

SUMMARY OF MAY 9-10, 2016 IPHC MSAB MEETING

What is the Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)?

The Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) was established in 2013 to work with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) to develop a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process for Pacific Halibut. The MSAB provides stakeholder comment and input into the MSE process; however, it is important to recognize that the MSAB is a consultative body whose mandate is limited to this process.

Any outputs from the MSE process will be vetted through the normal IPHC consultation structure - which includes the Interim and Annual meetings, the Processor Advisory Group and the Conference Board - and final decision-making authority rests with the IPHC Commissioners.

For more information on the MSAB, please visit: <http://www.iphc.info/msab>

What is Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)?

MSE is the process of evaluating the consequences of alternative ways of managing a fishery resource against stakeholders' objectives for the fishery. The objective of MSE is not to identify a single, optimal management strategy but to inform fishery managers and stakeholders on the trade-offs inherent in alternative management strategies.

More information on MSE is available at: <http://www.iphc.info/Pages/IPHC-MSE-References.aspx>

Summary of May 9-10, 2016 Meeting

Housekeeping

Minutes from October 2015 meeting were passed, and progress on action items from the October meeting were reviewed. Dr. Allan Hicks introduced himself to the MSAB as the new quantitative scientist, taking over in March 2016 from Dr. Steve Martell.

MSAB Presentation to 2016 Annual Meeting

The presentation on MSAB activities at the IPHC 2016 Annual Meeting was reviewed, MSAB members shared their perspectives on feedback from the meeting and direction received from the IPHC Commissioners was reiterated.

Draft Terms of Reference

Draft MSAB Terms of Reference (ToR) were reviewed and members agreed once their suggestions were addressed the ToR would be satisfactory. A new draft ToR will be produced by June 1, 2016 for MSAB review, with final MSAB ratification at the October 2016 meeting.

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MSAB Workplan for Next Two Years

Members reviewed and provided comments on a draft MSAB workplan that outlined the tasks and deliverables of the MSAB over the next two years. Consistent with direction from the Commissioners, key components of the workplan include reviewing and evaluating the current harvest policy, and further development of tools to evaluate harvest policies. A revised workplan will be produced by July 1, 2016 for MSAB review, with adoption at the October 2016 meeting.

MSAB members spent considerable time discussing the current harvest policy in the May meeting. Members noted the current harvest policy has not been strictly followed, meaning there are two management strategies that need to be evaluated - the current harvest policy as detailed in IPHC documents, and the realized decision-making practiced by the Commission. Alternative harvest policies may also be investigated. IPHC staff will describe the current harvest policy and historical decision-making for the upcoming October 2016 MSAB meeting.

As part of the iterative process of MSE, fishery goals and objectives and their intent are reviewed regularly. A revised goals and objective document will be produced by June 1, 2016 for MSAB review.

Draft MSAB Outreach Plan

MSAB members reviewed a revised draft MSAB outreach plan for informing and getting feedback from interested stakeholders. The draft outreach plan utilizes the IPHC MSAB website, email contact and verbal communications to provide interested stakeholders information on MSAB, MSAB members, meeting summaries, minutes and presentations.

The MSAB agreed that with the suggested modifications the outreach plan would be satisfactory. A revised draft outreach plan will be produced by June 1, 2016 for MSAB review. Changes will also be made to the IPHC website so it is consistent with the final outreach plan agreed to at the MSAB meeting.

The MSAB would like to hear from you!

If you have an interest in the Pacific Halibut MSE and have information or input to share with the MSAB, please contact your MSAB representative listed on this webpage:

<http://www.iphc.info/msab>

Next MSAB Meeting

The next MSAB meeting will take place in October 2016. The agenda for the meeting will be posted on the IPHC MSAB webpage two weeks prior to the meeting.