



Report of the 18th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB18)

Agenda Item 7.2
IPHC-2016-RAB18-R

RAB18: 16 November 2016

The 18th Session of the Research Advisory Board (RAB) was held in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. on 16 November 2016.

A total of seven (7) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 18 IPHC staff as observers or officers.

Four (4) RAB Members were absent.



RAB18: RECOMMENDATIONS

Survey expansion

RAB18–01 (para. 11) The RAB18 **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Staff develop an information paper associated with the survey expansion, which details the likely implications of periodic survey expansion on the stock assessment and apportionment, taking into consideration potential population variability of Pacific halibut in expansion areas which are infrequently surveyed.



RAB18: RECOMMENDATIONS

Bycatch handling practices on all fleets catching Pacific halibut

RAB18–02 (para. 27) The RAB18 **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Staff undertake a project to develop ‘*Best practice handling guidelines*’ for each of the primary gear types which catch Pacific halibut, both directed and non-directed.



RAB18: RECOMMENDATIONS

IPHC Closed Area review

RAB18–03 (para. 37) The RAB18 **RECOMMENDED** that as the IPHC Closed Area was designated to protect juvenile Pacific halibut, there is no scientific justification for retaining the closure in its current form.

Thus, the IPHC Closed Area should either be removed, noting that it would be unlikely that much longline fishing would occur in the area as most fish are below the legal size limit, or it should only apply to gear which would interact with juvenile Pacific halibut.



RAB18: RECOMMENDATIONS

Chalky Pacific halibut

RAB18–04 (para. 53) The RAB18 **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Staff undertake research to answer the following:

- a. What causes chalky flesh in Pacific halibut? Are there particular environmental signatures (temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.) that characterize areas with incidence of chalky flesh?
- b. Why does the occurrence of chalky flesh in Pacific halibut appear to be reappearing after a period of limited occurrence in regulatory areas 3A and 3B?
- c. Are there differences in the occurrence of chalky flesh in males and female, as well as fish of different sizes?



QUESTIONS?

