



Implementation of the Recommendations from the 2nd IPHC Performance Review (PRIPHC02)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON; 9 DECEMBER 2024)

To provide the Commission with an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPHC02).

BACKGROUND

The Report of the 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPHC02), IPHC-2019-PRIPHC02-R (adopted on 11 October 2019) is available for download from the IPHC website: <https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/post/iphc-2019-priphc02-r-report-of-the-2nd-performance-review-of-the-international-pacific-halibut-commission-priphc02>

At the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096), the Commission:

*(para. 137) “The Commission **NOTED** that the PRIPHC02 was carried out over the course of 2019 via three face-to-face meetings: one in Seattle, USA (4-6 June 2019), one in New York City, USA (25 August 2019) and one in Ottawa, Canada (7-11 October 2019). The Panel held several additional tele-conferences, both among themselves, and with stakeholders. The meeting was also supported by Independent Legal and Science Experts who each dedicated additional working days to providing technical reviews and reports on specific components of the review criteria relevant to their areas of expertise.”*

*(para 138) “The Commission **NOTED** para. 22 of the report which stated:*

*(para. 22) “The PRIPHC02 **CONGRATULATED** the Commission and Secretariat for the positive strides in response to the first performance review. Through the course of the consultations, document review and interviews, the panel saw consistent and significant improvements in transparency, availability and modernisation of documentation and background information, and heard resounding praise for this increased transparency and the movement away from previously “closed-door” and perceived “secretive” processes and decision-making.”*

*(para. 139) “The Commission **REQUESTED** that paper IPHC-2020-AM096-14 be reviewed intersessionally by each Contracting Party, with the intention of providing edits/additions, for endorsement. The IPHC Secretariat will facilitate this request by proposing intersessional meeting dates.”*

During the 6th Special Session of the IPHC (SS06) held on 3 March 2020, the Commission:

*(para. 6) “The Commission **ENDORSED** the recommendations, priorities, responsibilities, timelines and updates provided at [Appendix B](#), and **AGREED** that these would be reported on at each IPHC meeting.” (IPHC-2020-SS06-R)*

DISCUSSION

The following is a summary of the status of each of the detailed updated provided in [Appendix A](#).

PRIPHC02 Recommendation	Status
Completed and/or annually ongoing	23
In Progress	3
Pending	0
Total	26

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission **NOTE** paper IPHC-2025-AM101-05 that provides the Commission with an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC (PRIPHC02).

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Table of recommendations arising from the PRIPHC02, including 1) priorities, 2) responsibilities, 3) timeline, and 4) any new updates on status.



Appendix A
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2ND PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION (PRIPHC02)

REF#	RECOMMENDATION	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	TIMELINE	UPDATE/STATUS
PRIPHC02 –Rec.01 (para. 32)	Legal analysis of the IPHC Convention The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that consideration be given to updating the Convention at the next opportunity, to become consistent with newer international legal instruments, and specifically consider including the following elements: a) – z)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Completed (Closed): For the purpose of reporting against the PRIPHC02 recommendations, the Contracting Parties have agreed that they do not wish to commence a process of updating the IPHC Convention. Thus, this Recommendation is considered closed. If/when a 3 rd Performance Review is undertaken, the matter may be revisited.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.02 (para. 33)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED to update the Convention, while in the interim period seek alternate mechanisms to implement international best practices and legal principles. <u>Commission directive:</u> The Commission RECOMMENDED the exploration and implementation of alternate mechanisms to implement international best practices, such as revisions to the IPHC Rules of Procedure, IPHC Financial Regulations and IPHC Fishery Regulations.	N/A High	N/A Commission	N/A 2020-24	N/A Completed & annually ongoing: (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024): The IPHC Rules of Procedure (ROP) and the IPHC Financial Regulations (FR) will be periodically updated and where possible, should accommodate applicable improvements as recommended in the legal review of the IPHC Convention.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.03 (para. 44)	Science: Status of living marine resources The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that opportunities to engage with western Pacific halibut science and management agencies be sought, to strengthen science links and data exchange. Specifically, consider options to investigate pan-Pacific stock structure and migration of Pacific halibut.	High	IPHC Secretariat	2020-24	Completed & annually ongoing: There are three non-Contracting Parties who exploit Pacific halibut: Russia, Japan, and Rep. of Korea. Most recently we have engaged Russian scientists working on Pacific halibut through PICES (https://meetings.pices.int/). We will continue to explore this avenue via PICES, noting that COVID-19 hindered/delayed interactions to a certain degree.

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PRIPHC02 –Rec.04 (para. 45)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that: a) further efforts be made to lead and collaborate on research to assess the ecosystem impacts of Pacific halibut fisheries on incidentally caught species (retained and/or discarded); b) where feasible, this research be incorporated within the IPHC’s 5-Year Research Plan (https://www.iphc.int/uploads/pdf/besrp/2019/iphc-2019-besrp-5yp.pdf); c) findings from the IPHC Secretariat research and that of the Contracting Parties be readily accessible via the IPHC website.	Medium	IPHC Secretariat	2020-24	Completed & annually ongoing: The IPHC’s work in this area has been limited to date. However, some efforts to incorporate ecosystem considerations into the MSE work has commenced.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.05 (para. 63)	Science: Quality and provision of scientific advice The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that simplified materials be developed for RAB and especially MSAB use, including training/induction materials.	High	IPHC Secretariat	2020-24	Completed & annually ongoing: The IPHC Secretariat continues to seek ways to ensure broad stakeholder understanding of our work. For the MSAB and associated MSE work, an interactive web-based tool has been developed to provide a user friendly means to explore and understand the utility of MSE and the simulation results arising. MSE Explorer tool: https://www.iphc.int/management/science-and-research/management-strategy-evaluation
PRIPHC02 –Rec.06 (para. 64)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that consideration be given to amending the Rules of Procedure to include appropriate fixed terms of service to ensure SRB peer review remains independent and fresh; a fixed term of three years seems appropriate, with no more than one renewal.	Medium	Commission; IPHC Secretariat	2020	Completed: The IPHC Secretariat provided the Commission with revised Rules of Procedure for consideration at AM096, which included a two-term limit. This was adopted by the Commission and is now in force. See IPHC Rules of Procedure .

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PRIPHC02 –Rec.07 (para. 65)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the peer review process be strengthened through expanded subject specific independent reviews including data quality and standards, the FISS, MSE, and biological/ecological research; as well as conversion of “grey literature” to primary literature publications. The latter considered important to ongoing information outreach efforts given the cutting-edge nature of the Commission’s scientific work.	High	Commission; IPHC Secretariat	2020-24	Completed & annually ongoing: The Commission approved peer review of the IPHC stock assessment which was concluded in 2019, the IPHC MSE which was concluded on 25 September 2020. See IPHC-2020-CR-022 . The Commission has indicated its strong support for topic-based peer review moving forward.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.08 (para. 66)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat develop options for simple graphical summaries (i.e. phase plot equivalents) of fishing intensity and spawning stock biomass for provision to the Commission.	High	IPHC Secretariat	2020	Completed: The IPHC Secretariat now includes both time-series’ and phase plots of management-related quantities See paper IPHC-2024-AM100-10 for the previous iteration, and IPHC-2025-AM101-10 for the latest.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.09 (para. 73)	<i>Conservation and Management: Data collection and sharing</i> The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that observer coverage be adjusted to be commensurate with the level of fishing intensity in each IPHC Regulatory Area. <u>Commission directive:</u> The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat, in consultation with the Commission, develop minimum data collection standards for Pacific halibut by scientific observer programs. The intention would be for the Commission to review and approve the minimum standards, and recommend them for implementation by domestic agencies.	N/A High	N/A Contracting Parties	N/A 2020-24	N/A In progress: The Contracting Parties have yet to engage on this recommendation. See paper: IPHC-2023-AM099-16 . At IM099 (Dec. 2023) the Commission provided the following update: (IM099, para. 7) The Commission RECALLED recommendation 09 from the PRIPHC02 (shown below) and NOTED that while there was no current agreement between the Contracting Parties to collectively move this recommendation forward, the Commission would continue discussions to seek common ground. PRIPHC02-Rec.09: <i>“The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat, in consultation with the</i>

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					<i>Commission, develop minimum data collection standards for Pacific halibut by scientific observer programs. The intention would be for the Commission to review and approve the minimum standards, and recommend them for implementation by domestic agencies."</i>
PRIPHC02 –Rec.10 (para. 82)	Conservation and Management: Consistency between scientific advice and fishery Regulations adopted The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the development of MSE to underpin multi-year (strategic) decision-making be continued, and as multi-year decision making is implemented, current Secretariat capacity usage for annual stock assessments should be refocused on research to investigate MSE operating model development (including consideration of biological and fishery uncertainties) for future MSE iterations and regularised multi-year stock assessments.	High	IPHC Secretariat; Commission	2021-24	Completed: MSE products, including the evaluation of multi-year (biennial and triennial) management procedures, were delivered to the MSAB017, and are to be presented at AM099 in January 2023. Evaluating multi-year stock assessments was a priority task in the MSE program of work for 2021-2023.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.11 (para. 83)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that ongoing work on the MSE process be prioritised to ensure there is a management framework/procedure with minimal room for ambiguous interpretation, and robust pre-agreed mortality limit setting frameworks.	High	IPHC Secretariat; Commission	2020-24	In progress: An Harvest Strategy Policy was presented to IM100 and will be presented at AM101 for potential adoption. See paper IPHC-2025-AM101-17 Next steps: The Commission to formally adopt a harvest strategy.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.12 (para. 88)	Fishing allocations and opportunities The PRIPHC02 STRONGLY URGED the Commission to conclude its MSE process and RECOMMENDED it meet its 2021 deadline to adopt a harvest strategy.	High	Commission; IPHC Secretariat	2020-24	In progress: An Harvest Strategy Policy will be presented to IM100 and AM101 for potential adoption in 2025. See paper IPHC-2025-AM101-12 for the latest update. Next steps: The Commission to formally adopt a harvest strategy.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.13 (para. 96)	Compliance and enforcement: Port State measures The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that Contracting Party enforcement agencies adopt common standards for assessment of implementation of the principles of port State measures.	Medium	Contracting Parties	2020-24	Completed and annually ongoing: To be incorporated into the Contracting Party National Reports at each Annual Meeting. Next National Report will be provided by each Contracting Party for the AM101.

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PRIPHC02 –Rec.14 (para. 105)	Compliance and enforcement: Monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED enhancement of coordination of MCS activities to result in a common, integrated enforcement report for each Contracting Party to facilitate assessment of compliance efforts, trends and input into management decisions.	Medium	Contracting Parties	2021-24	Completed and annually ongoing: To be incorporated into the Contracting Party National Reports at each Annual Meeting. Next National Report will be provided by each Contracting Party for the AM101.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.15 (para. 106)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the Commission re-assess the ‘derby-style’ fisheries management concept in operation in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A in terms of available resources, impact on validity of monitoring results, and safety of fishers, and amend the management processes, if and as necessary.	High	IPHC Secretariat; NOAA-Fisheries	2022	Completed: The IPHC Secretariat passed management of the 2A fishery to NOAA-Fisheries at the end of 2022, following a movement to a longer fishing period. 2023 was the first year that IPHC has not managed the day-to-day operations of the fishery.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.16 (para. 108)	Compliance and enforcement: Follow-up on infringements The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the IPHC request information regarding Contracting Party follow-up of infringements, to assist in determining the overall efficacy of MCS and enforcement activities. This would support best practices with respect to transparency.	High	IPHC Secretariat; Commission; Contracting Parties	2020	Completed & annually ongoing: The IPHC Secretariat has requested this information be provided by domestic agencies via the Contracting Party National Reports to the Commission.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.17 (para. 109)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the Commission improve the process of Contracting Party reporting to the Commission by aggregating individual agency reports into a consolidated, standardised, Contracting Party report to the Commission.	Medium	IPHC Secretariat; Contracting Parties	2020	Completed: The IPHC Secretariat made this request in 2020. Consolidated Contracting Party National Reports are now the standard.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.18 (para. 124)	Governance: Decision-making The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Rules of Procedure be modified to include a clear category and recognition for observer organisations, which would be in addition to the general public.	Low	IPHC Secretariat	2020-21	Completed: IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020) published on 7 February 2020.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.19 (para. 128)	Governance: Dispute settlement The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED updating the rules of procedure to reflect intersessional decision-making approaches.	Medium	IPHC Secretariat	2020-21	Completed: IPHC Rules of Procedure (2020) published on 7 February 2020. Further amendments were made in 2021.

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PRIPHC02 –Rec.20 (para. 137)	Governance: Transparency The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the significant level of transparency achieved across Commission business continue to be improved.	High	Commission; IPHC Secretariat;	2020-24	Completed & annually ongoing: Monitor progress through the annual IPHC meeting cycle and improve as identified. In June of 2022, the SRB made the following noting and recommendation of relevance: SRB020–Rec.05 (para. 36) The SRB NOTED the exceptional level of transparency and commitment to the principles of open science represented by the Secretariat’s data and code-sharing practices and, therefore, RECOMMENDED that the Secretariat consider producing peer-reviewed data report publications, which would (a) enhance outreach to potential external data users and (b) allow for tracking external use of IPHC data and resources.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.21 (para. 146)	International cooperation: Relationship to non-Contracting Parties The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that the Commission prioritise scientific work to confirm the full range of the Pacific halibut stock.	High	IPHC Secretariat;	2020-24	Completed & annually ongoing: There are three non-Contracting Parties who exploit Pacific halibut: Russia, Japan, and Rep. of Korea. The Commission has directed the Secretariat to continue engaging with scientists working on Pacific halibut through PICES (https://meetings.pices.int/).
PRIPHC02 –Rec.22 (para. 147)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that if the full range of the Pacific halibut stock extends outside the Convention Area, the Contracting Parties invite collaboration with all parties involved in the harvest of this stock, to ensure science and management includes accurate data regarding all removals from the stock.	Low/ Medium	IPHC Secretariat	2020-24	Completed & annually ongoing: The IPHC Secretariat is engaging with other countries harvesting Pacific halibut via PICES as a first step. Known harvesters are Russia, Japan, and Rep. of Korea, with the latter two harvesting very minor levels at the extremity of Pacific halibut distribution in the western Pacific. The Commission has directed the Secretariat to continue engaging with scientists working on Pacific halibut through PICES

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PRIPHC02 –Rec.23 (para. 156)	Efficiency and transparency of financial and administrative management: Availability of resources for IPHC activities The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED the continued establishment of a Business Continuity Plan (BCP), which will serve to strengthen the long-term viability of IPHC Secretariat functioning and accountability, in line with best practices of an organisation of its size and breadth. Prioritising a financial and administrative BCP, with the ultimate goal of establishing a comprehensive BCP for the IPHC Secretariat as a whole.	High	IPHC Secretariat; FAC	2020	Completed: The IPHC Secretariat has developed and implemented a BCP. Periodic review will ensure BC is maintained.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.24 (para. 162)	Efficiency and transparency of financial and administrative management: Efficiency and cost-effectiveness The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED the FAC produce a report detailing the actual FAC meeting and that the presentation of the report be incorporated into the Annual Meeting agenda and report, along with the final decisions of the Commission.	High	FAC; IPHC Secretariat	2020-24	Completed & annually ongoing: The first report of the IPHC Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) was adopted on 4 February 2020, and presented to the Commission at its 96 th Session for consideration.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.25 (para. 165)	Efficiency and transparency of financial and administrative management: Advisory structure The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that when revisiting PRIPHC01 Recommendation 3.1 on unifying subsidiary bodies, treat the CB and PAB as non-science process and maintain separated RAB and MSAB at least until the 2021 adoption and implementation of a new management strategy.	N/A	Commission	N/A	Completed & annually ongoing: The Commission agreed to keep the two subsidiary bodies separate moving forward.
PRIPHC02 –Rec.26 (para. 166)	The PRIPHC02 RECOMMENDED that continued support for high quality stakeholder engagement through the science-focused subsidiary bodies (RAB and MSAB) or any future subsidiary bodies be maintained.	High	Commission; IPHC Secretariat	2020-24	Completed & annually ongoing: The Commission agreed to keep the two subsidiary bodies separate moving forward, and for them to be enhanced wherever feasible.