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## Update on actions arising from the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (AM096) and 2020 Inter-sessional Decisions

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### PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during the 96<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096, February 2020), and 2020 inter-sessional decisions of the Commission.

### BACKGROUND

At the 96<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096), Contracting Parties agreed on a series of actions to be taken by Commissioners, subsidiary bodies, and the IPHC Secretariat on a range of issues as detailed in [Appendix A](#).

In addition, following amendments to the IPHC Rules of Procedure in 2019 and again in 2020, the Commission possesses a clear process for inter-sessional decision making and tracking. Throughout 2020, the Commission made a number of inter-sessional decisions with the aim of improving governance and responsiveness of the organisation, as detailed in [Appendix B](#).

### DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned to the IPHC Secretariat by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that any recommendations for action are carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific Contracting Party, the IPHC Secretariat staff, a subsidiary body of the Commission, or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time frame for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next session of a subsidiary body, or other date).

This involves numbering and tracking all action items from the Commission, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2020-IM096-03, which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during its 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (AM096, February 2020), and 2020 Inter-sessional decisions of the Commission.

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix A:** [Update on actions arising from the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting \(AM096: February 2020\)](#).

**Appendix B:** [2020 Inter-sessional decisions of the Commission](#)

## APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (AM096: February 2020)

96 <sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)		
Action No.	Description	Update
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
AM096– Rec.01 ( <a href="#">para. 31</a> )	<p><b>Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that for the 2020 FISS season, the IPHC Secretariat shall employ the proposed subarea design for Regulatory Areas 2A, 4A, 4B, 4CDE, and an enhanced randomised subsampling FISS design in Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, and 3B to meet the primary design objective, while also considering secondary and tertiary objectives (<a href="#">Table 2</a>). The IPHC Secretariat shall determine the number of skates at each FISS station with the secondary objective in mind (<a href="#">Table 2</a>). A demonstration of this design is provided at <a href="#">Fig. 2</a>.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Lara Erikson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>See paper <b>IPHC-2020-IM096-06 IPHC Fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) (2020): Preliminary update</b> (L. Erikson, R. Webster)</p> <p>Also note <a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID011</a> in <a href="#">AppB</a> Appendix B</p>
AM096– Rec.02 ( <a href="#">para. 32</a> )	<p>The Commission <b>RECOMMENDED</b> the following specific additions to the new 2020 FISS design, on the basis of the tertiary objective specified in <a href="#">Table 2</a> on a cost recovery basis. Any other tertiary sampling objective shall be at the discretion of the IPHC Secretariat unless specifically directed by the Commission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulatory Area 2A: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - rockfish sampling;</li> <li>Regulatory Area 2B: DFO-Canada - rockfish sampling.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Lara Erikson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, neither of the two tertiary sampling activities were possible in 2020.</p> <p>They will be revisited as options for 2021 on a cost-recovery basis.</p>
<b>REQUESTS</b>		
AM096– Req.01 ( <a href="#">para. 33</a> )	<p><b>Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>REQUESTED</b> the 2020 consultation process in preparation for the 2021 FISS and beyond be enhanced to include input from the IPHC subsidiary bodies, particularly the Research Advisory Board and the Scientific Review Board, as well as from stakeholders who have performed survey work for the IPHC, with a view to finalizing the FISS sampling design for the coming year as early as possible in the annual planning cycle.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Ray Webster</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>FISS design work was presented for discussion to both the RAB021 in February, and, in more detail, to the SRB016 in June 2020, and again in more detail at SRB017 in September 2020 (see agenda item 7.2 for the SRB's advice).</p> <p>The IPHC Secretariat intends on further stakeholder engagement at IM096 and again at AM097.</p>
AM096– Req.02 ( <a href="#">para. 52</a> )	<p><b>Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2019), and harvest decision table (2020)</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>REQUESTED</b> that the IPHC MSE process continue to evaluate status quo management related to discard mortality for non-directed fisheries (bycatch) under the current program of work for delivery of full MSE results at AM097 in 2021, noting that this source</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Allan Hicks</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>The current framework continues to model non-directed commercial mortality with a fixed average that is</p>

96 <sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)		
Action No.	Description	Update
	of mortality is currently modelled as a fixed component of the total (with variability).	dependent on the total simulated biomass and random variability. See paper <a href="#">IPHC-2020-IM096-11</a> .
AM096– Req.03 ( <a href="#">para. 89</a> )	<b>Reports of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013 and MSAB014)</b> The Commission <b>REQUESTED</b> the MSAB to confirm the proposed topics of work beyond the 2021 deliverables in time for the Interim Meeting (IM096), including work to investigate and provide advice on approaches for accounting for the impacts of bycatch in one Regulatory Area on harvesting opportunities in other Regulatory Areas.	<b>Lead:</b> Allan Hicks <b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b> The MSAB has expressed interest in data-based approaches (e.g. less reliance on stock assessment models) and multi-year decision-making process as highlighted in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Performance Review of the IPHC ( <a href="#">PRIPCH02</a> ). See agenda item 8.2 for the latest MSAB advice arising from <a href="#">MSAB016</a> (19-22 October 2020)
AM096– Req.04 ( <a href="#">para. 110</a> )	<b>Stakeholder statements</b> The Commission <b>REQUESTED</b> that the IPHC Secretariat organise and synopsise stakeholder statements by topic, in order to insert the stakeholder written inputs into public comment at appropriate points in the agenda for the Commission's consideration.	<b>Lead:</b> David Wilson <b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Pending</b> This action is related to AM097 and work will commence on this request in December 2020.  As of the date of this paper, no Stakeholder Comments were received for consideration at IM096.
AM096– Req.05 ( <a href="#">para. 113</a> )	<b>Contracting Party National Reports - United States of America</b> The Commission <b>NOTED</b> that the NOAA Fisheries Observer Program has increased observer fees and has received increased government funding, and <b>REQUESTED</b> that NOAA Fisheries provide a synopsis of observer coverage rates over time and how coverage rates are expected to change in 2020 and beyond.	<b>Lead:</b> NOAA-Fisheries <b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Pending</b> No information received to-date from NOAA-Fisheries.
AM096– Req.06 ( <a href="#">para. 135</a> )	<b>IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020)</b> The Commission <b>ADOPTED</b> the revised IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020) by consensus, and <b>REQUESTED</b> that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.	<b>Lead:</b> David Wilson <b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b> <a href="#">IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020)</a> was published on 7 February 2020.
AM096– Req.07 ( <a href="#">para. 139</a> )	<b>Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IPHC Performance Review</b> The Commission <b>REQUESTED</b> that paper <a href="#">IPHC-2020-AM096-14</a> be reviewed intersessionally by each Contracting Party, with the intention of providing edits/additions, for endorsement. The IPHC Secretariat will facilitate this request by proposing intersessional meeting dates.	<b>Lead:</b> David Wilson <b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b> Intersessional meeting held 17 March 2020 where the Commission endorsed the recommendations. See paper <a href="#">IPHC-2020-IM096-13</a> <i>Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IPHC</i>

96 <sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)		
Action No.	Description	Update
		<i>Performance Review recommendations (D. Wilson)</i>
AM096– Req.08 ( <a href="#">para. 158</a> )	<p><b>Size limits</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>REQUESTED</b> that the IPHC Secretariat prepare an updated discussion of the costs and benefits of removing or adjusting the current minimum size limit and/or adding a maximum size limit. This analysis would be presented during the 2020 Work Meeting and IM096.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Ian Stewart</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Draft paper presented at the WM2020 where the Commission requested additional information.</p> <p>See paper <a href="#">IPHC-2020-IM096-09</a> <i>Evaluation of directed commercial fishery size limits in 2020</i> (I. Stewart, A. Hicks &amp; B. Hutniczak)</p>
AM096– Req.09 ( <a href="#">para. 159</a> )	<p><b>Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 96<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096)</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>REQUESTED</b> that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC <i>Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2020)</i> no later than 28 February 2020, <b>NOTING</b> that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM096.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> David Wilson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>Published on 7 February 2020.</p>

## APPENDIX B

## 2020 Inter-sessional Decisions of the Commission

2020 Inter-sessional decisions		
Action No.	Description	Update
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID001</a>	<p><b>Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that the primary coastwide and area-specific objectives outlined in Table 1 of <a href="#">Appendix A</a> be used for evaluating MSE results conditional on future consideration of the objectives after preliminary MSE results are presented at MSAB015 in May 2020.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Allan Hicks</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>See agenda item 8.2 for the latest MSAB advice arising from <a href="#">MSAB016</a> (19-22 October 2020)</p>
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID002</a>	<p>The Commission <b>RECOMMENDED</b> a reference SPR fishing intensity of 43% with a 30:20 control rule be used as an updated interim harvest policy consistent with MSE results pending delivery of the final MSE results at AM097, noting the additional components intended to apply for a period of 2020 to 2022 as defined in <a href="#">IPHC-2020-AM096-R</a> paragraphs 97 b, c, d, and e. Specifically, these additional components are allocations to 2A and 2B, accounting for some impacts of U26 non-directed discard mortality, and the use of a rolling three-year average for projecting non-directed fishery discard mortality.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Allan Hicks</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>In Progress</b></p> <p>The reference SPR fishing intensity of 43% with a 30:20 control rule is being used in the 2020 stock assessment and harvest advice for 2021 and will be presented at IM096 (see paper <a href="#">IPHC-2020-IM096-11</a>) and AM097 in January 2021.</p>
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID003</a>	<p><b>IPHC Performance Review: 2<sup>nd</sup> IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC02)</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>ENDORSED</b> the recommendations, priorities, responsibilities, timelines and updates provided at <a href="#">Appendix B</a>, and <b>AGREED</b> that these would be reported on at each IPHC meeting.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> David Wilson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>See paper <a href="#">IPHC-2020-IM096-11</a> <i>Update on progress regarding the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> IPHC Performance Review recommendations</i> (D. Wilson)</p>
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID004</a>	<p><b>IPHC Financial Regulations (2020)</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>ADOPTED</b> by consensus, the IPHC Financial Regulations (2020), and directed the IPHC Secretariat to finalise and publish accordingly.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> David Wilson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p><a href="#">IPHC Financial Regulations (2020)</a> was published on 17 March 2020.</p>
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID005</a>	<p><b>Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)</b></p> <p><b>NOTING</b> paper IPHC-2020-SS06-INF01 which provided a description of the benefits of selling Pacific halibut less than 32 inches in length that is captured and sampled on the 2020 FISS, the Commission <b>ENDORSED</b> the sale of this portion of the FISS catch.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Lara Erikson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>The sale of U32 fish that could not be returned to the sea alive were landed and sold throughout the 2020 FISS season.</p> <p>As of 12 September 2020, U32 fish sales yielded US\$65,669.63 in revenue, at an average price of US\$4.15/lb.</p>

2020 Inter-sessional decisions		
Action No.	Description	Update
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID006</a>	<b>NOTING</b> paper IPHC-2020-SS06-INF02 which provided details of the 2020 FISS design, including the number of skates to be deployed at each FISS station by IPHC Regulatory Area, the Commission <b>ENDORSED</b> the design ( <a href="#">Appendix C</a> ).	<b>Lead:</b> Lara Erikson <b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b> Note that the design endorsed here, was subsequently amended (see <a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID011</a> below) following the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID007</a>	<b>Alaska Charter Sector Allocation – IPHC Regulatory Areas 2c And 3a</b> The Commission <b>NOTED</b> and <b>ADOPTED</b> regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS07-PropA1, which amends Sect. 29 of the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E. The amendments (provided at <a href="#">Appendix III</a> ) are to: a) Regulatory Area 2C - implement a reverse slot limit with a lower limit of 45 inches (increased from 40 inches) for recreational charter anglers for the remainder of the 2020 season; b) Regulatory Area 3A – modify the lower limit from 26 inches to 32 inches; No annual limit and no daily closures, for the remainder of the 2020 season.	<b>Lead:</b> David Wilson <b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b> <a href="#">IPHC Fishery Regulations (2020)</a> was published on 20 May 2020.
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID008</a>	<b>Pacific Halibut Bycatch In The Washington Sablefish Fishery</b> The Commission <b>NOTED</b> and <b>ADOPTED</b> regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS07-PropA2, which amended the deadline for when a vessel operating in the incidental catch fishery during the sablefish fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A must have submitted its “Application for Vessel License for the Pacific Halibut Fishery” form. The amendments (provided at <a href="#">Appendix IV</a> ) modify the deadline for submission from 15 March to 29 May 2020. The extension was made based solely on the potential negative impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic may have had on the licencees and does not set a precedent for future years.	<b>Lead:</b> David Wilson <b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b> <a href="#">IPHC Fishery Regulations (2020)</a> was published on 20 May 2020.
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID009</a>	<b>Intersessional meeting formats</b> The Commission <b>REQUESTED</b> that the IPHC Secretariat prepare draft guidelines for intersessional meetings to compliment those already contained with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020), given the potential ongoing COVID-19 impacts.	<b>Lead:</b> David Wilson <b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b> See paper <a href="#">IPHC-2020-IM096-16</a> for draft amendments

2020 Inter-sessional decisions		
Action No.	Description	Update
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID010</a>	<p><b>Review of the draft and adoption of the Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the IPHC (SS07)</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>REQUESTED</b> that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC <i>Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2020)</i> within 24 hours, <b>NOTING</b> that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the SS07.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> David Wilson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>The Report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Special Session (<a href="#">IPHC-2020-SS07-R</a>) was published on 20 May 2020.</p> <p><a href="#">IPHC Fishery Regulations (2020)</a> was published on 20 May 2020.</p>
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID011</a>	<p><b>Revised 2020 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>ENDORSED</b> the 2020 FISS design provided in <a href="#">Appendix I</a>, which includes 898 stations in a reduced footprint within IPHC Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A and 3B.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Lara Erikson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>See paper <a href="#">IPHC-2020-IM096-06 IPHC Fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) (2020): Preliminary update</a> (L. Erikson, R. Webster)</p>
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID012</a>	<p>The Commission <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that the 2020 FISS commence on or near 1 July 2020, with a completion target of 31 August 2020.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> Lara Erikson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p>The 2020 FISS commenced on <a href="#">27 June 2020</a>, 4 days ahead of schedule. The FISS was completed on 9 September 2020.</p>
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID013</a>	<p><b>Independent External Auditor's Report for FY2018 &amp; FY2019</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>ENDORSED</b> the Independent External Auditor's Report for FY2018 &amp; FY2019.</p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> David Wilson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p>
<a href="#">IPHC-2020-ID014</a>	<p><b>Fishing period extension for the directed commercial fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B</b></p> <p>The Commission <b>NOTED</b> and <b>ADOPTED</b> regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1, which amends Sect. 9, of the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations, by extending the commercial fishing period in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B to 7 December 2020. The amended text shall read as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>9. Commercial Fishing Periods</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>(3) All commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas shall cease for the year at 1200 local time on 15 November, with the exception of IPHC Regulatory Area 2B which shall cease at 1200 local time on 7 December 2020.</i></p>	<p><b>Lead:</b> David Wilson</p> <p><b>Status/Plan:</b> <b>Completed</b></p> <p><a href="#">IPHC Fishery Regulations (2020)</a> was published on 17 September 2020.</p>