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## INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION 5-YEAR PROGRAM OF INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND MONITORING (2022-26): UPDATES

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### PURPOSE

To provide the SRB with an annual opportunity to comment and propose amendments to the [IPHC's 5-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring \(2022-26\)](#) (the Plan). The Plan last update was on 18 December 2023.

### BACKGROUND

Recalling that:

- a) the IPHC Secretariat conducts activities to address key issues identified by the Commission, its subsidiary bodies, the broader stakeholder community, and the IPHC Secretariat;
- b) the process of identifying, developing, and implementing the IPHC's science-based activities involves several steps that are circular and iterative in nature, but result in clear project activities and associated deliverables;
- c) the process includes developing and proposing projects based on direct input from the Commission, the experience of the IPHC Secretariat given its broad understanding of the resource and its associated fisheries, and concurrent consideration by relevant IPHC subsidiary bodies, and where deemed necessary, including by the Commission, additional external peer review;
- d) the IPHC Secretariat commenced implementation of the new Plan in 2022 and will keep the Plan under review on an ongoing basis.

Also recalling that an overarching goal of the IPHC 5-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26) is to promote integration and synergies among the various research and monitoring activities of the IPHC Secretariat in order to improve knowledge of key inputs into the Pacific halibut stock assessment, and Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) processes, thereby providing the best possible advice for management decision making processes.

The 1<sup>st</sup> iteration of the Plan was formally presented to the Commission at IM097 in November 2021 ([IPHC-2021-IM097-12](#)) for general awareness of the documents ongoing development. At the 98<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098) in January 2022, the Commission requested a number of amendments which were subsequently incorporated. At the 99<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM099) in January 2023, the Commission recommended that the Secretariat annually present potential changes to the Plan at the IPHC Interim Meeting. Recommendations from the 99<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM099) were subsequently incorporated ([IPHC-2024-AM100-03](#)). No further requests were received at the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100) in January 2024 ([IPHC-2024-AM100-R](#)).

The Plan had already been through few cycles of review and improvement with the Scientific Review Board (SRB), with amendments being suggested and incorporated accordingly. The current version will move to an annual comment and amendment process at each years' Interim and then Annual Meetings.

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**DISCUSSION**

The SRB should note that:

- a) the intention is to ensure that the new integrated plan is kept as a '*living plan*', and is reviewed and updated annually based on the resources available to undertake the work of the Commission (e.g. internal and external fiscal resources, collaborations, internal expertise);
- b) the plan focuses on core responsibilities of the Commission; and any redirection provided by the Commission;
- c) each year the SRB may choose to recommend modifications to the current Plan, and that any modifications subsequently made would be documented both in the Plan itself, and through reporting back to the SRB and then the Commission.

At the 23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Scientific Review Board (SRB023) in September 2023, the SRB provided the following recommendation to the Commission.

***International Pacific Halibut Commission 5-year program of integrated research and monitoring (2022-26)***

SRB023–Rec.01 ([para. 17](#)) The SRB **AGREED** that AI techniques may improve efficiency of age estimation and **RECOMMENDED** continued research and cross-validation of AI-based aging.

Responding to this recommendation, the Secretariat prepared an update on the progress in using artificial intelligence/AI for ageing. See paper IPHC-2024-SRB024-INF01, AI project update.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the SRB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2024-SRB024-05 which provides the IPHC 5-year program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26) with potential updates.

**APPENDICES**

*Nil*