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**DRAFT: ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR THE 23<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE IPHC  
PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB023)**

**Date:** 23–24 January 2018

**Location:** Portland, Oregon, U.S.A.

**Venue:** Grand Ballroom II, Hilton Portland & Executive Tower

**Time:** 23<sup>rd</sup>: 13:30-17:00; 24<sup>th</sup>: 09:00-17:00

**Chairperson:** John Woodruff (United States of America)

**Vice-Chairperson:** Blake Tipton (Canada)

**Note:** *All sessions are open to observers and the general public.*

Tuesday, 23 January 2018

SESSION I: 13:30 - 17:00

**1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

- Voice Roll Call and Introductions*

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

- Additional presentations or clarifications may be asked of the IPHC Secretariat staff during discussion of agenda topics.*
- Topics may be discussed and action taken in an order that is different from the agenda if agreed to by consensus of members present.*

**3. ELECTION OF A CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM**

- In accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2017), the PAB's annual meeting shall be convened by the President of HANA for the purpose of nominating and electing the PAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Once nominations are made, the election is confirmed by a simple majority vote of PAB members present.*

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

- Proposal A2 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA2): Set permanent opening date of Noon local time, March 15 and permanent closing date of Noon local time, November 1. Full proposal is at <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-propa2.pdf>*

**5. CATCH LIMITS**

- The values are the projected mortality for 2018 based on the Reference SPR of 46%, in millions of net pounds. These values are IPHC Secretariat referenced catch limits based on current management policy. Table 3 is on page 5 of the Preliminary Catch Table document found here: <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-11.pdf> [NOTE: Will be updated on 10/11 January 2018 with latest data]*

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Wednesday, 24 January 2018

SESSION II: 09:00 - 12:00

SESSION III: 13:00 - 17:00

*Continue discussion and Take Action on Agenda Items 4 and 5 as needed.*

## 6. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2018

### 1. IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals

- *Proposal A1 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA1): IPHC Closed Area (Bristol Bay) – I recommend reading this excellent history of the Nursery Area in the Bristol Bay, reasons for keeping it closed to directed fishing, and how all other gears eventually were allowed to fish -- including trawls, the most effective gear for removing juveniles -- throughout the area. It is here: <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-propa1.pdf>*

*To cut to the chase, the IPHC has recommended three options (from page 4 in the document) for the Commission to consider, noting that Option 2 has been indicated as their preferred approach:*

*OPTION 1: Remove the IPHC Closed Area via a phased approach in concert with NPFMC and NMFS.*

***OPTION 2: Agree that the Closed Area is not currently meeting its intended objective of protecting juvenile Pacific halibut, and direct the IPHC Secretariat to examine alternative management regimes for the Closed Area, and for these to be presented at the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in 2019.***

*OPTION 3: Retain the IPHC Closed Area and request that the NPFMC consider also closing the area to trawl fisheries in order to protect juvenile Pacific halibut.*

- *Proposal A2 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA2): To establish permanent fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fishery. Read more here: <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-propa2.pdf>*
- *Proposal A3 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA3): VMS requirement for IPHC Regulatory Area 4 clearances. Read more: <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-propa3.pdf>*
- *Proposal A4: (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA4): IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments, mostly standardizing and clarifying terminology, updating very old regulations. Read all about it at <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-propa4.pdf>*
- *Proposal A5: (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA5): Not really a Proposal, but given the heartburn associated with the Head-On Delivery Requirement last year, worth a Discussion Paper. In it you'll learn why removing the exemption we set last year for frozen-at-sea operators should be lifted, and get clarification on why the regulation was asked for in the first place. See more (only 2 pages): <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-propa5.pdf>*

### 2. Contracting Party (agency) regulatory proposals

[note: all “suggested action” text is from the IPHC Secretariat]

- *Proposal B1 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB1): CDQ Leasing in IPHC Regulatory Area 4 -- This was asked for by the directed fleet/processors in Area 4 and allowed by the NPFMC. Background here: <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-propb1.pdf>*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat has no objection to this proposed modification of the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2017) and thus, recommends adoption.*

- *Proposal B2 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB2): Clarify sport fishing regulations in Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A -- Removing the word “All” in a sports regulation. Read more here: <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-propb2.pdf>*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat has no objection to this proposed modification of the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2017) and thus, recommends adoption.*

- *Proposal B3 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropB3): Clarify head-on requirement in Alaska Commercial Fisheries.*

**Suggested action:** *For the head-on requirement clarifications coming from both PropA4 and PropB3, the IPHC Secretariat recommends adopting the U.S.A. (NOAA-Fisheries) PropB3 regulatory language for paragraphs (5) and (6) of IPHC Regulation Section 17. [Note from Peggy/HANA: there is clarifying language also offered by the Secretariat Staff (see Prop A4) that uses slightly different terminology. I’ll have a handout comparing the two versions at the PAB meeting.] <http://iphc.int/uploads/pdf/am/2018am/iphc-2018-am094-propb3.pdf>*

### 3. Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals

[Note: all text following proposal titles is from the IPHC Secretariat. individual proposals can be seen on the following page if you scroll down about 3/4 of the way:

<http://iphc.int/venues/details/94th-session-of-the-iphc-annual-meeting-am094>

- *Proposal C1 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC1): Catch limit proposals [Note from Peggy: See Agenda Item 5.]*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat recommends Commissioners use the harvest decision table, as provided in paper IPHC-2018-AM094-10, as the primary tool to measure the risks of the various catch limit proposals.*

- *Proposal C2 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC2): Preserving catch on private live-aboard vessels (A. Cooper) -- The proposal suggests a new paragraph for Section 28 of the regulations and includes suggested measures to track retained Pacific halibut by logging each catch with location caught, measuring each fish (length or weight), state issued license information of the angler, and photographing of each fish prior to processing.*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat has concerns regarding compliance with possession and bag limits in response to this regulatory proposal. The options of*

*logbook or photo documentation do not satisfy these concerns. As this regulation (IPHC Regulation 28(1)(d)) is important for enforcement purposes, the IPHC Secretariat recommends that the Commission does not adopt this proposal at this time. Further discussion with enforcement agencies is required.*

- *Proposal C3 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC3): For unguided sport fishing (P. Phillips) - - This proposal would require logbook-style record keeping and reporting requirements for unguided recreational fisheries in Alaska.*
- **Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat supports improved recordkeeping and reporting from the non-charter recreational sector. Record keeping and reporting would need to be coordinated with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), NMFS, and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). Indicate that the authors should forward their proposal to the NPFMC for further consideration.*
- *Proposal C4 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC4): Sport Fishing for Halibut - Cleaning Regulations (S. Riehemann) -- The proposal suggests adding "unless preserved" or "unless preservation facilities are aboard" to paragraph (1)(d) of Section 28 of the regulations where the required condition of recreational caught Pacific halibut onboard the vessel are detailed.*
- **Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat has concerns regarding compliance with possession and bag limits in response to this regulatory proposal. As this regulation (IPHC Regulation 28(1)(d)) is important for enforcement purposes, the IPHC Secretariat recommends that the Commission does not adopt this proposal at this time. Further discussion with enforcement agencies is required.*
- *Proposal C5 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC5): Elimination of skin-on regulation (J. Shirk) -- The proposal suggests removing the requirement for skin on all pieces of Pacific halibut in paragraph (1)(d) of Section 28 in the regulations.*
- **Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat has concerns regarding compliance with possession and bag limits in response to this regulatory proposal. However, it is not the IPHC's intention to require the entire fillet to be with 'skin attached'. As is the case in numerous fisheries globally, a smaller size of naturally attached skin on each piece of Pacific halibut (only require enough skin to determine that the fillets are from a Pacific halibut and which side) is all that is required to determine that a fillet is from a Pacific halibut and whether it is from the ventral (light) or dorsal (dark) side. This is sufficient to enforce the applicable Pacific halibut bag and possession limits. The IPHC Secretariat recommends the following revised regulatory language for IPHC Regulation Section 28(1)(d):*

*28. Sport Fishing for Halibut—Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E*

*In Convention waters in and off Alaska: ...*

*(d) No person shall possess on board a vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure craft used for fishing, halibut that have been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner, except that each halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with a*

*patch of skin on each all pieces that is approximately two (2) inches (~5 cm) square, naturally attached.*

- *Proposal C6 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC6): Live-aboard processing exemption (D. Robertson) -- The proposal suggests adding "except pleasure vessels with live aboard accommodations and processing facilities, may process, preserve, maintain and transport halibut on board" to paragraph (1)(d) of Section 28 of the regulations where the required condition of recreational caught Pacific halibut onboard the vessel are detailed.*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat has concerns regarding compliance with possession and bag limits in response to this regulatory proposal. As this regulation (IPHC Regulation 28(1)(d)) is important for enforcement purposes, the IPHC Secretariat recommends that the Commission does not adopt this proposal.*

- *Proposal C7 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC7): Eliminate the requirement for a CHP (S. Riehemann) -- This proposal suggests eliminating the requirement for a Charter Halibut Permits (CHP) for private, crewed vessels that are not available for charter.*

**Suggested action:** *CHPs for the recreational fishery in Alaska are not an IPHC Regulation requirement. Any CHP requirements would need to be coordinated with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), NMFS, and the NPFMC. Indicate that the authors should forwarded their proposal to the NPFMC for further consideration.*

- *Proposal C8 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC8): Allow shellfish pots on board (ALFA) -- The IPHC Secretariat supports this regulatory proposal as long as any Pacific halibut caught in the shellfish pots on the trip are tracked and reported.*

- **Suggested action:** *The Commission may wish to consider whether there should be a limit on the number of shellfish pots onboard during commercial Pacific halibut trips. Suggested regulatory language is included in the proposal, but requires further coordination with Contracting Parties on the description of a shellfish pot. Indicate that the authors should forwarded their proposal to the NPFMC for further consideration, and for the IPHC Secretariat and NOAA-Fisheries to coordinate over the coming year to further clarify the proposal and determine how best to implement it effectively.*

- *Proposal C9 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC9): Processing halibut greater than four filets (M. Cowart) -- The proposal suggests a new paragraph for Section 28 of the regulations and includes suggested measures to track retained Pacific halibut on private live aboard vessels by logging catch record, date stamp photos prior to processing, and labeling of processed packages.*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat has concerns regarding compliance with possession and bag limits in response to this regulatory proposal. The options of logbook or photo documentation do not satisfy these concerns. This regulation (IPHC Regulation 28(1)(d)) is important for enforcement purposes. The IPHC Secretariat recommends that the Commission does not adopt this proposal.*

- *Proposal C10 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC10): Halibut length measurement method (R. Yamada) -- This proposal suggests revised language for Section 25(2) where fish measurement procedures are detailed. The proposal suggests replacing “over the pectoral fin” with “under the fish”.*

*Suggested action: The IPHC Secretariat deems this revision unnecessary. Measurements in a straight line ‘over’ and ‘under’ the fish would produce the same value. The IPHC Secretariat recommends that the Commission does not adopt this proposal.*

- *Proposal C11 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC11): Long term storage aboard pleasure vessels (L. Thompson) -- The proposal suggests adding "possession does not include preserved fish" to paragraph (1)(d) of Section 28 of the regulations where the required condition of recreational caught Pacific halibut onboard the vessel are detailed.*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat has concerns regarding compliance with possession and bag limits in response to this regulatory proposal. The proposal secondly suggests adding "halibut" to paragraph (1)(e) of Section 28 of the regulations where the gear for recreational caught Pacific halibut onboard the vessel are detailed. The IPHC Secretariat has concerns regarding compliance with current gear restrictions as non- halibut gear may catch Pacific halibut. This regulation (IPHC Regulation 28(1)(d)) is important for enforcement purposes. The IPHC Secretariat recommends that the Commission does not adopt this proposal.*

- *Proposal C12 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC12): Long term storage on cruising vessels (W. Cornell) -- The proposal suggests adding "processed (frozen or canned)" to paragraph (1)(d) of Section 28 of the regulations where the required condition of recreational caught Pacific halibut onboard the vessel are detailed. The proposal includes suggested measures to track retained Pacific halibut by logging each catch with date, time, and location caught, measuring each fish (length), state issued license information of the angler, documented proof of the vessel functioning as the angler’s domicile, and photographing of each fish prior to processing with date/time stamp and processed fish packages must be marked to correspond to log information and photograph.*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat has concerns regarding compliance with possession and bag limits in response to this regulatory proposal. The options of logbook or photo documentation do not satisfy these concerns. This regulation (IPHC Regulation 28(1)(d)) is important for enforcement purposes. The IPHC Secretariat recommends that the Commission does not adopt this proposal.*

- *Proposal C13 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC13): Halibut in Bering Sea pots (J.Kauffman) -- The IPHC Secretariat supports this regulatory proposal which is similar to the use of pots in the Gulf of Alaska which started in 2017. IPHC’s concern is that any Pacific halibut caught in pots on the trip are tracked and reported. While this proposal includes suggested IPHC regulatory language, the IPHC Secretariat suggests the following simplified, revised regulatory language for IPHC Regulation Section 19(1), (2):*

### 19. Fishing Gear

*No person shall fish for halibut using any gear other than hook and line gear, except that vessels licensed to catch sablefish in Area 2B using sablefish trap gear as defined in the Condition of Licence can retain halibut caught as bycatch under regulations promulgated by DFO; or (b) except that a person may retain halibut taken with longline or single pot gear in the sablefish IFQ fishery if such retention is authorized by NMFS regulations published at 50 CFR Part 679. No person shall possess halibut taken with any gear other than hook and line gear, except that vessels licensed to catch sablefish in Area 2B using sablefish trap gear as defined by the Condition of Licence can retain halibut caught as bycatch under regulations promulgated by DFO; or except that a person may possess halibut taken with longline or single pot gear in the sablefish IFQ fishery if such possession is authorized by NMFS regulations published at 50 CFR Part 679...*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat recommends adopting the above revised regulatory language for Section 19(1), (2), and supports the suggested regulatory language provided in PropC13 for gear marking requirements in Section 19(4).*

- *Proposal C14 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC14): Status Quo Harvest Measures for Guided Anglers in Area 3A (R. Yamada) -- The IPHC Secretariat defers to the NPFMC's Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and recreational management measures recommended by the NPFMC to IPHC to stay within the CSP. The NPFMC and their advisory body, the Charter Halibut Management Committee, meet in October and December each year to discuss charter halibut management measures in Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A for the upcoming year. This regulation proposal does not need to be forwarded to the NPFMC because they have already considered measures for 2018. In addition, this proposal is within the range of options brought forward by the NPFMC for consideration by the IPHC dependent on the final adopted TCEY.*

**Suggested action:** *Indicate that the authors should forward their proposal to the NPFMC for further consideration.*

- *Proposal C15 (IPHC-2018-AM094-PropC15): Trawler Halibut Bycatch Tender boat program (J. Kearns) -- T*

**Suggested action:** *The IPHC Secretariat defers to the NPFMC. Indicate that the authors should forward their proposal to the NPFMC for further consideration.*

## 7. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

- *On any subject within the purview of the PAB for the IPHC Annual Meeting, the PAB may "Recommend" or "Request" action by the Commissioners. In the past we have recommended action aimed at lowering mortality of halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea, for instance.*

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

**10. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 23<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB023)**

- The report of the PAB023 must be adopted in Session, so that it may be finalized for presentation to the Commission on Thursday 24 January 2018.*