



Update on actions arising from the 22nd Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB022)

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PURPOSE

To provide the RAB with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 22nd Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB022).

BACKGROUND

At the RAB022 meeting, a series of actions were agreed upon for implementation by the IPHC Secretariat. These action items and progress made on their implementation are detailed in [Appendix A](#).

DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that any recommendations and requests 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, 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 an subsidiary body, or other date).

This involves numbering and tracking all action items (see [Appendix A](#)) from the RAB, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the RAB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2022-RAB023-03, which provided the RAB with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 22nd Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB022).
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary the actions, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from RAB023.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Update on actions arising from the 22nd IPHC Research Advisory Board \(RAB022\)](#)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 22nd Session of the Research Advisory Board
(RAB022)

Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS - Nil		
REQUESTS		
RAB022-Req.01 (para. 16)	<p>IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)</p> <p>The RAB NOTED with appreciation the enhanced communication and consultation undertaken immediately prior to and during the 2021 FISS by the IPHC Secretariat, and REQUESTED that this heightened level of communication continue moving forward.</p>	<p>Completed & Ongoing: The Secretariat implemented heightened communication standards and practices in 2022 and again in 2023 FISS seasons. Under the Setline Survey Coordinator's direct management, we have seen substantially improved communication and engagement with industry.</p>
RAB022-Req.02 (para. 31)	<p>Accounting for the effects of whale depredation</p> <p>The RAB REQUESTED further review of the FISS whale depredation effectiveness criteria, which in some instances may be either too liberal or too conservative, and for orca depredation to include a quantitative visual assessment.</p>	<p>Completed & Ongoing: Sperm whales continue to be observed diving on gear at some distance from the vessel during hauling which supports the conservative criteria of excluding data from sets where these whales are observed.</p> <p>Orca depredation relies on two criteria that can be used to determine a station ineffective (both of which were engaged during the 2022 FISS):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) 2 or more damaged fish or lips returned, and 2) observations by the crew or IPHC Secretariat staff of depredation behaviour (close proximity to the vessel during hauling and/or following the vessel to multiple stations).