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## OUTCOMES OF THE 94<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM094)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (22 FEBRUARY 2018)

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### PURPOSE

To provide the RAB with the outcomes of the 94<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) relevant to the mandate of the RAB.

### BACKGROUND

The agenda of the Commission's Annual Meeting (AM094) included an agenda item dedicated to the IPHC's 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Program.

The Report of the 94<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting was adopted via correspondence on 19 February 2018 and is available for download from the IPHC website: <https://iphc.int/>

### DISCUSSION

During the course of the Annual Meeting (AM094) the Commission made a number of specific requests and recommendations regarding the IPHC research programs. Relevant sections from the report of the meeting are provided in [Appendix A](#) for the RAB's consideration.

The Commission made a single Recommendation of specific interest to the RAB as follows:

#### ***Evaluation of the IPHC's 32" minimum size limit***

AM094–Rec.04 ([para. 89](#)) *The Commission **NOTED** report IPHC-2018-AM094-14, which indicated that the performance of the management procedure is dominated by management decisions other than the size limit, (e.g. removal of the size limit is likely to result in minimal changes in yield) and **RECOMMENDED** that the size limit remain unchanged.*

The Commission also approved a three-year calendar of IPHC meetings, which includes the following planned dates for RAB meetings, all currently planned to be held in the IPHC Offices in Seattle, USA.

RAB No.	Date	Location
RAB19	28 Feb 2018	Seattle, WA, U.S.A.
RAB20	27 Feb 2019	Seattle, WA, U.S.A.
RAB21	26 Feb 2020	Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

### RECOMMENDATION

That the RAB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2018-RAB019-04 which provides the outcomes of the 94<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) relevant to the mandate of the RAB.

### APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Outcomes of the AM094 relevant to the mandate of the RAB

**APPENDIX A**  
**Outcomes of the AM094 relevant to the mandate of the RAB**  
*(numbering refers to those contained in the AM094 report)*

**10.3 IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Science research program: update**

78. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-13 which provided an overview of the new and continuing research projects proposed by IPHC Secretariat and contemplated within the 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Program.
79. The Commission **NOTED** the summary of research projects proposed for 2018 and the summary of research projects awarded for external funding in 2017, as detailed in the paper.
80. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat will conduct genetic validation of collected biological samples of sex-marked fish from the 2017 coastwide sex-marking project in order to evaluate its success and possible future implementation, and will therefore not request fishers' participation in 2018.
81. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat was informed about concerns from vessels conducting sex-marking at sea that did not have their offloads sampled due to the random nature of the sampling process and the suggestion that all trips are sampled independently of whether they fall in the randomized sample or not.
82. The Commission **NOTED** that the SRB recommendation on the usefulness of a life-history modeller is under consideration by the IPHC Secretariat and that a first step in that direction is the temporary hire of a modeller to work on Pacific halibut larval connectivity between the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea.
83. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat is working towards clearly demonstrating how biological research objectives and stock assessment are integrated in order to inform the policy decision-making process.
84. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat is undertaking studies on growth in Pacific halibut that by addressing responses to temperature and density could inform on potential changes in overall fitness, as has been observed in the Pacific cod.
85. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat clarified the start date and termination dates of the proposed new and continuing research projects proposed by IPHC.

**10.4 Evaluation of the IPHC's 32" minimum size limit**

86. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-14 which provided a response to the Commission request made during the 2016 Interim Meeting (IPHC 2016):

*IM092–Req.07 (para. 73) “The Commission REQUESTED that a review of the analysis of the effectiveness of size limits be undertaken by the IPHC Staff throughout 2017, for consideration by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2018.”*
87. The Commission **NOTED** the work of the IPHC Secretariat during 2017, and the challenges to an evaluation of the Minimum Size Limit (MSL).
88. The Commission **AGREED** that consideration of the magnitude of current discard mortality, the potential change in fishery yield, uncertainty in the market value of Pacific halibut below the current MSL and potential changes in fishery practices in response to a change in the MSL represent the primary trade-offs identified.
89. The Commission **NOTED** report IPHC-2018-AM094-14, which indicated that the performance of the management procedure is dominated by management decisions other

than the size limit, (e.g. removal of the size limit is likely to result in minimal changes in yield) and **RECOMMENDED** that the size limit remain unchanged.

90. The Commission **AGREED** that the work of the IPHC Secretariat has satisfied the Commission's request, and directed the IPHC Secretariat to postpone further investigation of the MSL until such time as either additional information or changes in the fishery, markets, or Pacific halibut stock warrant additional work.