



Report of the 100th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM100)

Meeting held electronically, 25-26 November 2024

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Paul Ryall	Jon Kurland
Neil Davis	Robert Alverson
Peter De Greef	Richard Yamada

Executive Director

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.

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Participants in the Session
Members of the Commission
IPHC Secretariat

BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY

IPHC 2024. Report of the 100th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM100). Electronic meeting, 25-26 November 2024. *IPHC-2024-IM100-R*, 28 pp.



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Contact details:

International Pacific Halibut Commission
2320 W. Commodore Way, Suite 300
Seattle, WA, 98199-1287, U.S.A.
Phone: +1 206 634 1838
Email: secretariat@iphc.int
Website: <https://www.iphc.int/>

ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AM	Annual Meeting
CB	Conference Board
CV	Coefficient of Variation
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Ocean (Canada)
FISS	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey
HSP	Harvest Strategy Policy
IM	Interim Meeting
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
MSAB	Management Strategy Advisory Board
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (USA)
O32	Over 32 inches (fish)
RAB	Research Advisory Board
RFT	Request for Tender
SB	Spawning Biomass
SRB	Scientific Review Board
TCEY	Total Constant Exploitation Yield
U32	Under 32 inches (fish)
WPUE	Weight Per Unit Effort

DEFINITIONS

A set of working definitions are provided in the IPHC Glossary of Terms and abbreviations: <https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/glossary-of-terms-and-abbreviations>

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

- Level 1:** **RECOMMENDED; RECOMMENDATION; ADOPTED** (formal); **REQUESTED; ENDORSED; ACCEPTED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary (advisory) body of the Commission and/or the IPHC Secretariat.
- Level 2:** **AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be elevated in the Commission's reporting structure.
- Level 3:** **NOTED/NOTING; CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED:** General terms to be used for consistency. Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference. Any other term may be used to highlight to the reader of an IPHC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. Other terms may be used but will be considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 100th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Interim Meeting (IM100) was held electronically from 25-26 November 2024. A total of 6 members (Commissioners) and 16 advisors/experts attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 72 observers. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), who welcomed participants.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the IM100, which are provided at [Appendix V](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation & Harvest Strategy Policy

IM100-Rec.01 ([para. 37](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat continue to develop a way forward that would facilitate the Commission adoption of an HSP in 2025. This should involve presentations at AM101, a post-AM101 workshop involving the Secretariat, Commissioners, and key advisors, followed by a Special Session later in 2025 to adopt an HSP.

REQUESTS

Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025)

IM100-Req.01 ([para. 13](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that additional Canadian membership beyond the two (2) current RAB members would be desirable and encouraged the Canadian delegation to explore recruiting new members from Canada.

Fishery-dependent data overview (2024) - Port Operations

IM100-Req.02 ([para. 17](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat provide for consideration at AM101, information on the IPHC's Directed Commercial Catch Sampling of Pacific halibut throughout the Convention Area, including rationale for selecting ports and desired biological sampling targets necessary for scientific validity as well as any suggestions for increasing efficiency and decreasing costs.

IPHC Fishery regulations: Proposals for the 2024-25 process

IM100-Req.03 ([para. 59](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that interested stakeholders note the deadline for submission of IPHC Fishery Regulation proposals, for consideration at the 101st Session of the Annual Meeting (AM101), of **28 December 2024**. Late proposals will not be considered at AM101, but stakeholders may also submit statements up until the day before the AM101. More information is available via the updated IPHC website: <https://iphc.int/the-commission/fishery-regulations/>.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 100th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Interim Meeting (IM100) was held electronically from 25-26 November 2024. A total of 6 members (Commissioners) and 16 credentialed advisors/experts attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 72 observers. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), who welcomed participants.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

2. The Commission **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#). The documents provided to the IM100 are listed in [Appendix III](#).

3. IPHC PROCESS

3.1 Update on actions arising from the 100th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100), 2024 Special Sessions, and intersessional decisions

3. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-03](#) that provided an opportunity to consider the progress made during the intersessional period in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during the 100th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100, January 2024), 2024 Special Sessions, and intersessional decisions.
4. The Commission **AGREED** to consider and revise as necessary, the actions arising, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from the IM100.

3.2 Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2024): Draft

5. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-04](#) that provided the Commission with a draft update on the activities of the IPHC Secretariat in 2024, not already contained within other papers before the Commission.
6. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Fishery Regulations were modified in January 2024 to change the time of day for the opening of the 2024 Pacific halibut commercial fishing period (Section 9, paragraph 2) from 12:00 noon, that had been in place for several years, to 06:00 hrs local time. This change created a disconnect with the opening of the Alaska sablefish fishery, which under Alaska domestic regulations opens at 12:00 noon. Therefore, vessel operators who deployed Pacific halibut gear before 12:00 noon on the opening day of 15 March could not retain incidentally-caught sablefish. The USA delegation intends to raise this issue with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) in December, 2024 to see whether the NPFMC wants to consider recommending a regulatory change to the sablefish start time. Unless and until such a change is made, and assuming the IPHC retains a 06:00 hrs opening time for Pacific halibut, USA vessels targeting Pacific halibut on the morning of the opening would need to discard any incidentally-caught sablefish.

3.3 2nd IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC02): Implementation of recommendations

7. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-05](#), that provided the Commission with an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPHC02).

3.4 Reports of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (Co-Chairpersons)

8. The Commission **NOTED** the Reports of the 19th and 20th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB019: [IPHC-2024-MSAB019-R](#); MSAB020: [IPHC-2024-MSAB020-R](#)).
9. The Commission **NOTED** that the current terms of ten (10) MSAB members are scheduled to expire before the 21st Session of the MSAB (MSAB021). The Secretariat has not received notice of any of these members declining to serve another term and will therefore be put forward to the Commission for renewal prior to MSAB021.

3.5 Reports of the Scientific Review Board (SRB)

10. The Commission **NOTED** the Reports of the 24th and 25th Sessions of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB024: [IPHC-2024-SRB024-R](#); SRB025: [IPHC-2024-SRB025-R](#)).

3.6 Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025)

11. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025) ([IPHC-2024-RAB025-R](#)) that was held on 19-20 November 2024.
12. The Commission **NOTED** the range of actions by the RAB and **AGREED** to take them into consideration as part of their deliberations at IM100 and AM101 (refer to applicable sections throughout this report for specific actions).
13. The Commission **REQUESTED** that additional Canadian membership beyond the two (2) current RAB members would be desirable and encouraged the Canadian delegation to explore recruiting new members from Canada.

3.7 International Pacific Halibut Commission 5-year program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26)

14. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-06](#), that provided the Commission with an opportunity to comment and amend the IPHC's 5-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26) (the Plan).
15. The Commission **NOTED** that at the request of the SRB (see below), the IPHC Secretariat will be updating the 5YPIRM throughout the course of 2025 with the intention of presenting a draft of the next 5YPIRM (2026-31) to the Commission at IM101 in November 2025.

SRB025–Rec.01 (para. 14) The SRB RECOMMENDED that the IPHC 5-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring be revised by SRB026 to reflect changing priorities in light of major progress on biological research and ongoing monitoring challenges.

SRB025–Rec.02 (para. 15) The SRB RECOMMENDED incorporating evaluation of new technologies into the 5-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring. Initial examples include:

- a) testing samples of AI-generated age compositions in the assessment model as soon as is practicable to determine their potential value for that purpose;*
- b) using AI to support ageing requirements for gene-tagging and/or CKMR methods to estimate abundance. These ages would be required beyond ageing workloads for normal assessment purposes;*
- c) epigenetic ageing (a new project beginning 2025), which could provide more reliable and unbiased ages than AI and perhaps comparable in precision to human-read ages.*

4. FISHERY MONITORING

4.1 Fishery-dependent data overview (2024)

4.1.1 Port Operations

16. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-07](#) that provided the design and implementation of the IPHC fishery-dependent data collection activities in 2024 – Port Operations.
17. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat provide for consideration at AM101, information on the IPHC's Directed Commercial Catch Sampling of Pacific halibut throughout the Convention Area, including rationale for selecting ports and desired biological sampling targets necessary for scientific validity as well as any suggestions for increasing efficiency and decreasing costs.

4.1.2 Fisheries Data

18. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-08 Rev 2](#) that provided a preliminary overview of the 2024 Pacific halibut removals, including the status of mortality reported against fishery limits adopted by the Commission and outlined in the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2024).

4.2 Fishery-independent data overview

4.2.1 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2024

19. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-09](#) that provided an overview of the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2024.

20. The Commission **RECALLED** that the annual IPHC FISS of the Pacific halibut stock consists of a standard grid in all IPHC Regulatory Areas, and totals 1,890 stations (the full FISS design) ([Fig. 1](#)), within the prescribed depth range of 18 to 732 metres (10 to 400 fathoms).

21. The Commission **RECALLED** that through an intersessional decision making process, the Commission endorsed a final 2024 FISS design ([IPHC-2024-CR-008](#); 15 February 2024) ([Fig. 2](#)).

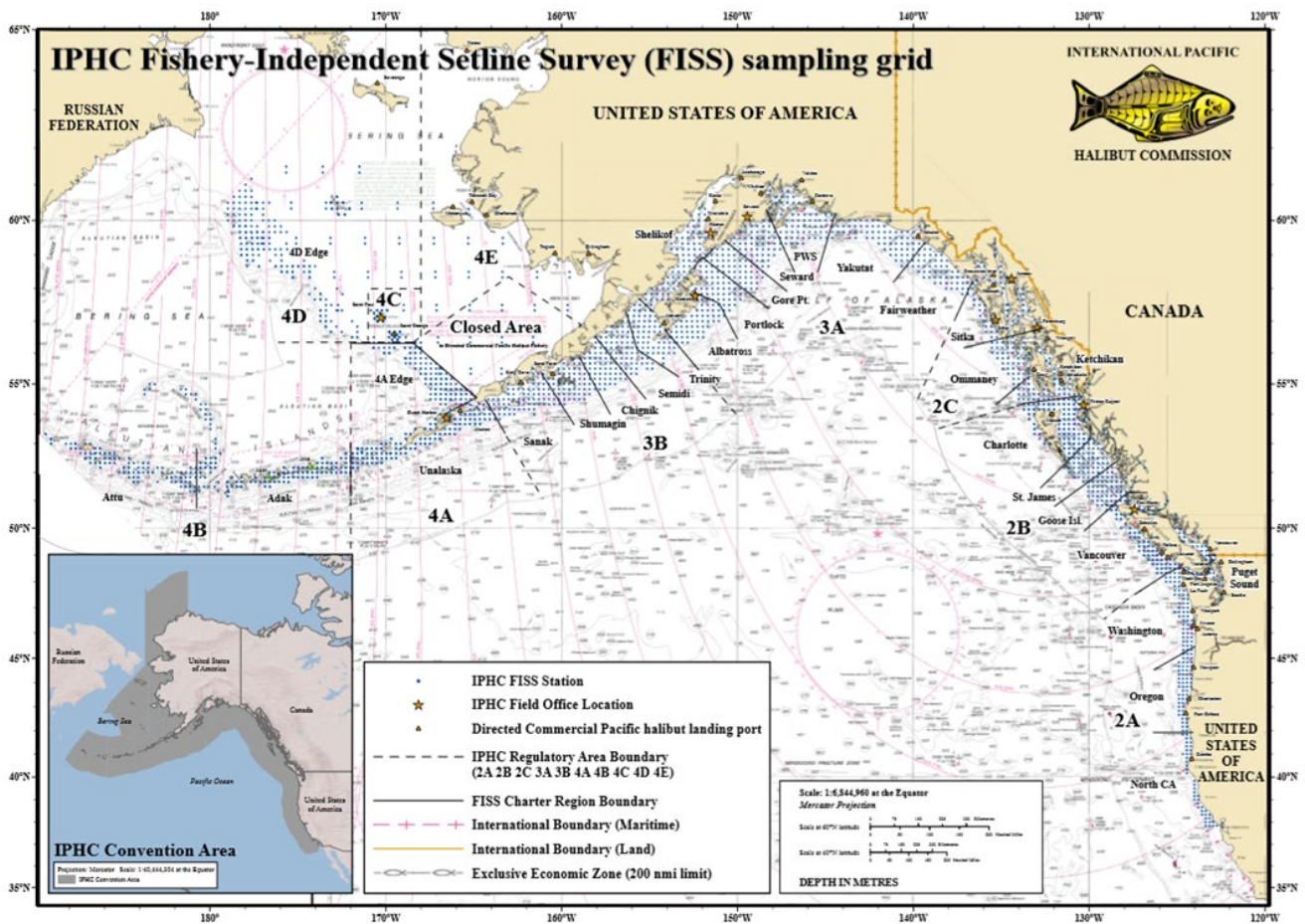


Figure 1. IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) with full sampling grid shown.

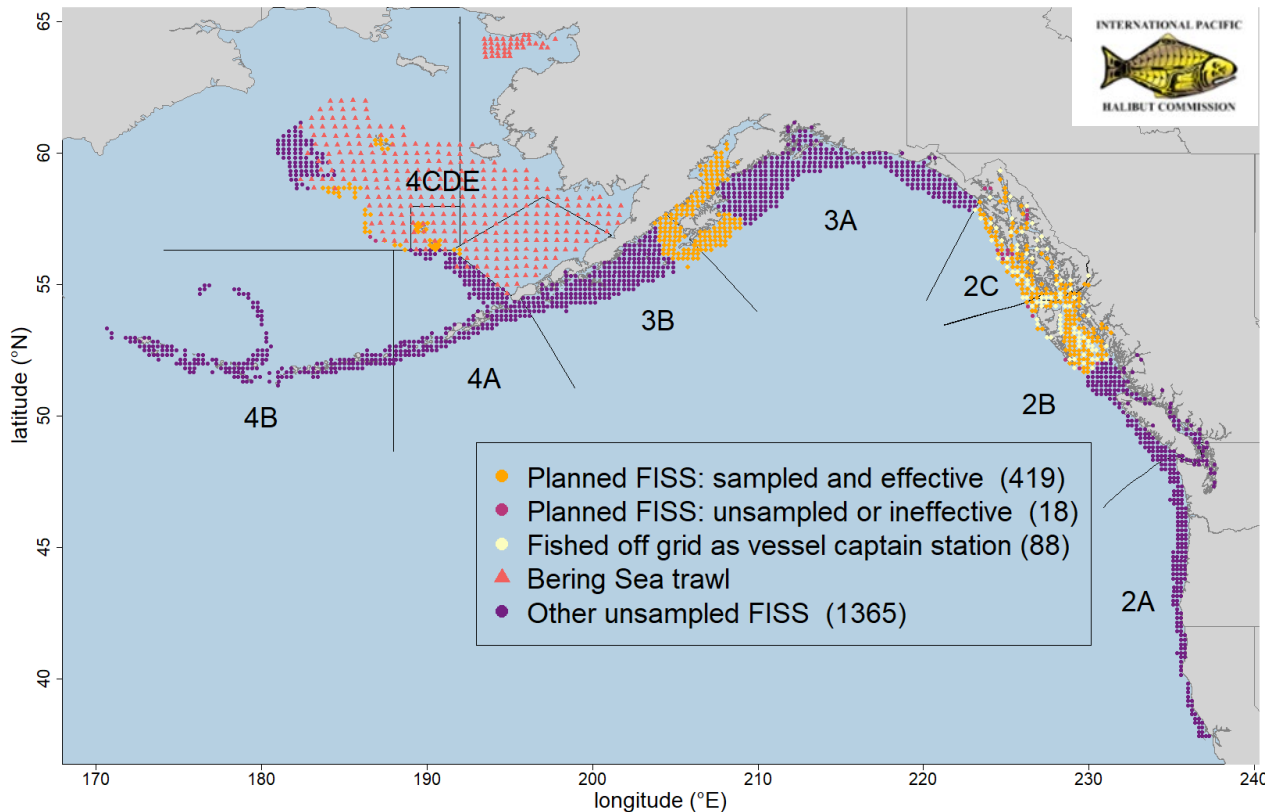


Figure 2. Map of the 2024 FISS design endorsed by the Commission on 15 February 2024 ([IPHC-2024-CR-008](#)). Ineffective and planned unsampled stations are identified with red circles, while purple circles were not to be sampled in 2024.

22. The Commission **NOTED** that the interactive views of the 2024 FISS results (including all prior years) were made publicly available via the IPHC website on 31 October 2024: <https://www.iphc.int/data/fiss-catch-per-unit-effort/>.

5. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2024)

5.1 Space-time modelling of survey data

23. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-10 Rev 1](#) that provided the results of the space time modelling of Pacific halibut survey data for the period 1993-2024.
24. The Commission **NOTED** [Fig. 3](#) that shows the time series estimates of O32 WPUE (most comparable to fishery catch-rates) over the 1993-2024 period included in the 2024 space-time modelling. Overall, there was an estimated decrease of 9% in the coastwide O32 WPUE index from 2023, due largely to a 19% decline in Region 3 ([Fig. 3](#)).
25. The Commission **NOTED** that while 50% of the sets on the 2024 FISS used pink salmon bait (as opposed to standard chum bait) in an effort to reduce costs, the space-time model output showed that estimates of the ratio of pink to chum salmon catch rates was almost always <1 , implying that pink salmon baits had lower catch rates than standard chum salmon baits. The effectiveness of using pink salmon bait generally decreased moving to the west. Cost savings gained through use of pink salmon bait were offset by lower catch rates and the Secretariat has proposed to not continue with its use at this time. The official model output is standardized to chum salmon baits.
26. The Commission **NOTED** that for FISS sampling in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2B and 2C in 2024, vessel captains could choose to switch out a FISS station for one set located off the grid that has a higher-than-expected catch rate, when fishing three or more stations per day. This was in an effort to reduce FISS operational costs and vessel running time. Modelling with and without vessel captain station data showed evidence that their inclusion introduced bias into estimates of O32 WPUE and all sizes WPUE, where both metrics were up to 13% higher when data from Vessel Captain Stations were included. As such, the Secretariat has proposed not to continue with this sampling design. The official model output was produced without data from vessel captain stations to avoid bias.

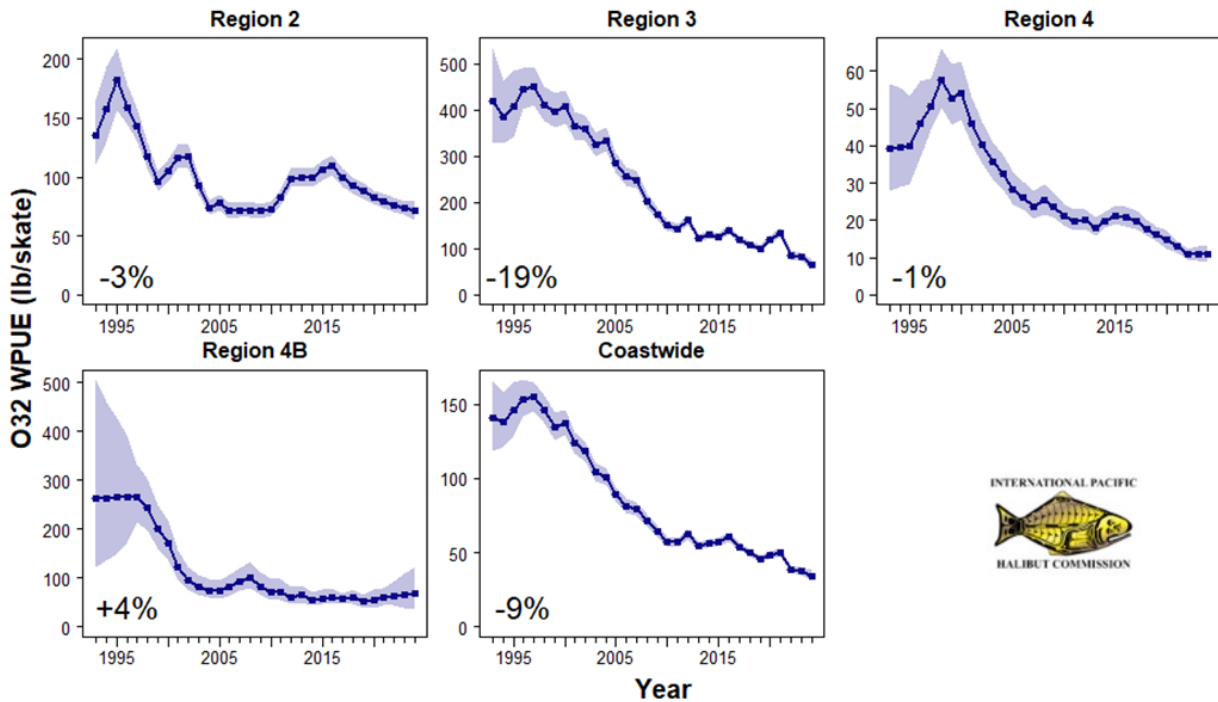


Figure 3. Space-time model output for O32 WPUE for 1993-2024 for Biological Regions. Filled circles denote the posterior means of O32 WPUE for each year. Shaded regions show posterior 95% credible intervals, which provide a measure of uncertainty: the wider the shaded interval, the greater the uncertainty in the estimate. Numeric values in the lower left-hand corners are estimates of the change in mean O32 WPUE from 2023 to 2024.

5.2 Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2024)

27. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-11 Rev_1](#) which provided an opportunity to consider the results of the 2024 IPHC stock assessment for Pacific halibut within the Convention Area, including a summary of data sources used.
28. The Commission **NOTED** that continued shift toward younger fish was observed in 2024 for both the directed commercial fishery (most frequently encountering the 2012 year-class) and FISS (most frequently encountering the 2016-year class).
29. The Commission **NOTED** that the relative spawning biomass is estimated to be at 38% of the unfished level at the beginning of 2025, above the SB30% threshold ([Table 1](#)).
30. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC's interim management procedure specifies a reference level of fishing intensity of F43% (SPR=43%); this equates to the level of fishing that would reduce the lifetime spawning output per recruit to 43% of the unfished level given current biology, fishery characteristics and demographics. The 2024 fishing intensity is estimated to be F47% (credible interval: 28-62%; [Table 1](#)), below both the current and previous (F46%) reference levels and similar to the value estimated for 2023. Comparing the relative spawning biomass and fishing intensity over the recent historical period shows that the relative spawning biomass decreased as fishing intensity increased through 2010, then subsequently increased as fishing intensity was reduced ([Fig. 4](#)).
31. The Commission **NOTED** that the 2024 stock assessment resulted in a 17% lower estimate of spawning biomass for 2024 than last year's assessment, and that this was largely informed by the directed commercial fishery data. This was attributed to both the new fishery information from 2024, but also the downward revision to the commercial catch-rates in 2023 informed by additional logbooks that were not available at the time of the 2023 stock assessment.
32. The Commission **NOTED** that simulation testing of FISS designs with an unobserved bias (flat trend when the true trend was decreasing 15% over 3 years) resulted in a stock assessment with a 3% overestimate of spawning biomass, a 1% underestimate of fishing intensity and a 9% underestimate of the probability of stock decline.

33. The Commission **NOTED** that stock productivity remains low overall due to reduced weight-at-age for older (age 12+) catch and recruitment since 2005 that is much lower than the decades before that time.

Table 1. Status summary of the Pacific halibut stock and fishery in the IPHC Convention Area at beginning of 2025.

Indicators	Values	Trends	Status
<i>BIOLOGICAL</i>			
SPR ₂₀₂₄ : P(SPR<43%): P(SPR<limit):	47% (28-62%) ² 40% LIMIT NOT SPECIFIED	FISHING INTENSITY UNCHANGED FROM 2023 TO 2024	FISHING INTENSITY BELOW REFERENCE LEVEL³
SB ₂₀₂₅ (MLBS): SB ₂₀₂₅ /SB ₀ : P(SB ₂₀₂₅ <SB ₃₀): P(SB ₂₀₂₅ <SB ₂₀):	147 (96–215) Mlbs 38% (18-54%) 30% 13%	SB INCREASED 2% FROM 2024 TO 2025	NOT OVERFISHED⁴
Biological stock distribution:	SEE TABLES AND FIGURES	REGION 3 DECREASED, REGION 2 INCREASED FROM 2023 TO 2024	REGION 3 AT THE LOWEST OBSERVED PROPORTION
<i>FISHERY CONTEXT</i>			
Total mortality 2024: Percent retained 2024: Average mortality 2020-24:	35.63 Mlbs, 16,163 t ¹ 84% 36.25 Mlbs, 16,440 t	MORTALITY INCREASED FROM 2023 TO 2024	2024 MORTALITY NEAR 100-YEAR LOW

¹ Weights in this document are reported as ‘net’ weights, head and guts removed; this is approximately 75% of the round (wet) weight.

² Ranges denote approximate 95% credible intervals from the stock assessment ensemble.

³ Status determined relative to the IPHC’s interim reference Spawning Potential Ratio level of 43%.

⁴ Status determined relative to the IPHC’s interim management procedure biomass limit of SB_{20%}.

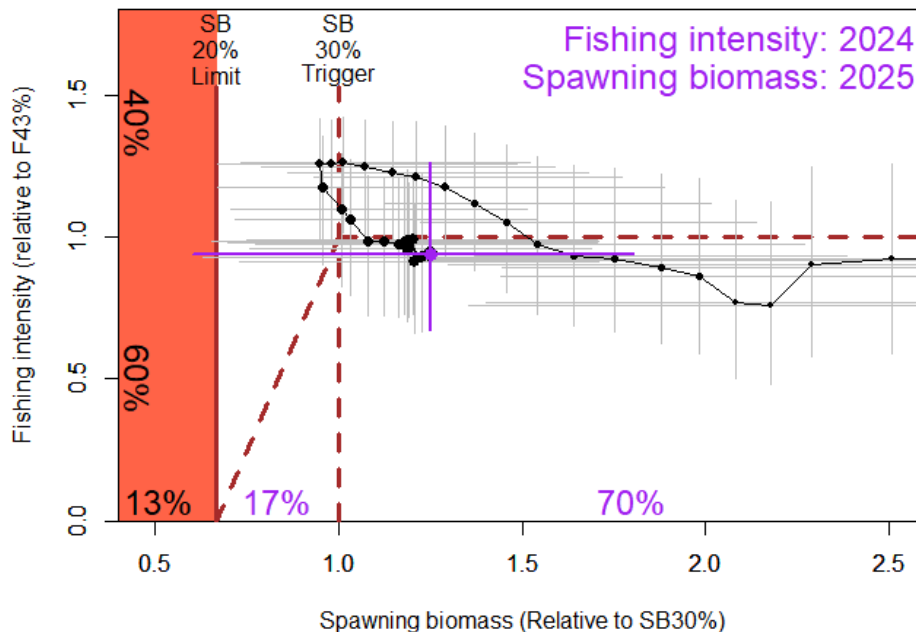


Figure 4. Phase plot showing the estimated time-series (1992-2025) of spawning biomass and fishing intensity relative to the reference points specified in the IPHC’s interim management procedure. Dashed lines indicate the current $F_{43\%}$ (horizontal) reference fishing intensity, with linear reduction below the $SB_{30\%}$ (vertical) trigger, the red area indicates relative spawning biomass levels below the $SB_{20\%}$ limit. Each year of the time series is denoted by a solid point (credible intervals by horizontal and vertical whiskers), with the relative fishing intensity in 2024 and spawning biomass at the beginning of 2025 shown as the largest point (purple). Percentages along the y-axis indicate the probability of being above and below $F_{43\%}$ in 2024; percentages on the x-axis the probabilities of being below $SB_{20\%}$, between $SB_{20\%}$ and $SB_{30\%}$ and above $SB_{30\%}$ at the beginning of 2025.

6. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

6.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation & Harvest Strategy Policy

34. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-12](#), that provides an update of the Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process and the Harvest Strategy Policy (HSP), and that seeks guidance on the MSE Program of Work.
35. The Commission **RECALLED** the current priority objectives, listed in hierarchical order:
- AM099–Rec.02 (para. 76). *The Commission RECOMMENDED that for the purpose of a comprehensive and intelligible Harvest Strategy Policy (HSP), four coastwide objectives should be documented within the HSP, in priority order:*
- Maintain the long-term coastwide female spawning stock biomass above a biomass limit reference point (B20%) at least 95% of the time.*
 - Maintain the long-term coastwide female spawning stock biomass at or above a biomass reference point (B36%) 50% or more of the time.*
 - Optimise average coastwide TCEY.*
 - Limit annual changes in the coastwide TCEY.*
36. The Commission **NOTED** that the first objective ensures sustainability and must be met before other objectives are considered.
37. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat continue to develop a way forward that would facilitate the Commission adoption of an HSP in 2025. This should involve presentations at AM101, a post-AM101 workshop involving the Secretariat, Commissioners, and key advisors, followed by a Special Session later in 2025 to adopt an HSP.
38. The Commission **NOTED** that if the reference Management Procedure (MP) includes a triennial stock assessment frequency (synchronized with the full stock assessment scheduled in 2025 to inform 2026 mortality limits), where the reference TCEY changes proportionally to the change in coastwide O32 FISS WPUE in the non-assessment years, simulation results show an increase to the median coastwide TCEY and a reduced interannual variability in the coastwide TCEY relative to the current interim MP using an annual assessment frequency.

7. HARVEST DECISION TABLE 2025

39. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-13 Rev 1](#) that provided short-term (3 year) stock projections and the harvest decision table for 2025-2027.
40. The Commission **NOTED** the projections that indicate:
- spawning biomass would increase in the absence of any fishing mortality, with risks of stock decline over one and three years both less than 1/100 ([Table 2](#); [Fig. 5](#));
 - the status quo coastwide TCEY (35.28 million pounds), risks of stock decrease over one and three years are 41/100 and 44/100;
 - for all harvest levels that exceed the three-year surplus (37.4 million pounds) risks of stock decline are larger than 50/100, and reaching 87/100 for the coastwide TCEY that is projected to correspond to the F35% MSY proxy harvest level in 2025;
 - alternative harvest levels around the status quo (+/- 5 and 10%) are projected to result in levels of fishing intensity ranging from F50% to F44%, similar to those estimated in recent years;
 - at the reference level of fishing mortality (F43%) the 2025 coastwide TCEY is projected to be 39.8 million pounds (41.7 million pounds of mortality including U26 non-directed discard mortality), and:
 - stock decline over the next three years is projected to be likely (56/100 to 57/100) at this level of fishing intensity;

ii. the probability of a reduction in the coastwide TCEY in order to maintain a fishing intensity no greater than F43% over the next three years is projected to be 49/100.

41. All projections result in a probability of the relative spawning biomass dropping below the SB30% threshold over the next three years of 18-28/100. The probability of dropping below the SB20% limit is estimated to be <1-22%.

42. The Commission **NOTED** that these probabilities of dropping below SB30% and SB20% were greater than those estimated last year, and that this was due to the reduced estimated spawning biomass in the 2024 stock assessment and increased uncertainty about stock status.

43. The Commission **NOTED** the following request from the USA that the following additional harvest decision table alternatives and detailed mortality tables for presentation at AM101:

- a) additional harvest decision table alternatives including a coastwide TCEY equal to the status quo coastwide TCEY (35.28 million pounds) -15% and the status quo -25%;
- b) detailed mortality projection tables for 2025 (by IPHC Regulatory Area and fishery sector) including the status quo coastwide TCEY, the status quo -15% and the status quo -25% each distributed according to the estimated O32 stock distribution from the 2024 FISS.

Table 2. Harvest decision table for 2025-2027 mortality limits. Columns correspond to yield alternatives and rows to risk metrics. Values in the table represent the probability, in “times out of 100” (or percent chance) of a particular risk.

2025 Alternative				Status quo -10%	Status quo -5%	Status quo	F _{48%}	3-Year Surplus	Status quo +10%	Reference F _{43%}	MEY proxy	MSY proxy	
Total mortality (M lb)	0.0	21.8		33.6	35.4	37.1	37.8	39.2	40.7	41.7	46.1	55.1	
TCEY (M lb)	0.0	20.0		31.8	33.5	35.3	35.9	37.4	38.8	39.8	44.3	53.2	
2025 fishing intensity	F _{100%}	F _{63%}		F _{50%}	F _{48%}	F _{46%}	F _{46%}	F _{45%}	F _{44%}	F _{43%}	F _{40%}	F _{35%}	
Fishing intensity interval	-	41-75%		28-65%	27-63%	26-62%	25-61%	24-60%	23-59%	23-59%	21-56%	17-51%	
Stock Trend (spawning biomass)	in 2026	is less than 2025	<1	4	30	36	41	43	48	53	56	69	87
		is 5% less than 2025	<1	<1	5	7	10	11	14	16	18	28	49
	in 2027	is less than 2025	<1	7	34	39	44	46	50	54	57	68	86
		is 5% less than 2025	<1	2	17	21	25	26	30	33	36	47	69
	in 2028	is less than 2025	<1	7	33	38	44	45	50	54	57	69	86
		is 5% less than 2025	<1	3	21	25	29	31	35	39	42	54	76
Stock Status (Spawning biomass)	in 2026	is less than 30%	26	27	27	28	28	28	28	28	28	28	29
		is less than 20%	2	6	10	11	12	12	13	14	14	16	19
	in 2027	is less than 30%	25	25	26	26	26	26	26	27	27	27	28
		is less than 20%	<1	2	8	9	10	10	11	12	13	16	21
	in 2028	is less than 30%	18	25	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	27	28
		is less than 20%	<1	1	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	16	22
Fishery Trend (TCEY)	in 2026	is less than 2025	0	7	31	34	38	40	43	47	49	60	81
		is 10% less than 2025	0	7	31	34	38	39	43	47	49	60	80
	in 2027	is less than 2025	0	6	30	33	37	39	42	46	49	61	82
		is 10% less than 2025	0	6	30	33	37	38	42	46	48	60	81
	in 2028	is less than 2025	0	6	29	33	37	38	42	46	49	61	82
		is 10% less than 2025	0	5	29	33	37	38	42	46	49	61	82
Fishery Status (Fishing intensity)	in 2025	is above F _{43%}	0	8	32	36	40	41	44	48	50	60	79

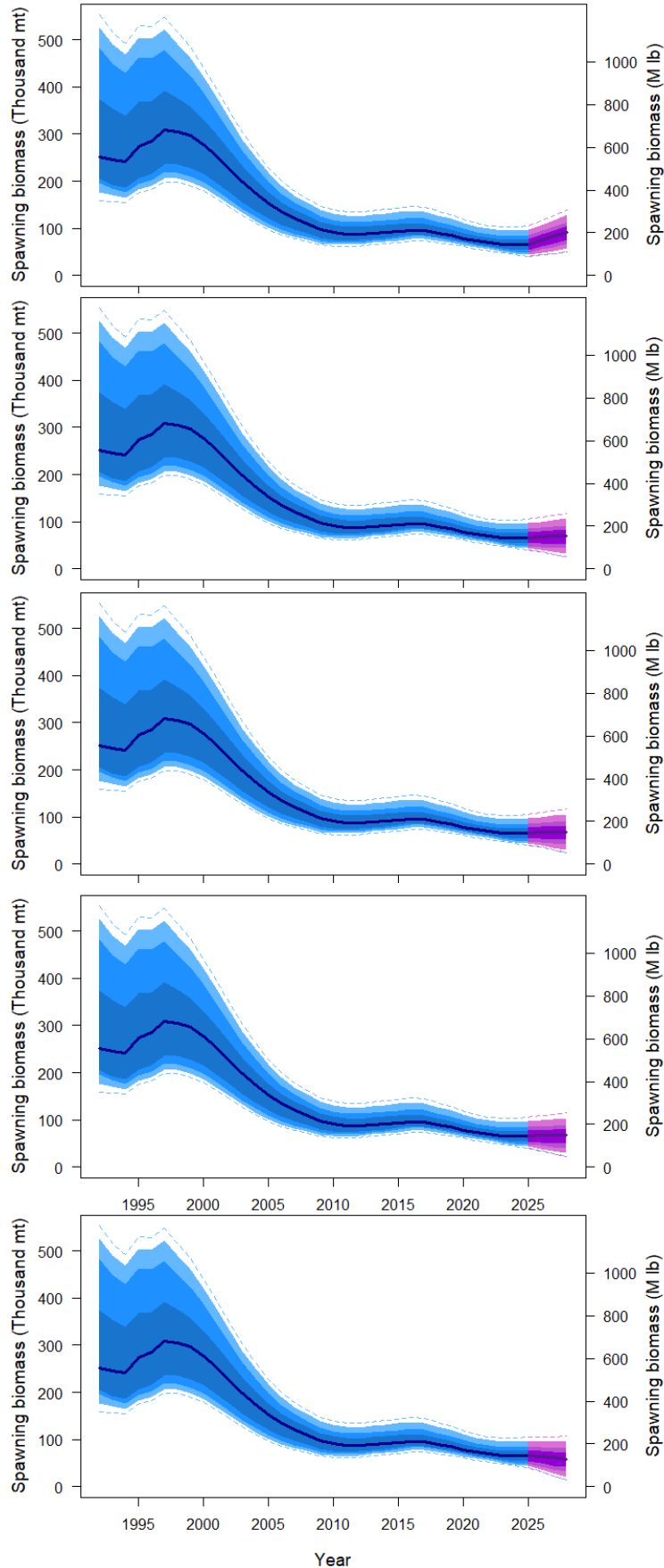


Fig. 5. Three-year projections of stock trend under alternative levels of mortality: no fishing mortality (upper panel), the *status quo* coastwide TCEY set in 2024 (35.28 million pounds; second panel), the 3-year surplus (37.4 million pounds; third panel), and the TCEY projected for the $F_{43\%}$ reference level of fishing intensity (39.8 million pounds, fourth panel) and the TCEY projected for the $F_{35\%}$ MSY proxy level of fishing intensity (53.2 million pounds, bottom panel).

8. FISS DESIGN EVALUATIONS 2025-2029

8.1 2025-29 FISS design evaluation

44. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-14](#) that presented design options for the IPHC's Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) for the 2025-29 period, as requested by the Commission, and an evaluation of those designs based on the Commission's stated objectives for the FISS.
45. The Commission **RECALLED** that the priority of an optimised FISS sampling design is to maintain or enhance data quality (precision and bias) by establishing minimum sampling requirements in terms of station count, station distribution and skates per station. Potential considerations that could add to or modify the design are logistics and cost (secondary design layer), and FISS removals (impact on the stock), data collection assistance for specific Contracting Party agencies, and IPHC policies (tertiary design layer). These priorities are the stated objectives of the Commission, for implementation by the Secretariat and are outlined in [Table 3](#).

Table 3. Commission directives - Prioritization of FISS objectives and corresponding design layers.

Priority	Objective	Design Layer
Primary	Sample Pacific halibut for stock assessment and stock distribution estimation.	Minimum sampling requirements in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Station distribution; • Station count; • Skates per station.
Secondary	Long-term revenue neutrality.	Logistics and cost: operational feasibility and cost/revenue neutrality.
Tertiary	Minimize removals, and assist others where feasible on a cost-recovery basis.	Removals: minimize impact on the stock while meeting primary priority; Assist: assist others to collect data on a cost-recovery basis; IPHC policies: ad-hoc decisions of the Commission regarding the FISS design.

46. The Commission **NOTED** that the FISS sampling provides key information for stock assessment and management, including:
- Coastwide and Biological Region specific trends in numbers and biomass;
 - Demographic data, including length, age, sex and individual weights;
 - Distributional estimates by Biological Region and IPHC Regulatory Area.
47. The Commission **NOTED** the importance of broad spatial coverage across Biological Regions, IPHC Regulatory Areas, and key habitats within Regulatory Areas in order to ensure that fishery-independent information from the FISS leads to estimates with minimal bias.
48. The Commission **RECALLED** that following the 14th Special Session of the Commission (SS014; [IPHC-2024-SS014-R](#)), the Commission adopted a 2025 FISS design via an intersessional decision-making process ([IPHC-2024-CR-030](#) and [IPHC-2024-CR-031](#)) as provided at [Appendix IV](#), that balances the Commission's primary and secondary objectives for the FISS.
- IPHC-2024-ID009: *The Commission RECOMMENDED the 2025 FISS design as shown in Figure 1 (of IPHC-Circular 2024-30, Appendix I), involving sampling 517 stations in four (4) biological regions, seven (7) IPHC Regulatory Areas, and ten (10) charter regions.*
- IPHC-2024-ID010: *The Commission APPROVED the transfer of US\$1,000,000 from IPHC Fund 50 – Reserve, to IPHC Fund 40 – FISS for use in FY2025.*
49. The Commission **RECALLED** that supplementary funding is needed to sustain the FISS, at least in the near-term, and **AGREED** to continue to explore options for funding, e.g. from Contracting Parties and/or external partners.

2025 FISS bid specifications and tenders

50. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat will be soliciting tenders for the 2025 FISS in December 2024 (with tenders due on 3 February 2025), and that tender specifications would incorporate standard wording for amendments that the Commission may make at any time prior to the FISS season commencing. The Secretariat will welcome bids from both fixed-gear and snap-gear vessels. The tender process follows standard U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) guidelines and is available on the IPHC website for transparency and accountability purposes.

9. BIOLOGICAL & ECOSYSTEM SCIENCES – PROJECT UPDATES**9.1 Report on Current and Future Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Activities**

51. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-15](#) that provided a description of the biological and ecosystem science research projects conducted and planned by the IPHC Secretariat and contemplated within the Five-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26).
52. The Commission **NOTED** the primary biological research activities at IPHC that follow Commission objectives are identified and described in the IPHC's 5-Year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26). These activities are summarized in five broad research areas designed to provide inputs into stock assessment (SA) and the management strategy evaluation (MSE) processes, as follows:
- Migration and Population Dynamics.** Studies are aimed at improving current knowledge of Pacific halibut migration and population dynamics throughout all life stages in order to achieve a complete understanding of stock structure and distribution across the entire distribution range of Pacific halibut in the North Pacific Ocean and the biotic and abiotic factors that influence it.
 - Reproduction.** Studies are aimed at providing information on the sex ratio of the commercial catch and to improve current estimates of maturity and fecundity.
 - Growth.** Studies are aimed at describing the role of factors responsible for the observed changes in size-at-age and at evaluating growth and physiological condition in Pacific halibut.
 - Mortality and Survival Assessment.** Studies are aimed at providing updated estimates of discard mortality rates in the guided recreational fisheries and at evaluating methods for reducing mortality of Pacific halibut.
 - Fishing Technology.** Studies are aimed at developing methods that involve modifications of fishing gear with the purpose of reducing Pacific halibut mortality due to depredation and bycatch.
53. The Commission **NOTED** the progress that the IPHC Secretariat has made in the five key research areas contemplated in the IPHC 5-Year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26).
54. The Commission **NOTED** the efforts of the Secretariat to continue to engage in collaborative research projects with agencies and academic institutions often within the framework of externally funded grants.
55. The Commission **NOTED** that recent results derived from investigations for genetic stock structure showing a single Pacific halibut population are consistent with the current practice of modelling Pacific halibut as a single coastwide stock.
56. The Commission **NOTED** that recent results derived from investigations on histologically-derived female maturity schedules represent relevant inputs for stock assessment.
57. The Commission **NOTED** that the Secretariat proposed to use the revised female maturity schedule in the full stock assessment in 2025 and that estimates of maturity at length and maturity at weight be generated.

10. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2024-25 PROCESS

58. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-16](#), that provided the Commission with an indication of the IPHC Fishery Regulation proposals, which the IPHC Secretariat, Contracting Parties, and other stakeholders have submitted or indicated they anticipate submitting, for consideration by the Commission in the 2024-25 regulatory process.

59. The Commission **REQUESTED** that interested stakeholders note the deadline for submission of IPHC Fishery Regulation proposals, for consideration at the 101st Session of the Annual Meeting (AM101), of **28 December 2024**. Late proposals will not be considered at AM101, but stakeholders may also submit statements up until the day before the AM101. More information is available via the updated IPHC website: <https://iphc.int/the-commission/fishery-regulations/>.
60. The Commission **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat and the relevant Contracting Party agencies intend to coordinate a joint review of regulatory proposals, with the aim of identifying and resolving issues and clarifying draft regulatory language in advance of AM01, as this proved to be effective approach last year.

10.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals

10.1.1 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)

61. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-PropA1](#), that provides the Commission with an opportunity to recall the format of the IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5), to be populated at AM101.

10.1.2 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9)

62. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-PropA2](#), that provides the Commission with an opportunity to recall the format of the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9), to be filled at AM101.

10.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals

10.2.1 IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut – IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29) - Charter Management Measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A

63. The Commission **NOTED** an indication of expected paper IPHC-2024-IM100-PropB1, that would propose charter management measures reflective of fishery limits for the recreational fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A. This proposal was deferred until AM101.

10.3 Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals

64. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-PropC1](#), that proposes a year-round commercial halibut fishery in Canadian waters, IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. This proposal would allow the retention and sale of Pacific halibut year-round in Canadian waters.

10.4 Stakeholder statements

65. The Commission **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2024-IM100-INF01](#) that provided statements on IPHC fishery Regulations or published regulatory proposals from stakeholders.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Preparation for 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101) and associated subsidiary bodies

66. The Commission **RECALLED** that the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101) will be held in-person from 27-31 January 2025, at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver, BC, Canada.
67. The Commission **NOTED** that information concerning the meeting, including electronic versions of documents to be considered, will be published on the meeting webpages as they become available, but no later than 30 days prior to the commencement of each meeting (28 December 2024), in accordance with Rule 8.4 of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2024), as follows:
- [101st Session of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee \(FAC101\)](#)
 - [101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting \(AM101\)](#)

- [95th Session of the IPHC Conference Board \(CB095\)](#)
- [30th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board \(PAB030\)](#)

68. The Commission **NOTED** the request from the IPHC Secretariat for all those who wish to attend the AM101 and associated subsidiary bodies, to register for each meeting, including the IPHC Reception scheduled for Monday evening, 27 January 2025. Registering early assists the Secretariat in making the necessary administrative arrangements, including cost-effective catering for the reception.

12. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 100TH SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM100)

69. The report of the 100th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting ([IPHC-2024-IM100-R](#)) was **ADOPTED** on 26 November 2024, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from IM100, provided at [Appendix V](#).

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 100TH SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM100)

Commission Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)	Mr Jon Kurland (United States of America)

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Mr Paul Ryall	Mr Jon Kurland
Mr Neil Davis	Mr Robert Alverson
Mr Peter DeGreef	Mr Richard Yamada

Advisors/experts (Credentialed)

Ms Maureen Finn – Technical Advisor	Ms Rachel Baker – Policy Advisor
Ms Ann-Marie Huang – Science Advisor	Ms Heather Fitch – Technical Advisor
Ms Gwyn Mason – Technical Advisor	Dr Peter Hulson – Scientific Advisor
Ms Danielle Scriven – Technical Advisor	Mr Kurt Iverson – Technical Advisor
Mr Matt Sweeting-Woods – Policy Advisor	Mr Joshua Lindsay – Policy Advisor
Mr Mark Waddell – Policy Advisor	Mr Frank Lockhart – Technical/Policy Advisor
	Ms Melissa Mandrup – Technical Advisor
	Mr Patrick Moran – Policy Advisor
	Mr Demian Schane – Legal Advisor
	Mr Dimitri Varmazis – Financial Advisor

Observers

Participant	Organisation	Email
Mr Kevin Abena	Big Blue Fisheries	abenakevin@gmail.com
Mr Matthew Alward	N/A	matt@bulletproofnets.com
Mr Jim Balsiger	McCarty and Associates	jim.balsiger@gmail.com
Mr Scott Bass	Point No Point Treaty Council	sbass@pnptc.org
Ms Linda Behnken	Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association	alfafishak@gmail.com
Mr Jim Benton	Fisherman	jcsbenton@aol.com
Mr Forrest Braden	Southeast Alaska Guides Organization	forrest@seagoalaska.org
Mr Stephen Brennan	N/A	obranain@gmail.com
Mr Aaron Brooks	Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe	abrooks@jamestowntribe.org
Mr Ezekiel Brown	Cordova District Fishermen United	alaskanbaja@gmail.com
Ms Melanie Bukovec	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	melanie.a.bukovec@odfw.oregon.gov
Mr Marc Carrel	Cordova District Fishermen United	marc.carrel@gmail.com
Mr Bill Cook	Salmon, Halibut	yukonmac@sbcglobal.net
Ms Lisa Crawford	IPHC Field Staff	lisa.crawford@iphc.int
Mr Richard Curran	F/V Cherokee	seaward99835@yahoo.com
Ms Rhea Ehresmann	Alaska Department of Fish & Game	rhea.ehresmann@alaska.gov
Mr Garrett Elwood	F/V Western Freedom LLC	fvwesternfreedom@gmail.com
Mr Gregory Elwood	F/V Western Freedom LLC	Elgreg2002@yahoo.com

Ms Deirdre Finn	Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO)	deirdre.finn@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Ms Emma Fisher	Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO)	emma.fisher@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Ms Emily Fitting	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission	efitting@nwifc.org
Mr Michael Fowler	Sport Fishing Advisory Board - North Coast	midon@protonmail.ch
Mr Tom Gemmel	Halibut Coalition	tom.gemmell@gmail.com
Mr Chris German	US Coast Guard	chris.l.german@uscg.mil
Mr Angus Grout	Arbegar Fishing Co.	rommel@telus.net
Ms Jennifer Hagen	Quileute Tribe	jennifer.hagen@quileutenation.org
Ms Heather Hall	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife	heather.hall@dfw.wa.gov
Ms Kathy Hansen	SE AK Fishermen's Alliance (SEAFSA)	Klh60@icloud.com
Mr Christian Heath	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	christian.t.heath@odfw.oregon.gov
Mr Brian Hoffman	Hoh Tribe	brian.hoffman@hohtribe-nsn.org
Mr Lane Jackson	Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe	lane.jackson@elwha.org
Ms Haley Janttie	Eagle Charters	eaglecharters123@gmail.com
Mr William Jasper	Makah Fisheries Management	william.jasper@makah.com
Mr James Johnson	Deep Sea Fishermen's Union	jj.deepseafishermensunion@gmail.com
Mr Steve Joner	Makah Fisheries Management	gofish@olypen.com
Mr Phil Joy	Alaska Department of Fish & Game	philip.joy@alaska.gov
Mr John Juliussen	N/A	jcjuliussen@hotmail.com
Mr Greg Kain	Kain's Fishing	info@kainsfishing.com
Mr Pete Kairis	Swinomish Indian Tribal Community	pkairis@swinomish.nsn.us
Mr Jim Lane	Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council	jim.lane@nuuchahnulth.org
Mr Buck Laukitis	Magic Fish Co	Buck.magicfish@gmail.com
Ms Maddie Lightsey	Alaska Boats & Permits, Inc.	maddie@alaskaboat.com
Ms Michelle Lorenzo	Department of State	lorenzom@state.gov
Mr Stan Malcom	Magic Man Charters	stanmalcom@gmail.com
Ms Mary Marking	Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers	Ma5marking@gmail.com
Mr Tom Marking	Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers	tmmarking@sbcglobal.net
Ms Lynn Mattes	Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife	lynn.mattes@odfw.oregon.gov
Mr Scott Mazzone	Quinault Indian Nation	smazzone@quinault.org
Ms Jessica Moffatt	Island Marine Aquatic Working Group	jessicaannemoffatt@gmail.com
Mr Tommy Moore	Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission	tsmoore77@gmail.com
Mr Mark Nelson	Lummi Nation	markn@lummi-nsn.gov
Ms Carly Nienaber	IPHC Field Staff	Carly.nienaber@iphc.int
Ms Corey Niles	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife	corey.niles@dfw.wa.gov

Mr Carl Nordmann	S.M. Products (B.C.) Ltd	carl@halibut.ca
Ms Megan O'Neil	Canfisco	meganoneil@npsi.us
Mr Norman Pillen	Seafood Producers Cooperative	Npillen@spcsales.com
Mr Jacob Resneck	Undercurrent News	jacob.resneck@undercurrentnews.com
Ms Rachel Rickaby	Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO)	Rachel.Rickaby@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Mr Brian Ritchie	North Country Charters	brianandrewritchie@gmail.com
Ms Whitney Roberts	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife	Whitney.Roberts@dfw.wa.gov
Mr Kevin Romanin	Government of British Columbia	kevin.romanin@gov.bc.ca
Ms Evelyn Roozee	McGill University	evelyn.roozee@mail.mcgill.ca
Ms Janet Rumble	Alaska Department of Fish & Game	janet.rumble@alaska.gov
Ms Christa Rusel	A-Tlegay Fisheries Society	christarusel@shawcable.com
Ms Emma Sands	Quileute Natural Resource	me.biologist@quileutetribe.com
Mr Roberto Silva	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	roberto.silva@wildlife.ca.gov
Ms Rebecca Skinner	Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association	alaskawhitefish@gmail.com
Mr Chris Sporer	Pacific Halibut Management Association of British Columbia	chris.sporer@phma.ca
Mr Adam St. Saviour	Alaska Department of Fish & Game	adam.stsaviour@alaska.gov
Ms Mary Thiess	Department of Fisheries & Oceans	mary.thiess@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Ms Sarah Webster	Alaska Seafood Cooperative	swebster@seanet.com
Mr Chris Woodley	Groundfish Forum	chrisw@seanet.com

IPHC Secretariat

Participant	Title	Email
Dr David Wilson	Executive Director	david.wilson@iphc.int
Dr Barbara Hutniczak	Fisheries Regulations & Data Services Branch Manager	barbara.hutniczak@iphc.int
Dr Josep Planas	Biological & Ecosystem Sciences Branch Manager	josep.planas@iphc.int
Ms Monica Thom	Port Operations Coordinator; A/g Branch Manager – Fisheries Monitoring Branch	monica.thom@iphc.int
Dr Allan Hicks	Quantitative Scientist (MSE)	allan.hicks@iphc.int
Dr Ian Stewart	Quantitative Scientist (Stock Assessment)	ian.stewart@iphc.int
Dr Raymond Webster	Quantitative Scientist (Biometrician)	ray.webster@iphc.int
Ms Kelly Chapman	Administrative Coordinator	kelly.chapman@iphc.int
Mr Kevin Coll	Setline Survey Specialist	kevin.coll@iphc.int
Mr Mohammad Arian	Administrative Specialist (Accounting)	mohammad.arian@iphc.int
Ms Tara Coluccio	Administrative Specialist/Publications (Snr)	tara.coluccio@iphc.int

Mr Claude Dykstra	Research Biologist (Mortality & Survival)	claude.dykstra@iphc.int
Mr Tyler Jack	Setline Survey Specialist (Snr); Acting Setline Survey Coordinator	tyler.jack@iphc.int
Mr Andrew Jasonowicz	Research Biologist (Genetics)	andy.jasonowicz@iphc.int
Mr. Tom Kong	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ-GIS)	tom.kong@iphc.int
Ms Kelsey Magrane	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ)/Otolith Technician	kelsey.magrane@iphc.int
Ms Rachel Rillera	Setline Survey Specialist	rached.rillera@iphc.int
Ms Crystal Simchick	Biological Science Laboratory Technician	crystal.simchick@iphc.int
Ms Kimberly Sawyer Van Vleck	Fisheries Data Specialist (HQ)/Otolith Technician	kimberly.sawyer.vanvleck@iphc.int
Mr Afshin Taheri	Information Technology Specialist (Application Developer)	afshin.taheri@iphc.int
Ms Huyen Tran	Fisheries Data Coordinator	huyen.tran@iphc.int
Mr Kenneth Wickham	Administrative Specialist	kenneth.wickham@iphc.int
Ms Ola Wietecha	Administrative Specialist	ola.wietecha@iphc.int

APPENDIX II**AGENDA FOR THE 100TH SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM100)****Date:** 25-26 November 2024**Location:** Electronic**Venue:** Adobe Connect**Time:** 09:00-17:00 (PST) daily**Chairperson:** Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)**Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Jon Kurland (USA)

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
- 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson & Executive Director)
- 3. IPHC PROCESS** (D. Wilson)
 - 3.1 Update on actions arising from the 100th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100), 2024 Special Sessions, and intersessional decisions (D. Wilson)
 - 3.2 Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2024): Draft (D. Wilson & B. Hutniczak)
 - 3.3 2nd IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC02): Implementation of recommendations (D. Wilson)
 - 3.4 Report of the 19th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB019) (Co-Chairpersons)
 - 3.5 Reports of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB Chairperson)
 - 3.6 Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025) (D. Wilson, J. Planas)
 - 3.7 International Pacific Halibut Commission 5-year program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26): Updates (D. Wilson, J. Planas, I. Stewart, A. Hicks, B. Hutniczak, & R. Webster)
- 4. FISHERY MONITORING**
 - 4.1 Fishery-dependent data overview (2024)
 - 4.1.1 Port Operations (M. Thom)
 - 4.1.2 Fisheries data (B. Hutniczak)
 - 4.2 Fishery-independent data overview (2024)
 - 4.2.1 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2024 (T. Jack)
- 5. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2024)**
 - 5.1 Space-time modelling of survey data (R. Webster)
 - 5.2 Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2024)
- 6. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION**
 - 6.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation & Harvest Strategy Policy (A. Hicks)
- 7. HARVEST DECISION TABLE 2025**
 - 7.1 Stock projections and harvest decision table 2025-2027 (I. Stewart & A. Hicks)
- 8. FISS DESIGN EVALUATIONS 2025-2029**
 - 8.1 2025-29 FISS design evaluation (R. Webster)

9. BIOLOGICAL AND ECOSYSTEM SCIENCES – PROJECT UPDATES

9.1 Report on Current and Future Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Activities (J. Planas)

10. IPHC FISHERY REGULATIONS: PROPOSALS FOR THE 2024-25 PROCESS

10.1 IPHC Secretariat fishery regulation proposals (B. Hutniczak)

10.2 Contracting Party fishery regulation proposals (Contracting Parties)

10.3 Stakeholder fishery regulation proposals (Stakeholders)

10.4 Stakeholder statements (B. Hutniczak)

11. OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Preparation for the 101st Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM101) and associated subsidiary bodies (D. Wilson)

12. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 100th SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM100) (Chairperson & Executive Director)

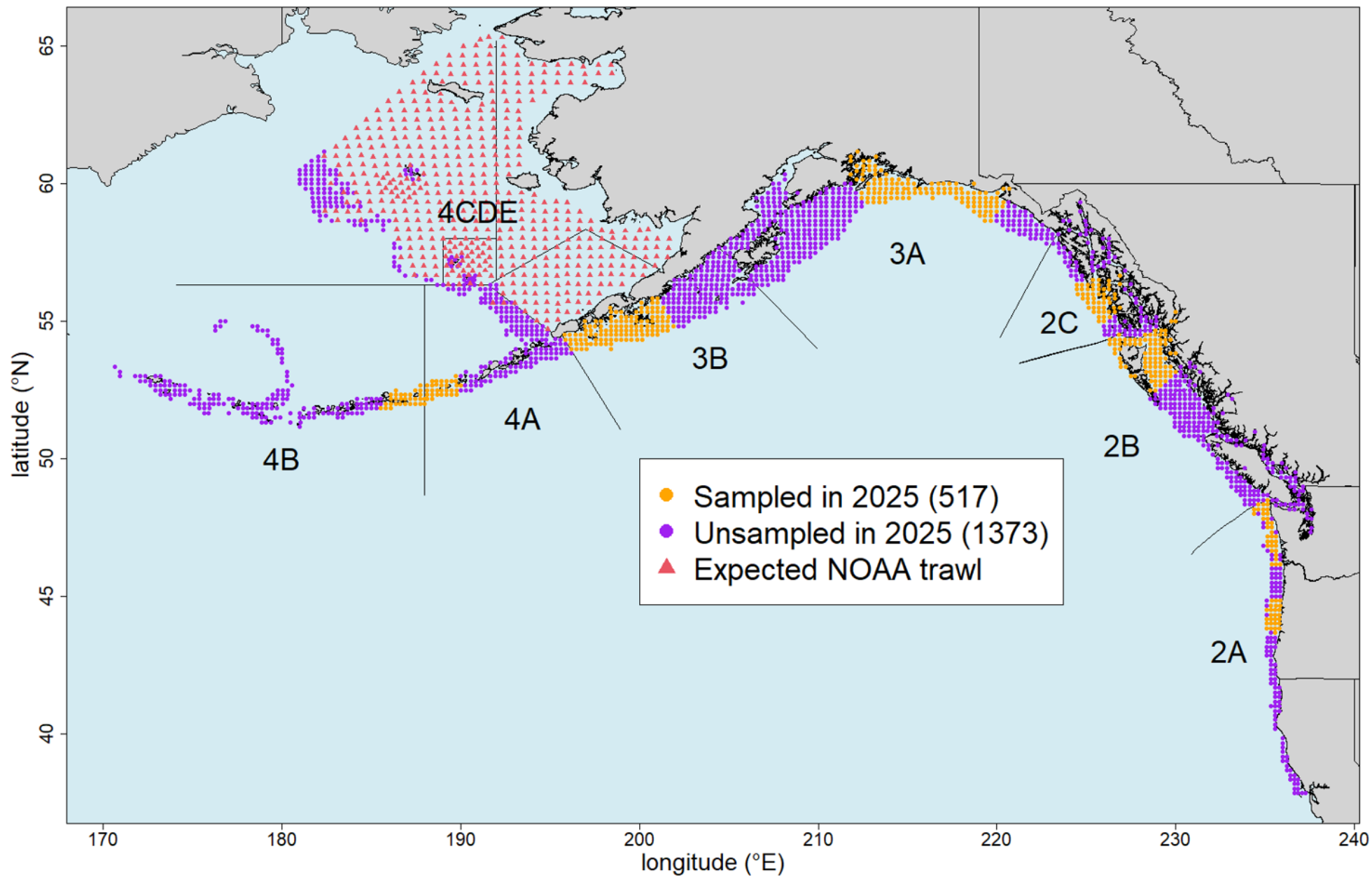
APPENDIX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 100TH SESSION OF THE IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM100)

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2024-IM100-01	Agenda & Schedule for the 100 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM100)	✓ 6 May 2024 ✓ 02 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-02	List of Documents for the 100 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM100)	✓ 6 May 2024 ✓ 22 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-03	Update on actions arising from the 100 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM100), 2024 Special Sessions, and intersessional decisions (D. Wilson)	✓ 15 Sept 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-04	Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2024): Draft (D. Wilson & B. Hutniczak)	✓ 16 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-05	Implementation of the Recommendations from the 2 nd IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC02) (D. Wilson)	✓ 11 Sept 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-06	International Pacific Halibut Commission 5-Year program of integrated research and monitoring (2023-26): Updates (D. Wilson, J. Planas, I. Stewart, A. Hicks, B. Hutniczak, & R. Webster)	✓ 16 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-07	Port operations (2024) (M. Thom)	✓ 16 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-08 Rev_2	Fisheries data overview (2024): Preliminary statistics (B. Hutniczak, H. Tran, T. Kong, K. Sawyer van Vleck, & K. Magrane)	✓ 18 Oct 2024 ✓ 8 Nov 2024 ✓ 15 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-09	IPHC Fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2024 (K. Ualesi, R. Rillera, T. Jack, & K. Coll)	✓ 21 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-10 Rev_1	Space-time modelling of survey data (R. Webster)	✓ 25 Oct 2024 ✓ 9 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-11 Rev_1	Data overview and stock assessment for Pacific halibut (<i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i>) at the end of 2024 (I. Stewart, A. Hicks, R. Webster, D. Wilson)	✓ 15 Oct 2024 ✓ 22 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-12	IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation & Harvest Strategy Policy (A. Hicks, I. Stewart, & D. Wilson)	✓ 18 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-13 Rev_1	Stock projections and harvest decision table for 2025-2027 (I. Stewart & A. Hicks)	✓ 15 Oct 2024 ✓ 22 Nov 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-14	2025, and 2026-29 FISS Design evaluation (R. Webster, I. Stewart, K. Ualesi, T. Jack, & D. Wilson)	✓ 25 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-15	Report on Current and Future Biological and Ecosystem Science Research Activities (J. Planas)	✓ 17 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-16	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Proposals for the 2024-25 process (B. Hutniczak)	✓ 16 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-17	IPHC Interim: Harvest Strategy Policy (2024) (A. Hicks, I. Stewart, D. Wilson)	✓ 18 Oct 2024

<i>IPHC Fishery Regulation proposals for 2025</i>		
<i>IPHC Secretariat Fishery Regulation proposals for 2025</i>		
IPHC-2024-IM100-PropA1	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)	✓ 16 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-IM100-PropA2	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9)	✓ 16 Oct 2024
<i>Contracting Party Fishery Regulation proposals for 2025</i>		
IPHC-2024-IM100-PropB1	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut – IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29) - Charter Management Measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A (USA)	Deferred until AM101
<i>Other Stakeholder Fishery Regulation proposals for 2025</i>		
IPHC-2024-IM100-PropC1	IPHC Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9) – year-round commercial Pacific halibut fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (R. Hauknes)	✓ 26 Sept 2024
<i>Reports from IPHC subsidiary bodies</i>		
IPHC-2024-MSAB019-R	Report of the 19 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB019)	✓ 3 May 2024
IPHC-2024-SRB024-R	Report of the 24 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB024)	✓ 20 Jun 2024
IPHC-2024-SRB025-R	Report of the 25 th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB025)	✓ 26 Sept 2024
IPHC-2024-MSAB020-R	Report of the 20 th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB020)	✓ 31 Oct 2024
IPHC-2024-RAB025-R	Report of the 25 th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025)	✓ 20 Nov 2024
<i>Information papers</i>		
IPHC-2024-IM100-INF01	Stakeholder Statements on IPHC Fishery Regulation proposals (B. Hutniczak)	✓ 25 Oct 2024

APPENDIX IV
FISS DESIGN FOR 2025



APPENDIX V

**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 100TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC INTERIM MEETING (IM100) (25-26 NOVEMBER 2024)***RECOMMENDATIONS**IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation & Harvest Strategy Policy*

IM100-Rec.01 ([para. 37](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat continue to develop a way forward that would facilitate the Commission adoption of an HSP in 2025. This should involve presentations at AM101, a post-AM101 workshop involving the Secretariat, Commissioners, and key advisors, followed by a Special Session later in 2025 to adopt an HSP.

*REQUESTS**Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB025)*

IM100-Req.01 ([para. 13](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that additional Canadian membership beyond the two (2) current RAB members would be desirable and encouraged the Canadian delegation to explore recruiting new members from Canada.

Fishery-dependent data overview (2024) - Port Operations

IM100-Req.02 ([para. 17](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat provide for consideration at AM101, information on the IPHC's Directed Commercial Catch Sampling of Pacific halibut throughout the Convention Area, including rationale for selecting ports and desired biological sampling targets necessary for scientific validity as well as any suggestions for increasing efficiency and decreasing costs.

IPHC Fishery regulations: Proposals for the 2024-25 process

IM100-Req.03 ([para. 59](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that interested stakeholders note the deadline for submission of IPHC Fishery Regulation proposals, for consideration at the 101st Session of the Annual Meeting (AM101), of **28 December 2024**. Late proposals will not be considered at AM101, but stakeholders may also submit statements up until the day before the AM101. More information is available via the updated IPHC website: <https://iphc.int/the-commission/fishery-regulations/>.