



**Update on actions arising from the 92nd Annual Meeting (AM92),
IPHC work meeting (2016) and 92nd Interim Meeting (IM092)**

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (3 JANUARY 2017)

PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during its 92nd Session (January 2016), the IPHC Work Meeting (September 2016) and the 92nd Interim Meeting (November 2016).

BACKGROUND

At the 92nd Session of the IPHC, Contracting Parties agreed on a series of actions to be taken by Commissioners, Advisory Bodies and IPHC Staff on a range of issues as detailed in [Appendix A](#). In addition, Commissioners made several modifications and additions to the action list during the annual Work Meeting, held in Bellingham, WA on 21-22 September 2016, and further recommendation and requests at the 92nd Interim Meeting (November 2016) which have also been included in [Appendix A](#).

DISCUSSION

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

Initially, this has involved numbering and tracking all action items (see [Appendix A](#)) from the Commission in 2016, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2017-AM093-03 which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during its 92nd Session (January 2016), the IPHC Work Meeting (September 2016) and the 92nd Interim Meeting (November 2016).

- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary, the actions, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from the AM093.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Update on actions arising from the 92nd Annual Meeting, IPHC Work Meeting \(2016\) and the 92nd Interim Meeting.](#)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 92nd Annual Meeting (AM092),
IPHC Work Meeting (2016) and 92nd Interim Meeting (IM092)

Action No.	Description	Update
92nd Annual Meeting (January 2016)		
AM92.01	Scholarship Committee: Commission approved scholarship of \$4k every other year; directed Scholarship Committee to work with staff on identifying alternative investment vehicles.	Completed: See paper: IPHC-2016-IM092-21 .
AM92.02	Budget carryover: Staff to draft a reference document describing how budget carryover is managed, including underlying rationale.	Completed: See paper: IPHC-2016-IM092-18 which was further refined for the 93 rd Annual Meeting as paper IPHC-2017-AM093-14 .
AM92.03	Carcass retention: Remove carcass retention requirement for recreational fisheries in Alaska from IPHC regulations.	Completed: Via adoption of the 2016 IPHC Regulations by the United States.
AM92.04	Catch in 2B/2C: Send Commissioner Ryall the staff report on dealing with catch in the Area 2B/2C boundary area.	Completed: 17 February 2016 via email communication to all Commissioners.
AM92.05	Decision table: Staff to prepare a one-page outline of the risk-based decision table (DT), how it is constructed, and how it is used in the Commission's decision making.	Completed: See IPHC-2017-AM093-INF01 .
AM92.06	NPFMC halibut management framework: Commissioners to provide comments to Executive Director on draft letter to Council concerning the Council's halibut management framework, for finalizing and transmission to Council, over Chair's signature.	Completed: Letter from Commission to the NPFMC Chairperson, Mr Dan Hull, communicated on 25 February 2016. Agenda and letter links.
AM92.07	NPFMC-IPHC joint committee: Commission to move forward with NPFMC on forming joint consultative body via developing Terms of Reference and identifying items for highest priority discussion. Council and Commission Chairs to initiate next steps.	Completed: NPFMC formed Halibut Management Committee in Dec 2015 with 3 Council members and 3 US Commissioners. Committee met in April and October 2016. http://www.npfmc.org/halibut-management-committee/ At the 92 nd Interim Meeting, the Commission included the following text in its meeting report: IM092, para. 57: The Commission NOTED that it would be appropriate to have a joint IPHC/NPFMC meeting at a similar time as the April or June NPFMC meetings in 2017.

Action No.	Description	Update
AM92.08	IPHC MSE: Provide presentation on MSE/MSAB process to NPFMC at its April meeting.	Completed: April 2016 NPFMC meeting. Agenda item C8, HAL 16-004.
AM92.09	Charter halibut measures: Staff to communicate with NPFMC concerning the need for book-ended charter halibut management measures, to accommodate potential catch limits above and below the Blue Line numbers presented at the IPHC Interim Meeting.	Completed: IPHC Staff presented to the NPFMC in February 2016. Reiterated by IPHC Staff and ADFG staff at the Charter Management Committee meeting in December 2016 when it considered management measures for 2017.
AM92.10	Bycatch reduction: For 2016 Interim Meeting, present breakout of success rate in bycatch reduction of A80 vs. other sectors in the Bering Sea by regulatory area.	In progress: Not completed for IM092, however, the A80 fleet will present an update of its EFP to the AM093. See paper IPHC-2017-AM093-INF02 . Suggested action revision: The Commission may wish to direct staff to undertake a detailed examination of changes in bycatch levels among all gears, as part of the IPHC Program of Work and associated budget.
AM92.11	Tagging halibut: Staff to explore with NMFS Auke Bay lab the possibility of tagging halibut on the NMFS sablefish survey.	Completed: Conclusion is that this is not feasible with other tasking of NMFS staff.
AM92.12	Otolith radioactive markings: Staff to review literature and report back on any new radioactive otolith marking studies taking place, particularly any incorporating Fukushima radioisotopes.	Pending: Nil progress to date. An update will be provided at the AM093. Suggested action revision: To be incorporated within the IPHC 5-year Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Program.
AM92.13	Sablefish pots: Staff to schedule review of retention of halibut in sablefish pots prior to 2018 Interim Meeting.	Pending: Nil progress to date. Suggested action revision: As the new pots regulation go into effect in 2017, this review should be rescheduled for completion in 2020, thereby encompassing three years of data under the new regulation.
AM92.14	16% DMR: Staff to review basis for assigned 16% discard mortality rate used in directed fisheries (Note that this is part of the larger evaluation of DMRs that IPHC and NMFS staff are working on).	In progress: Work ongoing and a progress report will be available in time for the AM093.
AM92.15	Nunivak Island: Staff to investigate alternative sources of	In progress: IPHC Staff have met

Action No.	Description	Update
	information about halibut density around Nunivak Island. Staff to continue outreach with the Nunivak communities to encourage participation in the IPHC logbook program.	with CDQ groups, most recently in April 2016. Additional logbooks are needed to provide information on trends in this area.
AM92.16	IPHC Harvest Policy: Staff to continue with evaluation and development of a revised IPHC harvest policy, including target harvest rates by regulatory area, and assist the MSAB in focusing on harvest policy as a priority item.	Completed: Incorporated in the IPHC Staff Program of Work (2 years), endorsed by the Commission. Progress shall now be reported via an annual update on the MSE Program of Work and via the MSAB reports.
AM92.17	Bycatch quantification: Staff to continue its work on: quantifying and assessing the impacts of bycatch by all sectors and areas on the halibut resource; pursuing the development of abundance-based bycatch management; and, advocating for increased monitoring and reduction of halibut bycatch in all areas and by all sectors, including the directed halibut fishery.	In progress: Incorporated within the IPHC Program of Work endorsed by the Commission, and also a part of the NPFMC working group tasks.
IPHC Work Meeting (September 2016)		
WM16.01	Letter from IPHC to NPFMC: Draft a letter from IPHC to NPFMC on Halibut Management Framework and Abundance-Based Bycatch Management (ABM).	Completed: IPHC letter communicated to the Chairperson of the NPFMC on 27 September 2016.
WM16.02	MSAB Terms of Reference: The Commission agrees in principle to the MSAB Terms of Reference (ToR), and asks the MSAB to consider membership selection and term limits when it discusses ToR at the October MSAB meeting, with a view to Commission approval of the ToR at the coming Interim Meeting or Annual Meeting.	Completed: The broader revision of the IPHC Terms of Reference (2014) was undertaken in 2016, and presented at the 92 nd Interim Meeting and revised for consideration at the 93 rd Annual Meeting. See paper: IPHC-2017-AM093-16
WM16.03	Examples of consensus: Provide MSAB examples of how other organizations describe consensus decision-making, for the benefit of the MSAB's discussion of its ToR.	Completed: Options for consideration have been incorporated into paper 20. See paper: IPHC-2016-IM92-20
WM16.04	MSAB discuss ABM: The Commission asks that the MSAB become aware of the NPFMC's ABM discussion paper and the approach defined in the paper, and consider how the MSAB should address this piece of the harvest policy in the IPHC MSE process.	Completed: The MSAB08 considered this topic at its 8 th Session and will continue to monitor as appropriate via its Program of Work, endorsed by the Commission. See paper: IPHC-2016-MSAB08-R
WM16.05	IM Pre-brief: Schedule the assessment pre-brief for the Commissioners on Tuesday 22 November at 2pm Pacific	Completed: 22 November 2016.

Action No.	Description	Update
	time.	
WM16.06	<p>Additions to IM agenda: Add these items to the draft agenda for the Interim Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research program presentation - Consideration of the MSAB ToR - A place for new business - Performance review 	<p>Completed: Added and discussed.</p> <p>See paper: IPHC-2016-IM092-R</p>
WM16.07	<p>Requests for information: The Commission asks that this information be included in briefings at the Interim Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specific survey results from Area 4C - The cost of adding extra or special survey stations to the survey - Information about other scientific review boards and how other fishery management organizations obtain scientific review of their work. 	<p>Completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IM092 presentation. - Analysis on more specific request completed. See paper IPHC-2017-AM093-15. - Incorporated into the Terms of Reference for the 2nd IPHC Performance Review (see IPHC-2017-AM093-18)
WM16.08	<p>Requests for information: The Commission asks that this information be included in briefings at the Annual Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A review of the performance of the Amendment 80 deck-sorting Experimental Fishing Permit during 2016 - A description of the larval movement research project and its results to date. 	<p>Completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the AM93 in January 2013, NMFS will introduce the EFP and A80 representative will present details. See paper IPHC-2017-AM093-INF02. - See IPHC-2017-AM093-11 and the 2016 RARA.
92nd Interim Meeting (November 2016)		
IM092– Rec.01 (para. 38)	<p>Survey expansion</p> <p>The Commission 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. The paper shall be submitted for initial consideration at the Commission’s Work Meeting in September 2017.</p>	<p>In progress: For presentation and discussion at the IPHC Work Meeting in September 2017.</p>
IM092– Rec.02 (para. 39)	<p>Best practices handling guidelines</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Staff undertake a project to develop ‘<i>Best practice handling guidelines</i>’ for each of the primary gear types which catch Pacific halibut, both directed and non-directed.</p>	<p>Pending: To be undertaken in 2017, for presentation to the Commission at its 94th Annual Meeting in 2018 (AM094).</p>
IM092– Req.01 (para. 6)	<p>State of the fishery (2016)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that for all future papers/presentations on the ‘<i>State of the Fishery</i>’ to the Commission, that, in addition to commercial and recreational landings, subsistence landings also be reported, thereby providing a complete picture of recent fishery dynamics.</p>	<p>Completed: See paper IPHC-2017-AM093-04.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
IM092– Req.02 (para. 13)	<p>Stock assessment modelling (2016) & Draft Harvest decision table (2017)</p> <p>The Commission NOTED that the removals subtracted from the TCEY to determine the FCEY differ by Regulatory Area, leading to more complexity when comparing FCEYs among Regulatory Areas. One example of this is the treatment of unguided recreational removals in Alaska, which are not included in the FCEY as they are in Areas 2A and 2B. The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat provide further explanation at the 93rd Session of the Annual Meeting in 2017.</p>	<p>Completed: See paper IPHC-2017-AM093-07 and the 2016 RARA.</p>
IM092– Req.03 (para. 33)	<p>Report of the 9th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB09)</p> <p>NOTING that the fall meeting report (SRB09) is relatively brief and covers refinements arising from the summer meeting report (SRB08), which covers more extensive topics and greater detail, the Commission REQUESTED that both reports (summer and fall from each year) be presented to the Interim Meeting and Annual Meeting annually.</p>	<p>Completed: See paper IPHC-2016-SRB07-R and IPHC-2016-SRB08-R, both of which will be presented under Agenda Item 9.2 at the AM093.</p>
IM092– Req.04 (para. 50)	<p>Draft: IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Science research program</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat undertake reviews/research on the following topics to assist the Commission in better understanding issues which continue to be raised by stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The effect of changing size-at-age on Pacific halibut population dynamics, noting that smaller size at age and an unchanged maturity schedule mean that an individual fish may be exposed to bycatch longer, while also spending more mature time before recruiting to the directed fishery. b) The possibility of different driving mechanisms for the observed change in size at age, with one factor predominating during the increase of the late 20th Century and other driving the decrease since then. 	<p>In progress: To be undertaken in 2017, for presentation to the Commission at its 94th Annual Meeting in 2018 (AM094). Planning commenced.</p>
IM092– Req.05 (para. 65)	<p>Regulatory proposals: Head-on landed weight requirement for the commercial fishery, including removal of the 24" head-off minimum size limit.</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC staff provide additional outreach to the PAG and HANA, prior to the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting, regarding the head-on landed weight proposal and also consider addressing the related ice and slime conversion.</p>	<p>Completed: Presentations made at the HANA annual meeting on 20 November 2016.</p> <p>Outreach via correspondence also undertaken to the PAG.</p> <p>See also paper IPHC-2017-AM093-PropA.</p>
IM092– Req.06 (para. 66)	<p>Regulatory proposals: Removal of the IPHC closed area.</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that additional supporting information be provided for consideration at the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting, including any supporting evidence for the area as a nursery ground and the likely</p>	<p>Completed: See paper IPHC-2017-AM093-PropB.</p>

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	impacts of the directed fishery being allowed access.	
IM092– Req.07 (para. 73)	<p><i>Stakeholder regulatory proposals</i></p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Pending: To be undertaken in 2017, for presentation to the Commission at its 94th Annual Meeting in 2018 (AM094).</p>
IM092– Req.08 (para. 77)	<p><i>Planning for the 2nd IPHC Performance Review</i></p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalize the draft performance review terms of reference and criteria, as well as provide a proposed process and budget to conduct the review, to be considered at the 2017 Annual Meeting (AM093) for implementation during 2017. The plan should include anticipated Commissioner and IPHC Secretariat support, as well as recommendations regarding the use of outside contractors to conduct the review.</p>	<p>Completed: See paper IPHC-2017-AM093-18.</p>