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NEW FORMAT FOR IPHC STAFF HARVEST ADVICE

The IPHC staff harvest advice is being restructured to present more information and more options for consideration by Commissioners as they set the annual catch limits. This change is in response to Commission direction at the 2012 Annual Meeting, reinforced by the 2012 Performance Review and stakeholder feedback. Although this restructured advice format is new to the IPHC, it is becoming common practice in world fishery management. This procedural approach provides a more transparent delineation between scientific results and management/policy decisions, ultimately enabling a better understanding of the risks associated with different fishery harvest options.

In the past, IPHC staff harvest advice centered on point biomass estimates and catch limit recommendations (i.e., single numbers for each). This format does not adequately convey the uncertainties around stock estimates and the risks of various possible outcomes at different catch levels. This year, the IPHC staff harvest advice will be summarized in a table which integrates uncertainty surrounding the stock assessment as it relates outcomes to estimates of risk.

The new format will give the Commissioners a wider range of advice to consider as they set catch limits for 2013. For example, different catch levels (outcomes) can be evaluated and presented in terms of their impact (risk) on the stock and harvest rates. The Commissioners will be able to examine a range of harvest options and the probable impacts on the stock as they deliberate. The table below illustrates the structure of how the staff will be providing advice to the Commission and stakeholders. This table is only an example; the particular metrics (column headings) may be different in the final version.

This year's stock assessment and catch advice will undergo a scientific review by a small work team of fishery experts before being presented to the Commissioners at the Interim Meeting. The Commission intends to make scientific peer review, with stakeholder participation, a regular feature of the annual assessment cycle. During the coming year a more formal structure will be developed for future reviews, following discussion at the Interim and Annual Meetings and with stakeholder input.

Management metrics including uncertainty

		Stock status		Harvest		
		Probability of:				
Potential 2013 CEY		$SB_{2014} < SB_{2013}$	$SB_{2014} < SB_{30\%}$	$EB_{2014} < EB_{2013}$	$CEY_{2014} < CEY_{2013}$	$HR > Target$
Potential Benefit	low	XX%	...			
				
	XX lbs <i>Status quo</i>					
	...					
	high					

Risk

Example of Restructured Harvest Advice Format