Logs requirements***

CB093-Rec.14 ([para. 48](#)) The CB **NOTED** and **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt, fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2023-AM099-PropB4](#), that proposed updates to IPHC regulatory language regarding the qualifying logbooks in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. [*Canada: unanimous*] [*U.S.A.: unanimous*]