



Report of the 12th Special Session of the IPHC (SS012)

Meeting held electronically, 25 February 2022

Commissioners

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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC
HALIBUT COMMISSION

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ACRONYMS

FY	Financial Year
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
MP	Management Procedure
MSE	Management Strategy Evaluation
OM	Operating Model
SS	Special Session
USA	United States of America

DEFINITIONS

A set of working definitions are provided in the IPHC Glossary of Terms and abbreviations: <https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/glossary-of-terms-and-abbreviations>.

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

- Level 1: RECOMMENDED; RECOMMENDATION; ADOPTED** (formal); **REQUESTED; ENDORSED; ACCEPTED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary (advisory) body of the Commission and/or the IPHC Secretariat.
- Level 2: AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be elevated in the Commission’s reporting structure.
- Level 3: NOTED/NOTING; CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED:** General terms to be used for consistency. Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference. Any other term may be used to highlight to the reader of an IPHC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. Other terms may be used but will be considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 12th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS012) was held electronically, on 25 February 2022. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), who outlined the need for a Special Session.

The following are the actions arising from the SS012, which are also provided at [Appendix V](#).

IPHC PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS (2022)

IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) – daily bag limit

([para. 14](#)) The Commission **ADOPTED** a modified version of the fishery regulation proposal, which proposed allowing a maximum daily bag limit of up to three (3) fish per person in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B within a limited time frame, from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023 ([Appendix IV](#)).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Strategy Evaluation

- SS012-Rec.01 ([para. 10](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the following five distribution procedures to be used in the management strategy evaluation of size limits and multi-year assessments, noting that these distribution procedures are for analytical purposes only and are not endorsed by both parties, thus would be reviewed in the future if the Commission wishes to evaluate them for implementation.
- a) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3A, relative harvest rates of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 3B-4, and no application of the current interim agreements for 2A and 2B;
 - b) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3A, relative harvest rates of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 3B-4, and current interim agreements for 2A and 2B;
 - c) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results with 1.65 Mlbs to 2A and 20% of the coastwide TCEY to 2B;
 - d) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3, 4A, and 4CDE, a relative harvest rate of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Area 4B, and no agreements for 2A and 2B;
 - e) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3, 4A, and 4CDE, a relative harvest rate of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Area 4B, and current interim agreements for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 2B.

REQUESTS***Budget Estimates: FY2023 (for approval)***

SS012-Req.02 ([para. 05](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that in accordance with the IPHC's inter-
sessional decision-making process (Rule 11, paragraphs 4-10 of the IPHC Rules of
Procedure (2022)), a further hybrid option between Options 2 and 3 from [IPHC-2022-
SS012-03 Rev 1](#), be provided to the Commission for consideration and potential adoption
that incorporates the following elements:

- a) Contracting Party base contributions to remain at FY2021/FY2022 levels:
 - **Canada:** US\$900,407
 - **USA:** US\$4,157,760
- b) Budget reductions from the total operating expenses provided in Option 2 totaling approximately US\$75,000 (these should focus on reductions to Meetings and Conferences (electronic meetings for the Interim Meeting, MSAB in October 2022, and one electronic SRB meeting in 2023), Travel (COVID-19 savings or other as identified), Salaries and wages (as relates to a position that may become vacant in FY2023, and non-essential services where not fully cost recovered on a case-by-case basis); and
- c) An inter-fund transfer from 50-Reserve to 10-General, totaling the remaining budget shortfall of approximately US\$76,745. This component involves the utilization of the non-committed funds 'carryover' in the Reserve fund which stands at US\$1,476,626 (as of 1 October 2021).

1 OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. The 12th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS012) was held electronically, on 25 February 2022. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) who outlined the need for a special session.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION

3. The Commission **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix I](#). The documents provided to the SS012 are listed in [Appendix II](#). The list of participants is provided at [Appendix III](#).

3 BUDGET ESTIMATES: FY2023 (FOR APPROVAL)

4. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-SS012-03 Rev_1](#) which provided the Commission with revised budget estimates for FY2023 (1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023) (for approval).
5. The Commission **REQUESTED** that a detailed breakdown of current Payroll Benefit Liabilities, proposed as current versus long-term liabilities, be presented for discussion at the Commission's September Work Meeting, by the IPHC Secretariat. Additional elements surrounding the Commission's movement towards being GAAP compliant (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) should also be presented (note that OCBOA - Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting was historically employed by the IPHC).
6. The Commission **REQUESTED** that in accordance with the IPHC's inter-sessional decision-making process (Rule 11, paragraphs 4-10 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2022)), a further hybrid option between Options 2 and 3 from [IPHC-2022-SS012-03 Rev_1](#), be provided to the Commission for consideration and potential adoption that incorporates the following elements:
 - a) Contracting Party base contributions to remain at FY2021/FY2022 levels:
 - **Canada:** US\$900,407
 - **USA:** US\$4,157,760
 - b) Budget reductions from the total operating expenses provided in Option 2 totaling approximately US\$75,000 (these should focus on reductions to Meetings and Conferences (electronic meetings for the Interim Meeting, MSAB in October 2022, and one electronic SRB meeting in 2023), Travel (COVID-19 savings or other as identified), Salaries and wages (as relates to a position that may become vacant in FY2023, and non-essential services where not fully cost recovered on a case-by-case basis); and
 - c) An inter-fund transfer from 50-Reserve to 10-General, totaling the remaining budget shortfall of approximately US\$76,745. This component involves the utilization of the non-committed funds 'carryover' in the Reserve fund which stands at US\$1,476,626 (as of 1 October 2021).

4 MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

7. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-SS012-04](#) which provided milestones throughout 2022 and potential management procedures to investigate as part of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) for presentation at the 99th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099).
8. The Commission **NOTED** that no size limit may provide challenges related to retaining Pacific halibut that are not easily processed.

9. The Commission **NOTED** that when evaluating specific elements of a Management Procedure (MP), such as size limits or multi-year assessments, relative to area- and sector-specific fishery objectives, a completely defined procedure is necessary to determine mortality limits for each IPHC Regulatory Area. This includes, for example, distribution procedures.
10. The Commission **NOTED** that elements of an MP that are not specifically being evaluated, such as distribution procedures, should be defined to represent a practicable range to provide a robust analysis of the elements of MPs specifically being evaluated.
11. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the following five distribution procedures to be used in the management strategy evaluation of size limits and multi-year assessments, noting that these distribution procedures are for analytical purposes only and are not endorsed by both parties, thus would be reviewed in the future if the Commission wishes to evaluate them for implementation.
 - a) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3A, relative harvest rates of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 3B-4, and no application of the current interim agreements for 2A and 2B;
 - b) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3A, relative harvest rates of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 3B-4, and current interim agreements for 2A and 2B;
 - c) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results with 1.65 Mlbs to 2A and 20% of the coastwide TCEY to 2B;
 - d) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3, 4A, and 4CDE, a relative harvest rate of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Area 4B, and no agreements for 2A and 2B;
 - e) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3, 4A, and 4CDE, a relative harvest rate of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Area 4B, and current interim agreements for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 2B.

5 IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS (2022)

5.1 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) – daily bag limit*

12. The Commission **NOTED** fishery regulation proposal [IPHC-2022-SS012-PropB4](#), which proposed allowing a maximum daily bag limit of up to three (3) fish per person in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B.
13. The Commission **NOTED** DFO’s presentation that provided an overview of Canada’s recreational Pacific halibut fishery monitoring programs, regulatory framework, management process and landings overage provision.
14. The Commission **NOTED** comments supporting [IPHC-2022-SS012-PropB4](#) from Martin Paish, chair of the Sport Fishing Advisory Board, an advisory body to Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) on recreational issues.
15. The Commission **ADOPTED** a modified version of the fishery regulation proposal, which proposed allowing a maximum daily bag limit of up to three (3) fish per person in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B within a limited time frame, from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023 ([Appendix IV](#)).
16. The Commission **NOTED** the intention to re-evaluate regulatory proposal [IPHC-2022-SS012-PropB4](#) at the 98th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM098).

6 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 12TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS012)

17. The Report of the 12th Session of the IPHC ([IPHC-2022-SS012-R](#)) was **ADOPTED** via correspondence on 7 March 2022, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from SS012, provided at [Appendix V](#).

APPENDIX I
AGENDA FOR THE 12TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS012)

Date: 25 February 2022

Location and Venue: Electronic: Adobe Connect

Time: 13:00-16:00 (PST)

Chairperson: Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Glenn Merrill (United States of America)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (*Chairperson*)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION** (*Chairperson*)
3. **BUDGET ESTIMATES: FY2023 (for approval)** (*IPHC Secretariat*)
 - *IPHC-2022-SS012-03 Rev_1: Budget Estimates: FY2023 (for approval) (Wilson D)*
4. **MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**
 - *IPHC-2022-SS012-04: Management Strategy Evaluation Procedures and Milestones for 2022 (Hicks A & Stewart I)*
5. **IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS (2022)**
 - *IPHC-2022-SS012-PropB4: Daily bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) (Canada).*
6. **ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 12TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS012)** (*Chairperson*)

APPENDIX II
LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 12TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS012)

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2022-SS012-01	Agenda for the 12 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS012)	✓ 7 Feb 2022
IPHC-2022-SS012-02	List of Documents for the 12 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS012)	✓ 7 Feb 2022
IPHC-2022-SS012-03 Rev_1	Budget estimates: FY2023 (for approval) (Wilson D)	✓ 14 Feb 2022 ✓ 18 Feb 2022
IPHC-2022-SS012-04	Management Strategy Evaluation Procedures and Milestones for 2022 (Hicks A & Stewart I)	✓ 14 Feb 2022
<i>Contracting Party Fishery Regulation proposals for 2022</i>		
IPHC-2022-SS012-PropB4	Recreational (sport) fishing for Pacific halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28) – <i>Daily bag limit</i> (Canada: DFO)	✓ 8 Feb 2022

APPENDIX III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 12TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS012)

Commission Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)	Mr Glenn Merrill (United States of America)

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Mr Paul Ryall	Mr Glenn Merrill
Mr Neil Davis	Mr Robert Alverson
Mr Peter DeGreef	Mr Richard Yamada

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APPENDIX IV
RECREATIONAL (SPORT) FISHING FOR PACIFIC HALIBUT – IPHC REGULATORY AREA
2B (SECT. 28) – DAILY BAG LIMIT

IPHC-2022-SS012-PropB4

28. RECREATIONAL (SPORT) FISHING FOR PACIFIC HALIBUT—IPHC REGULATORY AREA 2B

- (1) In all waters off British Columbia: ^{6, 7}
- (a) the recreational (sport) fishing season will open on 1 February unless more restrictive regulations are in place;
 - (b) the recreational (sport) fishing season will close when the recreational (sport) fishery limit allocated by DFO is taken, or 31 December, whichever is earlier; and
 - (c) the daily bag limit is two (2) Pacific halibut of any size per day, per person, except that between 1 April 2021 and 31 March ~~2022~~ **2023** only, DFO may implement a daily bag limit of three (3) Pacific halibut per day, per person.

APPENDIX V
**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS FROM THE 12TH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS012)**

(25 February 2022)

RECOMMENDATIONS
Management Strategy Evaluation

- SS012-Rec.01 ([para. 10](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the following five distribution procedures to be used in the management strategy evaluation of size limits and multi-year assessments, noting that these distribution procedures are for analytical purposes only and are not endorsed by both parties, thus would be reviewed in the future if the Commission wishes to evaluate them for implementation.
- f) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3A, relative harvest rates of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 3B-4, and no application of the current interim agreements for 2A and 2B;
 - g) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3A, relative harvest rates of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 3B-4, and current interim agreements for 2A and 2B;
 - h) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results with 1.65 Mlbs to 2A and 20% of the coastwide TCEY to 2B;
 - i) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3, 4A, and 4CDE, a relative harvest rate of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Area 4B, and no agreements for 2A and 2B;
 - j) Baseline based on recent year O32 FISS results, relative harvest rates of 1.0 for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2-3, 4A, and 4CDE, a relative harvest rate of 0.75 for IPHC Regulatory Area 4B, and current interim agreements for IPHC Regulatory Areas 2A and 2B.

REQUESTS
Budget Estimates: FY2023 (for approval)

- SS012-Req.01 ([para. 04](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that a detailed breakdown of current Payroll Benefit Liabilities, proposed as current versus long-term liabilities, be presented for discussion at the Commission's September Work Meeting, by the IPHC Secretariat. Additional elements surrounding the Commission's movement towards being GAAP compliant (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) should also be presented (note that OCBOA - Other Comprehensive Basis of Accounting was historically employed by the IPHC).
- SS012-Req.02 ([para. 05](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that in accordance with the IPHC's inter-sessional decision-making process (Rule 11, paragraphs 4-10 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2022)), a further hybrid option between Options 2 and 3 from [IPHC-2022-](#)

[SS012-03 Rev 1](#), be provided to the Commission for consideration and potential adoption that incorporates the following elements:

- a) Contracting Party base contributions to remain at FY2021/FY2022 levels:
 - **Canada:** US\$900,407
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- b) Budget reductions from the total operating expenses provided in Option 2 totaling approximately US\$75,000 (these should focus on reductions to Meetings and Conferences (electronic meetings for the Interim Meeting, MSAB in October 2022, and one electronic SRB meeting in 2023), Travel (COVID-19 savings or other as identified), Salaries and wages (as relates to a position that may become vacant in FY2023, and non-essential services where not fully cost recovered on a case-by-case basis); and
- c) An inter-fund transfer from 50-Reserve to 10-General, totaling the remaining budget shortfall of approximately US\$76,745. This component involves the utilization of the non-committed funds ‘carryover’ in the Reserve fund which stands at US\$1,476,626 (as of 1 October 2021).