



**Update on actions arising from the 99th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099),
2023 Special Sessions, 2023 intersessional decisions**

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (27 OCTOBER 2023)

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.

BACKGROUND

At the 99th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098), 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, the Commission made a number of decisions during a Special Session in 2023 (SS013), and intersessional decisions, 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 session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, 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-2023-IM099-03, 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.

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Update on actions arising from the 99th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099: January 2023)

[Appendix B](#): 2023 Special Session decisions, and 2023 intersessional decisions

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 99th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099: January 2023)

99 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)		
Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
AM099– Rec.01 (para. 12)	<p>International Pacific Halibut Commission 5-year program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26)</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the Secretariat annually present potential changes to the Plan at the IPHC Interim Meeting. The Commission would then have the opportunity to provide any redirection based on Commission priorities and available funding. To assist in making that assessment, the Secretariat will be preparing a progress report annually.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Ongoing</p> <p>See paper: IPHC-2023-IM099-06</p>
AM099– Rec.02 (para. 76)	<p>IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that for the purpose of a comprehensive and intelligible Harvest Strategy Policy (HSP), four coastwide objectives should be documented within the HSP, in priority order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the long-term coastwide female spawning stock biomass above a biomass limit reference point (B20%) at least 95% of the time. Maintain the long-term coastwide female spawning stock biomass at or above a biomass reference point (B36%) 50% or more of the time. Optimise average coastwide TCEY. Limit annual changes in the coastwide TCEY. 	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (A. Hicks)</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress</p> <p>Potential edits to the HSP document are presented, included the inclusion of the four priority coastwide objectives.</p> <p>See paper: IPHC-2023-IM099-11</p>
AM099– Rec.03 (para. 84)	<p>The Commission AGREED sufficient analysis has been completed and RECOMMENDED not to change the current 32 inch size limit.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>MSE results were presented at AM099 and the status quo size limit (32 inches) was maintained in the Fishery Regulations for 2023.</p>
AM099– Rec.04 (para. 104)	<p>IPHC Fishery Regulations: Logs (Sect. 20) – Logs requirements</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC work with NOAA Fisheries on data sharing arrangement to retrieve Pacific halibut data submitted via Pacific Coast Groundfish non-trawl logbook.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (B. Hutniczak)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>Data sharing agreement in place and available on IPHC website.</p>

99 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)		
Action No.	Description	Update
AM099– Rec.05 (para. 137)	IPHC meetings calendar (2023-25) The Commission RECOMMENDED that the 13 th Special Session of the Commission be held electronically in mid-April 2023 to review and adopt an FY2024 budget.	Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson) Status/Plan: Completed Meeting held 18 April 2023. https://www.iphc.int/venues/details/13th-special-session-of-the-iphc-ss013
REQUESTS		
AM099– Req.01 (para. 35)	2023-25 FISS design evaluation The Commission REQUESTED a desktop review to determine if reducing bait size on the FISS would substantially reduce costs, while not reducing catch rates and associated fish sale revenue to any large degree.	Lead: IPHC Secretariat (R. Webster) Status/Plan: Completed Changing the bait size was discussed among other options for FISS cost reduction in IPHC-2023-BN09
AM099– Req.02 (para. 44)	The Commission REQUESTED that the Secretariat provide a breakdown of costs associated with the FISS over the last three (3) years and what is projected for the 2023 FISS, and for this to be presented at the 13 th Special Session of the Commission (SS013).	Lead: IPHC Secretariat (K. Ualesi) Status/Plan: Completed Detailed provided in the margins of SS013.
AM099– Req.03 (para. 61)	Pacific halibut mortality projections using the IPHC mortality projection tool (2023) The Commission REQUESTED a table be prepared annually that details the historical TCEY decisions, that is currently published on the IPHC website [https://www.iphc.int/uploads/data/time-series-datasets/excel/iphc-2023-tsd-017.xlsx]	Lead: IPHC Secretariat (I. Stewart) Status/Plan: Completed Table to be updated annually for Commission use.
AM099– Req.04 (para. 66)	The Commission REQUESTED that the Secretariat provide a summary of the proposed and ongoing research projects at the Secretariat, including status updates, suggestions for potential priority setting by the Commission, links to the IPHC's mandate and how the research will inform decision-making, guidance on types of research that should be considered for internal funding versus types of research that would be contingent on the availability of external funding or partnerships, among other criteria that may be requested by the Commission.	Lead: IPHC Secretariat (J. Planas) Status/Plan: Completed See paper: IPHC-2023-IM099-06
AM099– Req.05 (para. 67)	Report on current and future biological and ecosystem science research activities The Commission REQUESTED that the Secretariat highlight the elements of its 5YRPIRM (the Plan) that will inform its understanding of the impacts of climate change on Pacific halibut in its annual presentations of the research Plan to the Commission.	Lead: IPHC Secretariat (J. Planas) Status/Plan: In progress This is planned for the AM100. See paper: IPHC-2023-IM099-06

99 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)		
Action No.	Description	Update
AM099– Req.06 (para. 88)	<p>IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update</p> <p>NOTING paragraph 60 from the 21st Session of the SRB (SRB021), the Commission REQUESTED the Secretariat develop a description of options to responding to exceptional circumstances that would trigger a stock assessment in non-assessment years and additional MSE analyses.</p> <p><i>IPHC-2022-SRB021-R, para 60: The SRB RECOMMENDED that Exceptional Circumstances be defined to determine whether monitoring information has potentially departed from their expected distributions generated by the MSE. Declaration of Exceptional Circumstances may warrant re-opening and revising the operating models and testing procedures used to justify a particular management procedure.</i></p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (A. Hicks)</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress</p> <p>The Secretariat is working with the SRB to develop a description of options for exceptional circumstances.</p>
AM099– Req.07 (para. 132)	<p>IPHC Rules of Procedure (2022)</p> <p>The Commission ADOPTED the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), as provided in IPHC-2023-FAC098-09, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly, with the following amendments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Amend para. 14b-e of the PAB TOR's to read as follows: <i>Proxies are allowed from accredited members from the PAB;</i> <i>Only one proxy per attending member;</i> <i>Proxies will be submitted to the IPHC Secretariat prior to the PAB meeting in written or electronic form;</i> <i>A general proxy will authorize a designated PAB member to vote on any or all topics brought before the PAB on behalf of a PAB member who cannot attend. A specific proxy will authorize a PAB member to vote on specifically named topics (listed on the proxy itself) on behalf of the PAB member who can not attend.</i> 	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>Published on 13 February 2023 via IPHC Circular (IPHC-2023-CR-002)</p> <p>Direct link to 2022 ROP: IPHC-2023-ROP23</p>
AM099– Req.08 (para. 133)	<p>The Commission REQUESTED that a working group involving interested PAB members, convened by the IPHC Secretariat, be formed to determine if additional edits to the PAB Rules of Procedure are necessary on topics including but not limited to membership eligibility. Any further amendments are to be provided to the Commission within three (3) months.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (A. Keikkala)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The suggestions by the Ad-Hoc WG were provided to the Commission.</p>

99 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)		
Action No.	Description	Update
AM099– Req.09 (para. 144)	<p><i>Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 99th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099)</i></p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC <i>Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2023)</i> as soon as possible, NOTING that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM099.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (B. Hutniczak)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>Published on 2 February 2023.</p> <p>Direct link to 2022 Fishery Regulations: IPHC-2023-FISHR23</p>

APPENDIX B

2023 Special Sessions of the Commission

Action No.	Description	Update
13th Special Session of the IPHC (SS013) (18 April 2023)		
SS013-Rec.01 (para. 17)	<p>Budget Estimates: FY2024 (for approval): Fund 30 – Statistics: Directed commercial catch sampling of Pacific halibut in Alaska</p> <p>The Commission DISCUSSED the merit in continuing with the NOAA-Fisheries grant program, and RECOMMENDED the following:</p> <p>a) The IPHC has no mandate to undertake activities on sablefish, and should only do so with an expressed directive from the Commission to do so;</p> <p>b) Should the Commission direct the IPHC Secretariat to undertake sablefish activities in Alaska as part of the new grant period, then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the IPHC should not take on any risks associated with uncertainty regarding the amount of funding available or with the variation in the amount of work required to fulfill sablefish activities; • the IPHC should be reimbursed in-full for any sablefish work (100% cost-recovered) in-year and without delay, and that the Secretariat will cease work at the point that its eligible costs exceed the grant funding available; • Sablefish work would be secondary to Pacific halibut work. 	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson & A. Keikkala)</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress</p> <p>The Commission has not provided a directive to include sablefish into the new NOAA-Fisheries Alaska cost-recovery grant.</p> <p>The Grant was submitted by the deadline provided by NOAA-Fisheries, without sablefish activities included.</p> <p>Unless otherwise directed by the Commission, the IPHC Secretariat will provide sablefish logbooks from 2023 to NOAA-Fisheries.</p> <p>It may be useful for the Commission to revisit and confirm its direction at the WM2023.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
SS013-Rec.02 (para. 19)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that further intersessional discussions be held between the IPHC and NOAA-Fisheries (including the AFSC), to determine if the sablefish logbook data could be entered into NMFS logbooks rather than IPHC logbooks, thereby removing the IPHC from the sablefish process. Alternatively, such discussion should determine if IPHC logbooks containing sablefish landings could be provided directly to NOAA-Fisheries for data entry.	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (B. Hutniczak)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Ongoing</p> <p>Sablefish logbook data can already be entered into the NMFS logbooks, rather than the IPHC logbooks. There is no impediment.</p> <p>Making it mandatory would require amending 50 CFR Part 679.</p> <p>The IPHC logbooks containing sablefish landings could be provided to NOAA Fisheries for data entry via Auke Bay Lab. A formal agreement is suggested for sharing logbooks that contain also Pacific halibut fishing activity. Safeguards provided by IPHC Data Confidentiality Policy and Data Sharing Procedures would apply.</p> <p>This should be implemented also for previously collected logs.</p> <p>Effective date: 1 October 2023.</p>
SS013-Rec.03 (para. 20)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that, as soon as possible, the IPHC Secretariat provide an analysis of commercial sampling needs for Pacific halibut in Alaska, including an examination of biological sampling rates by port, and whether all ports need to be staffed annually or could be staffed at some lesser interval on a staggered basis to reduce costs without unacceptably compromising data quality.	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (I. Stewart, R. Webster)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>See: IPHC-2023-WM2023-INF03 PHC-2023-BN10: Potential modifications and efficiencies for IPHC sampling of directed commercial landings (IPHC Secretariat)</p>
SS013-Rec.04 (para. 28)	<p>Budget Estimates: FY2024 (for approval): Contributions to the General Fund</p> <p>NOTING that the primary purpose of the annual IPHC Interim Meeting (typically held in November each year) is to share preliminary updates and assessment results with interested stakeholders, and that this has been achieved effectively over the past three (3) years via the use of online meeting platforms, the Commission RECOMMENDED that effective FY2024, the IPHC Interim Meeting shall permanently be held via online meeting platforms, including for Contracting Party delegations (FY2024 cost saving: US\$13,500).</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The Interim Meeting was removed from the FY2024 budget. Moving forward it will be held online only.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
REQUESTS		
SS013-Req.01 (para. 9)	<p>Budget Estimates: FY2024 (for approval): Fund 20 – Research: Biological and Ecosystem Sciences annual reporting</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that, as part of the annual reporting to the Commission on the Biological and Ecosystem Science Branch activities, that the Secretariat provide a summary table that incorporates the following elements for Commission review:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Current project abstract, including objectives, links to IPHC’s core mandate and how it will inform Commissioner’s decisions; Related Commission decisions and directives; Timeline for deliverables; Funding sources; Progress report. 	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson & J. Planas)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Ongoing</p> <p>Note that the 5YPIRM covers all research and monitoring and not only the BESB.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2023-WM2023-06</p>
Intersessional Decisions (ID)		
IPHC-2023-ID001:	<p>The Commission AGREED to make an exception to paragraph 3 of Rule 15 (Reports and Records) of the IPHC Rules of Procedure, and to exceptionally adopt the Report of the 13th Special Session (SS013) beyond the 15-day post-meeting deadline for report adoption by the Commission.</p>	<p>Lead: Commission and IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>The Report of the SS013 was adopted via correspondence on 16 May 2023 via IPHC Circular IPHC-2023-CR-007, the ‘date of notification’.</p>
IPHC-2023-ID002:	<p>2023 FISS DESIGN AMENDED</p> <p>The Commission ENDORSED an optimized design for the 2023 FISS as provided at Attachment I, that balances the Commissions primary and secondary objectives for the FISS, noting that the design amends that which was previously endorsed at IM098 in November 2022 and will consist of 891 stations.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (K. Ualesi and R. Webster)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2023-IM099-08</p>
IPHC-2023-ID003:	<p>SELECTION OF AUDITOR FOR FY2023, FY2024 AND FY2025 STATEMENT AUDITS</p> <p>The Commission ENDORSED the appointment of the external auditor ‘Clark Nuber’ to audit the accounts of the IPHC for FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson and A. Keikkala)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>IPHC-2023-CR012 (ID003): 5 June 2023</p> <p>The Contract with Clark Number was signed on 21 July 2023.</p>
IPHC-2023-ID004:	<p>CONTRACTING PARTY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FY2024</p> <p>The Commission NOTED the indicated Contracting Party (CP) contributions for FY2024 prescribed by each CP subsequent to the 13th Special Session of the Commission (SS013) as follows:</p>	<p>Lead: Commission</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
	<p>Canada: Contribution to the IPHC General Fund would be 3% higher than the amount provided in FY2023 = US\$927,419.21</p> <p>U.S.A.: Contribution to the IPHC General Fund would be 3% higher than the amount provided in FY2023 = US\$4,282,492.80 (subject to appropriations)</p> <p>Extra-budgetary funds:</p> <p>U.S.A.: Contribution to the IPHC Secretariat Headquarters Lease and Maintenance: US\$513,712.50</p> <p>Canada/U.S.A.: US\$127,848.00 each (for the old IFCPF deficit - voluntary payment)</p>	
<p>IPHC-2023-ID005:</p>	<p>NOTING that the abovementioned contributions equate to US\$528,812.25 less than the FY2024 budget proposed for adoption at SS013 to maintain the current staffing levels and level of operations of the IPHC Secretariat into FY2024, the Commission RECOMMENDED the following budget and associated service reductions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. -US\$13,500 – removal of the IPHC Interim Meeting from the IPHC Meetings budget line. The meeting shall be held in a fully remote/online format moving forward; ii. -US40,060 – removal of the IPHC MSAB meeting from the IPHC Meetings budget line for FY2024. The meetings scheduled for FY2024 (1 Oct 2023 to 30 Sept 2024) shall be held in a fully remote/online format; iii. -US\$217,456 – removal of 1 x FTE at the level IPHC-GS-13 (Manager) (salary, wages, and benefits); iv. -US257,796 – removal of FTE's sufficient to match (salary, wages, and benefits) 	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson and A. Keikkala)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p>
<p>IPHC-2023-ID006:</p>	<p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat provide a revised FY2024 budget with the above-mentioned Contracting Party contributions and reductions for adoption via the Intersessional Decision-making process prescribed in the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023).</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson and A. Keikkala)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>IPHC-2023-CR018: For Decision FY2024 budget</p> <p>IPHC-2023-CR019: Intersessional Decision ID008 – FY2024 Budget</p>
<p>IPHC-2023-ID007:</p>	<p>2023 IPHC BAIT CALIBRATION STUDY</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a bait calibration study using two bait types (Chum salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus keta</i>) and Pink salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>)) in fall 2023.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (K. Ualesi and I. Stewart)</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress</p> <p>IPHC-2023-MR012 IPHC Media Release 2023-012 Fall 2023 Bait Comparison Study Request for Tender.</p> <p>Results are expected by the end of November/early December.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
<p>IPHC-2023-ID008:</p>	<p>Budget Estimates: FY2024</p> <p>The Commission:</p> <p>1) NOTED paper IPHC-2023-ID008 that provided the budget estimates for FY2024 (1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024) for adoption.</p> <p>2) ADOPTED the FY2024 budget (1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024) as detailed in Appendix I, including the contributions from the Contracting Parties to the General Fund for FY2024 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada: Contribution to the General Fund: US\$927,419.21 • U.S.A.: Contribution to the General Fund: US\$4,282,492.80 (subject to appropriations) • U.S.A.: Contribution to the headquarters building lease and maintenance costs: US\$513,712.50 <p>3) NOTED the optional extra-budgetary (IFCP Fund deficit) contributions from each Contracting Party for FY2024 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canada: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50% Contribution to the IFCP Fund deficit (former staff pension plan): US\$127,848 • U.S.A.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 50% Contribution to the IFCP Fund deficit (former staff pension plan): US\$127,848 <p>4) NOTED that Fund 35 – AK Cost-Recovery expenses are budgeted at US\$947,371 for FY2024, however, the amount that NOAA fisheries will agree to reimburse will not be known until March/April 2025, and the IPHC will not be reimbursed until 1 October 2025, two fiscal years after the expenses were incurred. Thus, as a precautionary measure, the heads of delegation have directed the Secretariat to include an estimated US\$875,000 to be reimbursed through the cost-recovery program and a further US\$72,371 to be provided in supplementary income from NOAA fisheries. Reductions in services may be necessary if the supplementary income received is less than the US\$72,371 needed to meet the total estimated FY2024 expenditures of US\$947,371.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat (D. Wilson)</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>Invoices will be sent to each Contracting Party no later than 1 September 2023.</p>
<p>IPHC-2023-ID009:</p>	<p>The Commission ENDORSED the amendments to the IPHC Rules of Procedure, as provided at Appendix I, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.</p>	<p>Lead: IPHC Secretariat</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed</p> <p>IPHC-2023-CR-026</p> <p>https://www.iphc.int/the-commission</p>