



INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC
HALIBUT COMMISSION

IPHC Advisory Bodies – Who Are They?

Conference Board

The Conference Board (CB) is an IPHC advisory panel representing Canadian and United States halibut fishers. The CB was created in 1931 to provide the Commission with recommendations from the halibut fishing industry on conservation measures. It is self-regulating in terms of membership. Its members are designated by union and vessel owner organizations throughout the halibut range and include commercial, sport, and tribal interests. The CB is co-chaired by U.S. and Canadian representatives.

Following staff presentations and proposals at the IPHC Annual Meeting, the CB meets separately from, but concurrently to, the Commission to discuss the proposals. Their recommendations are then presented to the Commission for consideration at a later session of the Annual Meeting.

Proceedings of the CB can be found at <http://www.iphc.info/conference-board>.

Processor Advisory Group

The Processor Advisory Group (PAG) was formed in 1996 and is composed exclusively of halibut processors from both the United States and Canada. Membership has varied over the years and includes approximately 20 processors. The PAG conducts a review of staff recommendations and supporting information, similar to that of the Conference Board. The Commission hears the PAG recommendations in addition to the CB recommendations at the Annual Meeting before adopting regulations for the coming year.

Proceedings of the PAG can be found at <http://www.iphc.info/pag>.

Research Advisory Board

The Research Advisory Board (RAB) was formed in 2000 to provide the Commission staff with insight on issues of concern to the halibut industry. The Board meets annually with the Executive Director and staff and is composed of active members of the fishing community who are interested in contributing to the direction of IPHC research. A report of the proceedings and recommendations is presented to Commissioners and becomes part of the research discussion at the Interim and Annual Meetings.

Management Strategy Advisory Board

At the 2013 Annual Meeting, the Commission advanced the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) program for the halibut resource. The Commission approved the formation of a

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Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) to oversee the MSE process and to advise the Commission and staff on the development and evaluation of candidate objectives and strategies for managing the fishery. The MSE process will help the Commission develop and thoroughly test alternative management procedures, prior to actually implementing any management changes for the fishery.

The MSAB is composed of 24 official and ex-officio individuals representing harvesters from all sectors, fisheries managers, processors, IPHC staff, commissioners and academia. The MSAB is working interactively with analysts on the Commission staff to initially define clear, measurable objectives for the halibut fishery, define candidate management procedures (MP) for testing within the MSE framework, and define the performance measures to evaluate alternative MPs.

Proceedings of the MSAB can be found at <http://www.iphc.info/msab>.

Scientific Review Board

The Scientific Review Board (SRB) was formed in 2013 to provide an independent scientific review of Commission science products and programs, and support and strengthen the stock assessment process. In the near term, this standing peer review process is expected to focus on a review of the annual stock assessment model and harvest policy prepared by the IPHC staff. Over time, this emphasis will shift to a broader review of scientific programs, including outputs from the Research Advisory Board and the Management Strategy Advisory Board, in addition to the annual stock assessment results and advice. The SRB will also conduct other key reviews as directed by the Commission, on topics such as research plans, updates and changes to survey methodology, and white papers on selected critical issues. The SRB currently consists of three independent fisheries science experts approved by the Commission. Two more members will be added over the next two years to bring the Board up to a full complement of five. The SRB members' terms will be staggered in order to facilitate continuity while regularly bringing in fresh scientific viewpoints.

Proceedings of the SRB can be found at <http://www.iphc.info/srb>.