



Report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM094)

Seattle, Washington, United States of America, 27-28 November 2018

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IPHC 2018. Report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM094). Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., 27-28 November 2018.
IPHC-2018-IM094-R, 25 pp.



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ACRONYMS

CB	Conference Board
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Ocean (Canada)
DMR	Discard Mortality Rate
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
FISS	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey
IFQ	Individual Fishing Quota
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Services, of NOAA
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPFMC	North Pacific Fishery Management Council
NPUE	Number Per Unit Effort
PFMC	Pacific Fisheries Management Council
RAB	Research Advisory Board
SB	Spawning Biomass
SRB	Scientific Review Board
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://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** (formal); **REQUESTED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary 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 94th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Interim Meeting (IM094) was held in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. from 27-28 November 2018. A total of 24 members (6 Commissioners; 18 advisors/experts) attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 52 observers in person and 54 via the webcast. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), who welcomed participants to Seattle.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the IM094, which are provided at [Appendix IV](#).

REQUESTS

Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2018)

IM094–Req.01 ([para. 9](#)) The Commission **NOTED** the new functionality added to the IPHC website in 2018, and **REQUESTED** that these initiatives continue to be enhanced:

- a) [Fishery-Independent Setline Survey \(FISS\) data interactive](#)
- b) [Regulations portal](#), including the online [regulatory proposal submission form](#)
- c) [Landings Report](#)
- d) [Mortality projection tool](#)

Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; FISS expansion results, etc.)

IM094–Req.02 ([para. 15](#)) **NOTING** that the 2018 FISS expansion stations had an effect on overall weight-per-unit-effort (WPUE) and number-per-unit-effort (NPUE) in Regulatory Area 2B, the Commission **REQUESTED** model estimates for the WPUE/NPUE time series, and a 2018 estimate in the absence of Regulatory Area 2B FISS expansion data, be incorporated in papers to be presented at the AM095.

Contracting Party (Agency) updates: North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

IM094–Req.03 ([para. 53](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** a detailed report of the NMFS observer program in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, including coverage rates, to be submitted and presented to the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095), **NOTING** the offer from the NPFMC to facilitate this report and presentation.

IM094–Req.04 ([para. 54](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** a detailed paper and associated presentation on the deck sorting EFP be presented at the AM095, including its effectiveness and resultant reductions in Pacific halibut mortality, **NOTING** the offer from the NPFMC to facilitate this report and presentation.

Stakeholder regulatory proposals: Minimum TCEY in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

IM094–Req.05 ([para. 66](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat summarise the impact of stakeholder Regulatory Proposal IPHC-2018-IM094-PropC1, including example mortality projection tables, for consideration at the AM095. This will allow the Commission to view the impact on other Regulatory Areas and sectors, as well as the overall conservation risk at a coastwide level.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRPERSON

1. The [94th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission \(IPHC\) Interim Meeting \(IM094\)](#) was held in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. from 27-28 November 2018. A total of 24 members (6 Commissioners; 18 advisors/experts) attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 55 observers in person and 54 via the webcast. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), who welcomed participants to Seattle.
2. **NOTING** that the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Commission was vacated in the inter-sessional period, Mr Chris Oliver was nominated, seconded and elected as Vice-Chairperson of the Commission until the close of the 95th Session of the Annual Meeting (AM095), in accordance with Rule 9 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2017).
3. The Commission **ACKNOWLEDGED** Dr. Jim Balsiger for his outstanding contributions and service to the IPHC over almost two decades (2000-18) as the lead Commissioner for the USA.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The Commission **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#). The documents provided to the IM094 are listed in [Appendix III](#).

3. UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 94TH ANNUAL MEETING

5. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-03](#) which provided an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) in 2018.
6. The Commission **AGREED** to consider and revise as necessary, the actions arising, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from the IM094.

4. REPORT OF THE IPHC SECRETARIAT (2018)

7. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-04](#) which provided the Commission with a draft update on the activities of the IPHC Secretariat in 2018.
8. The Commission **CONGRATULATED** the recipient of the 2018 IPHC Merit Scholarship, Ms Kaia Dahl of Petersburg, Alaska, U.S.A., who began her studies at Greenville College in Greenville, Illinois, U.S.A. this fall.
9. The Commission **NOTED** the new functionality added to the IPHC website in 2018, and **REQUESTED** that these initiatives continue to be enhanced:
 - a) [Fishery-Independent Setline Survey \(FISS\) data interactive](#)
 - b) [Regulations portal](#), including the online [regulatory proposal submission form](#)
 - c) [Landings Report](#)
 - d) [Mortality projection tool](#)

10. The Commission **NOTED** that:

- a) the use of pot gear to catch Pacific halibut was approved during 2018 by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) for use in the Bering Sea, and does not include the part of IPHC Regulatory Area 4A that is south of the Aleutian Islands;
- b) the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2018) allow the use of pot gear to catch Pacific halibut when permitted in domestic regulations;
- c) the change in NOAA Fisheries regulations in response to the NPFMC action for the Bering Sea is currently being drafted and is expected to come into effect in late 2019 or early 2020.

- d) the retention of Pacific halibut in pot gear is already permitted in IPHC Regulatory Area 4A south of the Aleutian Islands in conjunction with the sablefish individual quota fishery, which was instituted in response to a previous NPFMC action.

5. FISHERY STATISTICS (2018)

11. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-05 Rev 1](#) which provided an overview of the key fishery statistics from fisheries catching Pacific halibut during 2018, including the status of landings compared to fishery limits implemented by the Contracting Parties of the Commission.

6. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2018) AND HARVEST DECISION TABLE

6.1 *Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2018*

12. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-06](#) which provided an overview of the International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2018, including current and future expansions.
13. The Commission **NOTED** that the FISS had 18 stations deemed ineffective because of toothed whale depredation in 2018. Fourteen (14) were caused by sperm whales and four (4) by killer whales. A station is deemed to be ineffective as a result of toothed whale depredation, when sperm whales are sited within 3 nm during the haul-back of the gear (this was an improved protocol for 2018). Ineffective stations are also recorded for killer whales when greater than or equal to two (2) hooks are returned with Pacific halibut lips attached.

6.2 *Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; FISS expansion results, etc.)*

14. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-07 Rev 1](#) which provided the results of the 2018 space-time modelling of Pacific halibut survey data (which includes data from several fishery-independent surveys), as well as the detailed results of the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) expansions in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A, 2B and 2C conducted in 2018.
15. **NOTING** that the 2018 FISS expansion stations had an effect on overall weight-per-unit-effort (WPUE) and number-per-unit-effort (NPUE) in Regulatory Area 2B, the Commission **REQUESTED** model estimates for the WPUE/NPUE time series, and a 2018 estimate in the absence of Regulatory Area 2B FISS expansion data, be incorporated in papers to be presented at the AM095.
16. The Commission **NOTED** that the space-time model was producing estimates for the Strait of Georgia prior to the FISS expansion undertaken in 2018, which were likely close to the mean for Regulatory Area 2B, on the order of 80-90 lb/skate.
17. The Commission **NOTED** that the fixed-station design leads to more precise estimates of trends in abundance, in contrast to designs where station locations would vary from year to year (e.g. fully randomised designs). Estimates of trends from randomised designs include additional variation due to the change of sampling locations, and thus in general yield less precise estimates of trends.
18. The Commission **NOTED** the intention to review the design and implementation of the FISS throughout 2019 based upon the expansions already completed, as well as following the completion of the 2019 expansions in IPHC Regulatory Areas 3A and 3B. Preliminary results will be 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.

6.3 *Data overview and preliminary stock assessment (2018), and draft harvest decision table (2018)*

19. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-08 Rev 1](#) which provided an opportunity to consider the results of the 2018 IPHC stock assessment for Pacific halibut within the Convention Area, including data used in the assessment, and the draft harvest decision table for 2019.

20. The Commission **NOTED** several clarifications related to the treatment of the space-time modelled survey results in the stock assessment, as follows:

- a) The space-time modelled trend information is effectively weighted more heavily than the commercial fishery trends in the annual stock assessment through modelling of temporal changes in fishery catchability and selectivity;
- b) The result of the 2018 (and other FISS expansions since 2014) was to increase the coastwide biomass estimate in the stock assessment, as described by the sensitivity analysis presented showing a lower spawning biomass estimate when these data were removed. The IPHC Secretariat identified the potential for additional change in response to the proposed 2019 expansion in Biological Region 3 (IPHC Regulatory Areas 3A and 3B);
- c) The proportion of the Pacific halibut stock occurring in Biological Region 4 (IPHC Regulatory Areas 4A and 4CDE) has trended gradually up over the period 1993-2018, with more distinct periods of lower stock proportion in Biological Region 2 (IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A, 2B and 2C) historically vs. a higher proportion in more recent years, and the converse in Biological Region 3.

21. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat's use of Biological Regions to describe primary stock trends and distribution is based on the response to the previous request during AM093:

IPHC-2017-AM093-R, Para. 40. *“The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat initiate a process to develop alternative, biologically based stock distribution strategies for consideration by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.”*

This approach provides consistency with the current understanding of coastwide stock dynamics, migration, and biological patterns, while still aligning with individual IPHC Regulatory Areas that serve as the basis for subsequent management.

22. The Commission **NOTED** several clarifications regarding individual data sources:

- a) The observation of the 2011 and 2012 year-classes in 2018 was not uniform across Biological Regions or IPHC Regulatory Areas, with some Regulatory Areas showing little evidence of these currently uncertain cohorts, and others a much clearer presence (e.g. Regulatory Area 3B);
- b) The bias correction provided for interpretation of directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery Catch-Per-Unit-Effort (CPUE) uses the most recent six (6) years to describe the likely trend when a complete set of 2018 logbooks is available (i.e. for the 2019 stock assessment). The logbook information to replace this bias correction will not be completed in time for AM095;
- c) Differences in observed fishery CPUE between snap and fixed-gear logbook records is likely due to many factors that differ between the fleets including: the spatial areas most frequently fished, the size of the vessels, and differences in the history and business operations of operations using each gear;
- d) Detailed bycatch mortality estimates and discard mortality rates will be available through the documents and presentations for AM095.

6.4 Mortality projections – Using the IPHC mortality projection tool

23. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-09 Rev 1](https://www.iphc.int/data/projection-tool) which provided the Commission with an introduction and usage guide for the IPHC's web-based mortality projection tool (<https://iphc.int/data/projection-tool>).

24. The Commission **NOTED** the summary of IPHC Regulatory Area-specific preliminary mortality projections for 2018 based on the interim management procedure and other alternatives.

25. The Commission **NOTED** that the relative harvest rates applied in the 'interim management procedure' (1.0 for Regulatory Areas 2A-3A and 0.75 for Regulatory Areas 3B-4CDE; consistent with the method from recent years), and available through the default inputs to the Mortality Projection Tool, differ from

the relative harvest rates output from that tool. The latter simply reflect the aggregate TCEY by Biological Region relative to the biological stock distribution based on all sizes of Pacific halibut captured by the 2018 FISS, rescaled such that Biological Region 3 is always equal to a value of 1.0.

7. IPHC SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

7.1 *Report of the 19th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB019)*

26. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 19th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB019) ([IPHC-2018-RAB019-R](#)), which was presented by Dr David Wilson (IPHC Executive Director) on behalf of the RAB.
27. The Commission **NOTED** that the collection of bathymetric composition data from all FISS vessels, is being undertaken to enhance data already in existence, specifically to provide greater resolution over time.

7.2 *Report of the 12th and 13th Sessions of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB012 and SRB013)*

28. The Commission **NOTED** the Reports of the 12th and 13th Sessions of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB012: [IPHC-2018-SRB012-R](#); SRB013: [IPHC-2018-SRB013-R](#)) which were presented by Dr Jim Ianelli (NOAA-Fisheries, AFSC, Seattle, USA), one of the four (4) SRB members.
29. The Commission **NOTED** that the stock assessment and the Management Strategy Evaluation processes differ, in that the stock assessment is a tactical decision-making process (setting specific mortality limits for the upcoming year) and the MSE is an evaluation of the performance and robustness of alternative management procedures over a range of potential population and fishery dynamics. The latter provides guidance for creating a management procedure with predictable outcomes and applicable regardless of current stock trend or status.
30. The Commission **NOTED** that the process used to set recent (2012-17) mortality limits, based on the Harvest Decision table, is insufficient to allow direct evaluation via the MSE. Specifically, there are not enough observations under differing stock and fishery trends to adequately describe the implied management procedure including the level of risk tolerance, or other uses of the stock assessment information for management purposes.

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

31. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-10](#) which provided a description of the new and continuing research projects proposed by the IPHC Secretariat and contemplated within the Five-Year Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Plan.
32. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat is completing a project on the genetic identification of sex from the 2017 Pacific halibut commercial landings, for the 2019 stock assessment, using molecular genotyping techniques developed and implemented in the newly established biological laboratory at the IPHC.
33. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat is conducting studies aimed at understanding larval connectivity between the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea under conditions of ocean temperature variability. The potential impact of climate variability on other research areas (e.g. growth, reproduction) is also under consideration by the IPHC Secretariat.
34. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat is conducting studies to revise current estimates of discard mortality rates in the directed Pacific halibut fishery, having already completed a study evaluating discard mortality rates in the trawl fishery, and planning future studies to characterize discard mortality rates in the Pacific halibut recreational fishery.
35. The Commission **NOTED** that an assessment of the prevalence of chalky Pacific halibut is being implemented during the 2019 commercial fishing periods, via a coastwide survey to document the issue, in collaboration with the Alaska Seafood Marketing Institute (ASMI) and the Halibut Association of North America (HANA). Once the 2019 survey is completed, the IPHC Secretariat will evaluate the

results and, in consequence, will propose studies aimed at determining the causes and potential mitigation measures for chalky flesh, to be implemented in 2020, using both Commission and external funds.

7.4 *The role of peer review in the IPHC scientific process*

36. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-11](#) which provided an opportunity to consider options for further improving the peer review process for IPHC science products.
37. The Commission **AGREED** on the need to implement enhanced independent peer review mechanisms for key IPHC science products, and that the intention of the IPHC Secretariat is to further consider the options described in paper IPHC-2018-IM094-11, and present a refined version of the paper at the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) in January 2019, for potential decision.

8. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

8.1 *IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update*

38. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-12](#) which provided an update on the MSE including goals and objectives, the simulation framework, results for management procedures consisting of a range of SPR values from 0.56 to 0.30 and three control rules: 25:10, 30:20, and 40:20, a distribution framework, possible elements of management procedures related to distribution, and a 5-year program of work.
39. The Commission **NOTED** the expected delivery dates of January 2019 for the coastwide results, and January 2021 for the final Scale and Distribution components of the management procedure for potential adoption by the Commission and subsequent implementation.
40. The Commission **NOTED** that:
- a) all current Management Procedures with an SPR greater than 40% met the biological objective;
 - b) no Management Procedures without a constraint on the annual change in the catch limit met the average annual variability objective;
 - c) the Total Mortality increased slightly with increasing fishing intensity but with a wide range;
 - d) at SPR values less than 40% (higher fishing intensity) the average annual variability increased at a greater rate and the median yield was similar.
41. The Commission **NOTED** the distribution framework and the potential elements of management procedures that may be useful to distribute the TCEY.
42. The Commission **NOTED** that there may be a need to develop an objective of maintaining the stock at or near a target biomass, and that this objective may be related to a fishery objective incorporating economic outcomes or fishery performance, for example.

8.2 *Reports of the 11th and 12th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB011 and MSAB012)*

43. The Commission **NOTED** the Reports of the 11th and 12th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB011: [IPHC-2018-MSAB011-R](#); MSAB012: [IPHC-2018-MSAB012-R](#)) which was presented by Mr Adam Keizer (Canada) and Dr Carey McGilliard (U.S.A). The MSAB consists of 21 board members, 18 of which attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. A total of four (4) individuals attended the Session as Observers. In addition, three (3) IPHC Commissioners were in attendance, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), Mr Bob Alverson (U.S.A.) and Mr Richard Yamada (U.S.A.).
44. The Commission **NOTED** that TCEY distribution among Regions could be modified through management procedures, and that the distribution from coastwide mortality to Regulatory Areas may occur at any step in the process.

9. CONTRACTING PARTY (AGENCY) UPDATES

45. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-INF03](#) which was developed by the IPHC Secretariat in response to the Commission's request (IPHC-2017-IM093-R; IM093.Req.07, para. 61) to develop a standard template for agency reports to the Commission, in order to improve their structure and consistency, as well as to allow the agencies to prepare the appropriate information at the appropriate level of detail for the Commission's consideration.
46. The Commission **AGREED** to consider the draft Contracting Party reporting template (IPHC-2018-IM094-INF03) inter-sessionally, and to provide feedback throughout 2019. Consideration will be given to the generic agency template, as well as the need or desirability of a broader template whereby a single report would be provided for each Contracting Party, rather than by individual domestic agencies.

9.1 *Canada*

9.1.1 *Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)*

47. The Commission **NOTED** that no update on Pacific halibut matters was received from Fisheries and Oceans Canada for consideration at the IM094.

9.2 *United States of America*

9.2.1 *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Fisheries*

a) National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA-Fisheries)

48. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-AR02](#), which provided an update from NOAA-Fisheries West Coast Region.

b) North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

49. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-AR03](#), which provided an update from the NPFMC on Council actions related to Pacific halibut, research priorities, and abundance-based Protected Species Catch (PSC) management (ABM).
50. The Commission **NOTED** the ABM objectives are:
- a) Pacific halibut PSC limits should be indexed to halibut abundance;
 - b) Pacific halibut spawning stock biomass should be protected especially at lower levels of abundance;
 - c) There should be flexibility provided to avoid unnecessarily constraining the groundfish fishery particularly when Pacific halibut abundance is high;
 - d) Provide for directed Pacific halibut fishing operations in the Bering Sea;
 - e) Provide for some stability in PSC limits on an inter-annual basis.
51. The Commission **NOTED** the various indices of Pacific halibut abundance being considered in the ABM analysis, including the different components of the Pacific halibut stock accessed by each and the implications of using these indices for managing bycatch.
52. The Commission **NOTED** that the NPFMC Pacific halibut ABM stakeholder working group is limited to individuals directly engaged in the fishing industry, either directed fishers or their representatives, or from the non-directed fisheries catching Pacific halibut.
53. The Commission **REQUESTED** a detailed report of the NMFS observer program in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, including coverage rates, to be submitted and presented to the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095), **NOTING** the offer from the NPFMC to facilitate this report and presentation.
54. The Commission **REQUESTED** a detailed paper and associated presentation on the deck sorting EFP be presented at the AM095, including its effectiveness and resultant reductions in Pacific halibut mortality, **NOTING** the offer from the NPFMC to facilitate this report and presentation.

c) Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)

55. The Commission **NOTED** that no update on Pacific halibut matters was received from the PFMC for consideration at the IM094, other than the letter ([IPHC-2018-IM094-INF05](#)) pertaining to Regulatory Proposal [IPHC-2018-IM094-PropA2](#), which is detailed below.

10. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR THE 2018-19 PROCESS

10.1 IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals

10.1.1 IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)

56. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-PropA1](#), which aimed to improve clarity and transparency of fishery limits in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, and that it would be considered in detail at AM095.

10.1.2 IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9)

57. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-PropA2](#), which proposed fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries.
58. The Commission **NOTED** the analysis of the non-tribal directed commercial fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A already completed by the IPHC Secretariat, included in PropA2 and presented to the PFMC and its subsidiary bodies.
59. The Commission **NOTED** information paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-INF05](#), the PFMC's letter to the IPHC in response to PropA2, and expressed appreciation for the attention the PFMC and its subsidiary bodies have given the question of future management of this fishery.
60. The Commission **NOTED** the initial feedback received by the IPHC Secretariat from the survey of IPHC Regulatory Area 2A license holders over the past 3 years, indicating a strong preference for longer fishing periods (more than 80%) and a plurality for the 10-day fishing period option (over 40%). The IPHC Secretariat intends to contact the remaining license holders for their responses, intersessionally for further consideration at AM095.
61. The Commission **NOTED** the intention of the IPHC Secretariat to continue to work with the PFMC and relevant agencies over the intersessional period, to alleviate any concerns raised, prior to the AM095.

10.1.3 IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

62. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-PropA3](#), which proposed amendments to ensure clarity and consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, and that it would be considered in detail at AM095.

10.2 Contracting Party (by agency) regulatory proposals

63. The Commission **NOTED** that no Contracting Party regulatory proposals were received for consideration at the IM094.

10.3 Stakeholder regulatory proposals

10.3.1 Minimum TCEY in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

64. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-PropC1](#), which proposed adopting a TCEY for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A that supports a FCEY no lower than 1.5Mlb. In years when the distribution would indicate a FCEY higher than 1.5Mlb is available, that number would be adopted.
65. The Commission **NOTED** that a TCEY that produces an FCEY of 1.5Mlb for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A does not currently represent a conservation concern for the stock.
66. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat summarise the impact of stakeholder Regulatory Proposal [IPHC-2018-IM094-PropC1](#), including example mortality projection tables, for

consideration at the AM095. This will allow the Commission to view the impact on other Regulatory Areas and sectors, as well as the overall conservation risk at a coastwide level.

10.3.2 IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Quota Proposal

67. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-PropC2](#), which proposed introducing an individual quota system for the non-tribal directed commercial 2A fishery.
68. The Commission **NOTED** that this proposal should be considered in the context of the overall future direction of management for this fishery, which is the subject of ongoing consultation with the PFMC and the relevant agencies.

10.4 Stakeholder statements

69. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-INF01](#) which provided a consolidated document containing seven (7) ‘Statements’ from stakeholders on regulatory proposals and Commission activities.

11. IPHC PERFORMANCE REVIEW

11.1 Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 1st IPHC Performance Review recommendations

70. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-13](#), which detailed the current status of implementation for each of the recommendations arising from the Report of the 1st IPHC Performance Review Panel (PRIPHC01).

11.2 2nd IPHC Performance Review: update

71. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-14](#), which provided the Commission with an update on progress regarding the 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPHC02) and an opportunity to direct the IPHC Secretariat regarding its completion.
72. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat will undertake and complete the 2nd Performance Review in 2019, with the intention of presenting a draft report and associated recommendations at the 95th Interim Meeting in November 2019, and for final adoption at the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) in January 2020.

12. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

12.1 Financial Statement for FY2018

73. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-15](#) which provided a provisional year-end FY2018 financial statement for the Commission (financial period: 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018).
74. The Commission **REQUESTED** that a breakdown of budget and expenses for the FISS expansions undertaken in 2018 be reported at the AM095, taking into consideration that some of those calculations would be proxies given the changes to the FISS charter regions during expansions.

12.2 Budget estimates for FY2019 and FY2020 for approval

75. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-16](#) which detailed the proposed amendments to the current (FY2019) budget estimate (financial period: 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019), as well as that for FY2020 and tentatively for 2021.
76. The Commission **NOTED** that the proposed modifications to the FY2019 budget, are in accordance with Regulation 5, paragraph 10 of the IPHC Financial Regulations (2018) which states:
- “10. The Executive Director may, in any fiscal year, transfer funds in an amount not exceeding 1% of the total budget (including any unobligated funds carried over from previous year/s, as described in Rule 5, paragraph 6) between categories within the current years’ budget. The Chairperson of the Commission may, in any fiscal year, authorize the Executive Director to transfer funds in an amount exceeding 1% of the total budget between categories.”*

77. The Commission **NOTED** that the fiscal year 2020 is preliminary and the final figures will be presented for approval at the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) in January 2019.

12.3 *Draft: IPHC Financial Regulations (2019)*

78. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-17](#) which provided the Commission with an initial opportunity to consider proposed amendments to the IPHC Financial Regulations.

79. The Commission **NOTED** that a detailed revision of the IPHC Financial Regulations will be provided for consideration at the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting in January 2019.

12.4 *Independent auditor's reports: 2017, 2018*

80. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-18](#) which provided an update on progress on the IPHC financial audit for 2017, and dates for the 2018 audit.

12.5 *Draft: IPHC Rules of Procedure (2018)*

81. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-19](#) which provided the Commission with an initial opportunity to consider proposed amendments to the IPHC Rules of Procedure.

82. The Commission **AGREED** to review the draft amendments in the intersessional period and to provide suggestions for improvement prior to the paper deadline of 29 December 2019, for inclusion and potential adoption at the AM095.

12.6 *IPHC Memorandum of Understanding, and Agreements*

83. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-20](#) which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider current MoUs and Agreements between the IPHC and other organisations.

84. The Commission **REQUESTED** that current practice, whereby the Executive Director is the sole signatory of MoUs and Agreements with other organisations, continue, as long as those arrangements are based on the sharing of information for scientific purposes (e.g. with PICES, academic institutions etc.).

13. OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 *Preparation for 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (2019)*

85. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-21](#) which provided an opportunity to direct preparations for the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting, to be held in Victoria, BC, Canada, from 28 January-1 February 2019.

86. The Commission **NOTED** that information concerning the meeting, including electronic versions of documents to be considered, will be published on the [95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting \(AM095\)](#) webpage as they become available, but no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of the Session (29 December 2018), in accordance with Rule 8.4 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2017).

13.2 *IPHC meetings calendar (2019-21)*

87. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2018-IM094-22](#) which provided an opportunity to consider the draft IPHC meetings calendar (2019-21).

88. The Commission **RECALLED** that the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) was set to be held in Alaska, USA, and that Sitka was being examined as an option by the IPHC Secretariat. However, due to meeting space, accommodation, and dining restrictions identified in January 2021, the IPHC Secretariat was recommending holding the meeting in an alternative location, such as Anchorage.

89. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that:

- a) the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) be held in Anchorage or Juneau, USA, and that the IPHC Secretariat would communicate meeting specifics in due course;
- b) a meeting of an IPHC subsidiary body (e.g. the MSAB), to be determined by the IPHC Secretariat, should be held in Sitka, Alaska in 2019.

14. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM094)

90. The report of the 94th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting ([IPHC-2018-IM094-R](#)) was **ADOPTED** via correspondence on 29 November 2018, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from IM094, provided at [Appendix IV](#).

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM094)

Commission Officers

Chairperson	Vice-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

Mr Adam Keizer : Policy advisor	Dr Jim Balsiger : Policy advisor
Ms Anne-Marie Huang : Science advisor	Mr John Lepore : Policy advisor
Mr Shane Petersen : Policy advisor	Dr Carey McGilliard : Technical advisor
Ms Estelle Couture : Policy advisor	Mr Brian McTague : Legal advisor
	Mr Kurt Iverson : Technical advisor
	Ms Keeley Kent : Technical and Policy advisor
	Mr Drew Lawler : Policy advisor
	Mr Frank Lockhart : Technical and Policy advisor
	Ms Staci MacCorkle : Financial advisor
	Mr Glenn Merrill : Science and Technical advisor
	Ms Alicia Miller : Technical advisor
	Dr Alesia Read : Staff advisor
	Ms Maggie Smith : Legal advisor
	Mr Ryan Wulff : Policy advisor

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APPENDIX II
AGENDA FOR THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM094)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION & ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRPERSON** (Chairperson)
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
- 3. UPDATE ON ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE 94th ANNUAL MEETING** (D. Wilson)
- 4. REPORT OF THE IPHC SECRETARIAT (2018): Draft** (D. Wilson)
- 5. FISHERY STATISTICS (2018)** (L. Erikson)
- 6. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2018) AND HARVEST DECISION TABLE**
 - 6.1 Fishery Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2018 (L. Erikson and T. Geernaert)
 - 6.2 Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; FISS expansion results, etc.) (R. Webster)
 - 6.3 Data overview and preliminary stock assessment (2018), and draft harvest decision table (2018) (I. Stewart, A. Hicks, R. Webster & D. Wilson)
 - 6.4 Mortality projections – Using the IPHC mortality projection tool (I. Stewart & D. Wilson)
- 7. IPHC SCIENCE AND RESEARCH**
 - 7.1 Report of the 19th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB019) (D. Wilson)
 - 7.2 Report of the 12th and 13th Sessions of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB012 and SRB013) (SRB Chairperson)
 - 7.3 IPHC 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science research program: update (J. Planas)
 - 7.4 The role of peer review in the IPHC scientific process (D. Wilson)
- 8. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**
 - 8.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update (A. Hicks)
 - 8.2 Report of the 11th and 12th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB011 and MSAB012) (MSAB Co-Chairpersons)
- 9. CONTRACTING PARTY UPDATES (BY AGENCY)**
 - 9.1 Canada
 - 9.1.1 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)
 - 9.2 United States of America
 - 9.2.1 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – Fisheries
 - 9.2.1.1 National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA-Fisheries)
 - 9.2.1.2 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)
 - 9.2.1.3 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)
- 10. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR THE 2018-19 PROCESS**
 - 10.1 IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals (S. Keith)
 - 10.2 Contracting Party (agency) regulatory proposals (Agency staff)
 - 10.3 Stakeholder regulatory proposals (S. Keith)
 - 10.4 Stakeholder statements (S. Keith)
- 11. IPHC PERFORMANCE REVIEW**

- 11.1 Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 1st IPHC Performance Review recommendations (S. Keith & D. Wilson)
- 11.2 2nd IPHC Performance Review: Update (D. Wilson)

12. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 12.1 Financial Statement for FY2018 (M. Larsen)
- 12.2 Budget estimates for FY2019 and FY2020 for approval, and tentatively for FY2021 (M. Larsen & D. Wilson)
- 12.3 Draft: IPHC Financial Regulations (2019) (M. Larsen, S. Keith & D. Wilson)
- 12.4 Independent auditor's reports: 2017, 2018 (M. Larsen)
- 12.5 Draft: IPHC Rules of Procedure (2018) (D. Wilson)
- 12.6 IPHC Memorandum of Understanding, and Agreements (D. Wilson)

13. OTHER BUSINESS

- 13.1 Preparation for 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (2019) (S. Keith)
- 13.2 IPHC meetings calendar (2019-21) (S. Keith)

14. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 94th SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM094)

- 14.1 Draft Report (Chairperson and Executive Director)

APPENDIX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM094)

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2018-IM094-01	Draft: Agenda & Schedule for the 94 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM094)	✓ 29 Aug 2018 ✓ 14 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-02	Draft: List of Documents for the 94 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM094)	✓ 29 Aug 2018 ✓ 20 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-03	Update on actions arising from the 94 th Annual Meeting (AM094) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 23 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-04	Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2018): Draft (D. Wilson, S. Keith)	✓ 23 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-05 Rev_1	Fishery statistics (2018) (L. Erikson)	✓ 27 Oct 2018 ✓ 20 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-06	Fishery-independent setline survey design and implementation in 2018, including current and future expansions (L. Erikson, T. Geernaert & E. Soderlund)	✓ 25 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-07 Rev_1	Space-time modelling of survey data: Update (R. Webster)	✓ 26 Oct 2018 ✓ 20 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-08 Rev_1	Summary of the data, stock assessment, and harvest decision table for Pacific halibut (<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>) at the end of 2018 (I. Stewart, A. Hicks, R. Webster & D. Wilson)	✓ 25 Oct 2018 ✓ 20 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-09 Rev_1	Mortality projections – Using the IPHC mortality projection tool (I. Stewart & D. Wilson)	✓ 18 Oct 2018 ✓ 20 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-10	IPHC 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science research program: update (J. Planas)	✓ 24 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-11	The role of peer review in the IPHC scientific process (D. Wilson & J Planas)	✓ 28 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-12	IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE): update (A. Hicks & I. Stewart)	✓ 27 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-13	Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 1 st IPHC Performance Review recommendations (S. Keith & D. Wilson)	✓ 15 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-14	2 nd IPHC Performance Review: update (D. Wilson)	✓ 24 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-15	Financial Statement for FY2018 (M. Larsen)	✓ 01 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-16	Budget Update for FY2019 and Budget Estimate for 2020 (M. Larsen)	✓ 13 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-17	Draft: IPHC Financial Regulations (2018) (M. Larsen, S. Keith & D. Wilson)	✓ 23 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-18	Independent auditor's reports: 2017, 2018 (M. Larsen)	✓ 03 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-19	Draft: IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019) (D. Wilson)	✓ 25 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-20	IPHC Memorandums of Understanding, and Agreements (D. Wilson)	✓ 23 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-21	Preparation for the 95 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (2019) (S. Keith)	✓ 15 Oct 2018

IPHC-2018-IM094-22	Draft: IPHC meetings calendar (2019-21) (S. Keith)	✓ 15 Oct 2018
<i>Contracting Party updates (by agency)</i>		
IPHC-2018-IM094-AR01	Canada: Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	None provided
IPHC-2018-IM094-AR02	USA: NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service)	✓ 30 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-AR03	USA: North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)	✓ 16 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-AR04	USA: Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC)	None provided
<i>Regulatory proposals for 2019</i>		
<i>IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals for 2019</i>		
IPHC-2018-IM094-PropA1	Fishery Limits (Sect. 4) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 17 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-PropA2	Fishing Periods (Sect. 9) (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 17 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-PropA3	IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 23 Oct 2018
<i>Contracting Party (Agency) regulatory proposals for 2019</i>		
IPHC-2018-IM094-PropB1	None provided	None provided
<i>Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals for 2019</i>		
IPHC-2018-IM094-PropC1	IPHC Regulatory Area 2A TCEY (P. DePoe)	✓ 26 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-PropC2	IPHC Regulatory Area 2A quota program (M. Pettis)	✓ 26 Oct 2018
<i>Reports from IPHC subsidiary bodies (2018/19)</i>		
IPHC-2018-RAB019-R	Report of the 19 th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB019)	✓ 11 Mar 2018
IPHC-2018-SRB012-R	Report of the 12 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB012)	✓ 21 Jun 2018
IPHC-2018-SRB013-R	Report of the 13 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB013)	✓ 27 Sept 2018
IPHC-2018-MSAB011-R	Report of the 11 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB011)	✓ 10 May 2018
IPHC-2018-MSAB012-R	Report of the 12 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB012)	✓ 26 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-PAB023-R	Report of the 23 rd Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB023)	✓ 24 Jan 2018
IPHC-2018-CB088-R	Report of the 88 th Session of the IPHC Conference Board (CB088)	✓ 25 Jan 2018
<i>Information papers</i>		
IPHC-2018-IM094-INF01	Stakeholder Statements on regulatory proposals	✓ 20 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-INF02	2018 IPHC Regulatory Proposals referred to a Working Group of IPHC Contracting Parties (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 25 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-INF03	Draft: 2018 IPHC Contracting Party (by agency) Report Template	✓ 30 Oct 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-INF04	Regulatory Proposal Implementation Notes (IPHC Secretariat)	✓ 20 Nov 2018
IPHC-2018-IM094-INF05	PFMC letter to IPHC (P. Anderson)	✓ 20 Nov 2018

APPENDIX IV

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 94TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM094) (27-28 NOVEMBER 2018)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

IPHC meetings calendar (2019-21)

IM094–Rec.01 ([para. 89](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that:

- a) the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) be held in Anchorage or Juneau, USA, and that the IPHC Secretariat would communicate meeting specifics in due course;
- b) a meeting of an IPHC subsidiary body (e.g. the MSAB), to be determined by the IPHC Secretariat, should be held in Sitka, Alaska in 2019.

REQUESTS

Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2018)

IM094–Req.01 ([para. 9](#)) The Commission **NOTED** the new functionality added to the IPHC website in 2018, and **REQUESTED** that these initiatives continue to be enhanced:

- e) [Fishery-Independent Setline Survey \(FISS\) data interactive](#)
- f) [Regulations portal](#), including the online [regulatory proposal submission form](#)
- g) [Landings Report](#)
- h) [Mortality projection tool](#)

Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; FISS expansion results, etc.)

IM094–Req.02 ([para. 15](#)) **NOTING** that the 2018 FISS expansion stations had an effect on overall weight-per-unit-effort (WPUE) and number-per-unit-effort (NPUE) in Regulatory Area 2B, the Commission **REQUESTED** model estimates for the WPUE/NPUE time series, and a 2018 estimate in the absence of Regulatory Area 2B FISS expansion data, be incorporated in papers to be presented at the AM095.

Contracting Party (Agency) updates: North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC)

IM094–Req.03 ([para. 53](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** a detailed report of the NMFS observer program in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, including coverage rates, to be submitted and presented to the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095), **NOTING** the offer from the NPFMC to facilitate this report and presentation.

IM094–Req.04 ([para. 54](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** a detailed paper and associated presentation on the deck sorting EFP be presented at the AM095, including its effectiveness and resultant reductions in Pacific halibut mortality, **NOTING** the offer from the NPFMC to facilitate this report and presentation.

Stakeholder regulatory proposals: Minimum TCEY in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

IM094–Req.05 ([para. 66](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat summarise the impact of stakeholder Regulatory Proposal [IPHC-2018-IM094-PropC1](#), including example mortality projection tables, for consideration at the AM095. This will allow the Commission to view the impact on other Regulatory Areas and sectors, as well as the overall conservation risk at a coastwide level.

Financial Statement for FY2018

IM094–Req.06 ([para. 74](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that a breakdown of budget and expenses for the FISS expansions undertaken in 2018 be reported at the AM095, taking into consideration that some of those calculations would be proxies given the changes to the FISS charter regions during expansions.

IPHC Memorandum of Understanding, and Agreements

IM094–Req.07 ([para. 84](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that current practice, whereby the Executive Director is the sole signatory of MoUs and Agreements with other organisations, continue, as long as those arrangements are based on the sharing of information for scientific purposes (e.g. with PICES, academic institutions etc.).