



Report of the 18th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB18)

Agenda Item 9.3
IPHC-2016-RAB18-R

Presented by: David T. Wilson

RAB18: 16 November 2016

The 18th Session of the Research Advisory Board (RAB) was held in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. on 16 November 2016.

A total of seven (7) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as 18 IPHC staff as observers or officers.

Four (4) RAB Members were absent.



IPHC Research Advisory Board: Mandate

The RAB mandate as stated in the **IPHC Rules of Procedure (2014)**:

Rule 10.5 (c) *A Research Advisory Board, composed of members of the halibut community that shall:*

- ***suggest research ideas,***
- ***review IPHC research, and***
- ***provide the Staff with direct input and advice from industry during the development of research plans.***

The Board may also make recommendations to the Scientific Review Board concerning research plans and priorities. The Executive Director shall facilitate the Board's meetings, as well as communication with the Commission and the other IPHC advisory bodies on the Board's behalf.



RAB18: RECOMMENDATIONS

Survey expansion

RAB18–01 (para. 11) The RAB18 **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.

IM092–Rec.01 (para. 38) 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.**



RAB18: RECOMMENDATIONS

Bycatch handling practices on all fleets catching Pacific halibut

RAB18–02 (para. 27) The RAB18 **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Staff undertake a project to develop ‘*Best practice handling guidelines*’ for each of the primary gear types which catch Pacific halibut, both directed and non-directed.

IM092–Rec.02 (para. 39) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Staff undertake a project to develop ‘*Best practice handling guidelines*’ for each of the primary gear types which catch Pacific halibut, both directed and non-directed.

>>Incorporated into the **IPHC Program of Work**



RAB18: RECOMMENDATIONS

IPHC Closed Area review

RAB18–03 (para. 37) The RAB18 **RECOMMENDED** that as the IPHC Closed Area was designated to protect juvenile Pacific halibut, there is no scientific justification for retaining the closure in its current form. Thus, the IPHC Closed Area should either be removed, noting that it would be unlikely that much longline fishing would occur in the area as most fish are below the legal size limit, or it should only apply to gear which would interact with juvenile Pacific halibut.

>>See **IPHC-2017-AM093-PropB**



RAB18: RECOMMENDATIONS

Chalky Pacific halibut

RAB18–04 (para. 53) The RAB18 **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Staff undertake research to answer the following:

- a. What causes chalky flesh in Pacific halibut? Are there particular environmental signatures (temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.) that characterize areas with incidence of chalky flesh?
- b. Why does the occurrence of chalky flesh in Pacific halibut appear to be reappearing after a period of limited occurrence in regulatory areas 3A and 3B?
- c. Are there differences in the occurrence of chalky flesh in males and female, as well as fish of different sizes?

>> IM092 **AGREED** to the above, and has since been incorporated into the IPHC 5-year research program (see **IPHC-2017-AM093-11**)



