



Update on actions arising from the 93rd Annual Meeting (AM093) and 93rd Interim Meeting (IM093)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (20 DECEMBER 2017)

PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093), and 93rd Interim Meeting (IM093) in 2017.

BACKGROUND

At the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093), and 93rd Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting, Contracting Parties agreed on a series of actions to be taken by Commissioners, Subsidiary Bodies and the IPHC Secretariat on a range of topics as detailed in [Appendix A](#).

DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that any recommendations and requests for action are carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific Contracting Party, the IPHC Secretariat, a subsidiary body of the Commission or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time frame for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next session of an subsidiary body, or other date).

This involves numbering and tracking all action items (see [Appendix A](#)) from the Commission in 2017, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-03 which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM093) and 93rd Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM093) in 2017.
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary, the actions, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from the AM094.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: [Update on actions arising from the 93rd Annual Meeting \(AM093\) and 93rd Interim Meeting \(IM093\)](#)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 93rd Annual Meeting (AM093) and 93rd Interim Meeting (IM093)

Action No.	Description	Update
93rd Annual Meeting (January 2017): RECOMMENDATIONS		
AM093– Rec.01 (para. 6)	<p>Update on actions arising from the 92nd Annual Meeting, IPHC Work Meeting and the 92nd Interim Meeting</p> <p>NOTING the importance of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) working cooperatively with the IPHC on Pacific halibut management, the Commission RECOMMENDED that the existing ad-hoc meetings between the NPFMC and the IPHC be formalised into a standing body that meets regularly to provide direction to the development of a coordinated relationship between both parties. Such a body should consist of IPHC Commissioners (from both the USA and Canada) and the NPFMC leadership.</p>	<p>Completed: A one-day joint Session of IPHC Commissioners and NPFMC Councilors was held on 7 June 2017. The session was held as part of the Council process. The majority of Councilors were supportive of an annual joint Session, held in conjunction with one of the bodies meetings to reduce travel obligations. However, it was not agreed to make this a formal standing body.</p> <p>At the 2017 Work Meeting and IM093, the Commission agreed to continue close collaboration with the NPFMC regarding future joint sessions.</p>
AM093– Rec.02 (para. 17)	<p>Survey expansion through 2019</p> <p>The Commission recalled its previous RECOMMENDATION that the IPHC Secretariat 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.</p>	<p>Completed: Presented to the IM093 (IPHC-2017-IM093-07).</p> <p>For the latest update see the AM094 paper: IPHC-2018-AM094-07 Space-time modelling of IPHC fishery-independent setline survey data (R. Webster)</p>
AM093– Rec.03 (para. 19)	<p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat develop a proposal detailing an ad-hoc expansion of the IPHC fishery-independent setline survey for 2017, which would involve a denser survey grid off the north coast of Washington, USA. The proposal shall be provided to the Commission as soon as possible following the close of the 93rd Annual Meeting for its review, endorsement, and potential implementation. The intention of the ad-hoc expansion is to verify the current estimates of stock distribution within Regulatory Area 2A.</p>	<p>Completed:</p> <p>17 February 2017: IPHC-2017-AM093-06 ADD_1</p> <p>06 March 2017: IPHC-2017-AM093-06 ADD_2</p> <p>NOTING the above, the Commission ENDORSED the revised IPHC fishery-independent setline survey for Regulatory Area 2A in 2017, as described in this paper (IPHC-2017-AM093-06 ADD_1). The 2017 survey has now been completed accordingly.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
AM093– Rec.04 (para. 29)	<p>Draft Pacific halibut apportionment and catch tables (2017)</p> <p>NOTING that the IPHC Secretariat and the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB) have demonstrated that Ebio is outdated and inconsistent with current assessment results, and that numerous elements of the current harvest policy are reliant on Ebio, and that the Commission has agreed that the current harvest policy is considered to be outdated (IPHC–2016–IM092–R, items 21, 22), the Commission RECOMMENDED that reference to all elements of the current harvest policy reliant on Ebio, as well as the use of the Blue line, be eliminated subsequent to the close of the 93rd Session of the Commission. The “<i>status quo</i> SPR” (F_{46%}) may serve as an interim “hand rail” that allows all participants to gauge this and future years’ catch limit discussions in comparison to previous years.</p>	<p>Completed: Reference to all elements of the current harvest policy reliant on Ebio, as well as the use of the Blue line, has been eliminated. The “<i>status quo</i> SPR” (F_{46%}) is being used as an interim “hand rail”.</p>
AM093– Rec.05 (para. 30)	<p>NOTING that the Commission has indicated its interest in clearer accounting for all mortality, and that Canada has put forward catch limit allocation principles proposing that catch limits include all sources of mortality for each regulatory area, the Commission RECOMMENDED that the presentation of harvest advice be changed to be based on the TCEY, which includes all O26 commercial, sport, personal use/subsistence, bycatch and wastage removals, for the 2018 Annual Meeting cycle, as a step towards more comprehensive and responsible management of the resource that will result in the negotiation of Regulatory Area-specific catch limits based on TCEYs.</p>	<p>Completed: The presentation of harvest advice has been changed to be based on the TCEY, which includes all O26 commercial, sport, personal use/subsistence, bycatch and wastage removals, for the 2018 Annual Meeting cycle.</p>
AM093– Rec.06 (para. 38)	<p>IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation</p> <p>NOTING that the term “apportionment” has connotations broader than stock distribution that are not reflective of its meaning in the IPHC context, the Commission RECOMMENDED that it be replaced with the terms “stock distribution” or “stock distribution model(ing)”.</p>	<p>Completed: The IPHC now uses “stock distribution” or “stock distribution model(ing)” accordingly.</p>
AM093– Rec.07 (para. 39)	<p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) process be accelerated so that more of the elements contained within the current Program of Work are delivered at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Commission in 2018. The IPHC Secretariat is directed to mobilise carryover funds from “core operations” to ensure the accelerated delivery schedule.</p>	<p>In progress: MSAB meetings have been increased in length and content to handle an accelerated timeline. MSAB09: Extended from 2 to 3 days (9-11 May 2017). MSAB10: Extended from 2 to 3.5 days (23-26 October 2017).</p> <p>Delivery schedule acceleration: Fishing metrics have been evaluated and stock distribution procedures have been discussed.</p> <p>3 proposed staff position hires to assist in expediting the MSE work throughout 2018, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Programmer (short-term contract) 2) MSE Expert (short-term contract)

Action No.	Description	Update
		3) MSE Researcher (FTE-2-yrs)
AM093– Rec.08 (para. 73)	<p>IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations 2017</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat prepare the draft IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations for 2017, based on the decisions of the AM093, for review and final approval by the Commission, prior to submission to the Contracting Parties for implementation.</p>	Completed: The IPHC fishery regulations were published prior to the commencement of the directed fishery both the IPHC and both governments.
AM093– Rec.09 (para. 110)	<p>Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) updates</p> <p>NOTING that the Commission had previously requested the IPHC Secretariat to examine bycatch reduction by the Amendment 80 sector versus other sectors in the Bering Sea, by regulatory area (see AM92.10), which was yet to be undertaken, the Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a detailed examination of changes in bycatch levels among all gears/sectors, and for results to be presented to the Commission at its 93rd Interim Meeting (in November 2017).</p>	Completed: Initial results of the work were incorporated within paper IPHC-2017-IM093-05 Rev_1 - Fishery statistics (2017): Draft
AM093– Rec.10 (para. 128)	<p>Report of the 18th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB18): Best practices handling guidelines</p> <p>The Commission recalled its RECOMMENDATION from the 92nd Interim Meeting, that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a project to develop ‘<i>Best practice handling guidelines</i>’ for each of the primary gear types which catch Pacific halibut, both directed and non-directed.</p>	In progress: The IPHC is currently conducting a research project evaluating handling practices associated with physiological condition and survival of discarded Pacific halibut in the longline fishery that will produce, as deliverables, best practice handling guidelines for the reduction or control of discard mortality rates by late 2019.
AM093– Rec.11 (para. 142)	<p>Proposed budget for FY2017, 2018 and tentatively for 2019</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED two supplementary budget items at the Annual Meeting, whose expenses would be drawn from the IPHC carryover, and not the regular budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Area 2A fishery-independent setline survey ad-hoc expansion (densification) of the Washington region. The IPHC Secretariat shall provide a proposal to the Commission for inter-sessional decision, which details the scientific, logistical and budget implications. b) Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) supplemental support – The IPHC Secretariat shall provide a proposal to the Commission for inter-sessional decision, detailing any additional resources that could be used to expedite, enhance and supplement the MSE Program of Work. 	Completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Budget estimate: US\$9,348. Approved by the Commission b) Budget estimate: Moved to 2018. See response to AM093–Rec.07 detailed above.
AM093– Rec.12 (para. 144)	<p>NOTING that in the current IPHC annual budgeting process, the budget is approved several months after the fiscal year has begun, the Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat propose modifications to the IPHC Financial Regulations (2014) to address this issue, for consideration at the 94th Annual Meeting of the Commission in 2018.</p>	Completed: See paper IPHC-2018-AM094-21 Draft: IPHC Financial Regulations (2018)

Action No.	Description	Update
AM093– Rec.13 (para. 153)	<p>IPHC Performance Review: Planning for the 2nd IPHC Performance Review</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise the draft performance review terms of reference and criteria to conduct the review, and implement the 2nd Performance Review throughout 2017, for presentation to the Commission at its 94th Annual Meeting in 2018.</p>	<p>In progress: See paper IPHC-2018-AM094-16 2nd IPHC Performance Review: Update</p> <p>A call for Expressions of Interest for a legal review of the Convention was published, closed and a candidate selected. Report delivered.</p> <p>First Panel meeting to be held in March/April 2018.</p>
93rd Annual Meeting (January 2017): REQUESTS		
AM093– Req.01 (para. 18)	<p>Survey expansion through 2019</p> <p>NOTING the potential positive implications of periodic survey expansion on the stock assessment model and apportionment arising from the survey, and that the IPHC Secretariat will be developing an information paper associated with the survey expansion (see IPHC–2016–IM092–R, item 38), and that there are implications of survey expansion in Regulatory Area 2B for species of conservation concern and protected areas, and that Canada would like to better understand the value of the additional survey information, the Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat work with domestic agencies and interests to explore options to the proposed survey expansion to minimise impacts on species of conservation concern and area closures before proceeding with planning any survey expansion in 2B.</p>	<p>In progress: IPHC requested for 2017 to fish standard setline survey stations that are inside protected areas (Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs)) in Regulatory Area 2B, but did not receive permission. Sixteen standard survey stations were affected (11 moved or dropped for MPAs, 5 moved for RCAs).</p> <p>The Secretariat is working with DFO staff to identify protected areas for the 2018 survey, which is expected to fish an expanded number of stations and when additional protected areas are also expected to be added. IPHC has held several meetings with DFO over 2017 (Mar, May, Aug, Sep, Nov, Dec) in preparation for the 2018 setline survey expansion and to explore options to minimize impacts to protected species and areas. Because 2018 will include an expansion in Regulatory Area 2B, IPHC will submit a request to DFO to conduct our fishery independent setline survey well in advance of the expected start date.</p>
AM093– Req.02 (para. 40)	<p>IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat initiate a process to develop alternative, biologically based stock distribution strategies for consideration by the Commission and its subsidiary bodies. This should also be incorporated into the MSE Program of Work.</p>	<p>In progress: See paper IPHC-2018-AM094-12 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update</p>
AM093– Req.03 (para. 51)	<p>Regulatory proposals for 2017</p> <p>IPHC Closed Area - removal</p> <p>NOTING the detailed information gathered and presented to the Commission in support of the removal of the IPHC Closed Area (PropB), as detailed in paper IPHC-2017-AM093-INF03 on the following topics:</p>	<p>Completed: See paper: IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA1 IPHC Closed Area (Sect. 10) (IPHC Secretariat)</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past considerations • History of boundaries • Bycatch • Nursery grounds • Other nearby closed areas • Impacts of allowing directed Pacific halibut fishing <p>the Commission REQUESTED further information be provided on whether the area is a nursery ground for Pacific halibut, by examining juvenile abundance from data sources including but not limited to observer programs and the NMFS trawl surveys, and comparing this information with the impact of the directed fishery operating in nearby areas, as well as the non-directed fisheries currently operating within the Closed Area.</p>	
AM093– Req.04 (para. 89)	<p><i>Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) 2016: Annual report</i></p> <p>NOTING that the proposed change to the IPHC Pacific halibut fishery regulations was made in Session, rather than in accordance with the IPHC rules relating to proposal submission, the Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat work with DFO Staff in an attempt to implement electronic logbooks for Pacific halibut fisheries in Area 2B in 2017, including but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Any necessary updates to IPHC Regulations such as Section 16, Paragraphs (5) through (7) on Canadian logs to reflect both electronic and paper logbooks; b) Coordination with the IPHC Secretariat on the data fields captured in the electronic logbook to ensure inclusion of the information listed in IPHC Regulations 16(6) noted below and any other necessary fields as mutually agreed; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. the name of the vessel and the DFO vessel registration number; ii. the date(s) upon which the fishing gear is set and retrieved; iii. the latitude and longitude coordinates for each set; iv. the number of skates deployed or retrieved, and number of skates lost; and v. the total weight or number of halibut retained for each set. c) Coordination with the IPHC Secretariat on the logistics of data delivery to IPHC, including the timing of and security of data delivery to IPHC and the access to electronic logbooks by IPHC port samplers at the time of landing. d) Should this not be possible in 2017, a Regulatory Proposal would be submitted by Canada for consideration at the 94th Session of the Annual meeting in 2018, in accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure. 	<p>Completed: IPHC Fishery Regulations (2017) contained the required amendments.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
AM093– Req.05 (para. 99)	<p>North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the NMFS provide a report of juvenile Pacific halibut catch rates in the commercial fisheries versus scientific trawl surveys. The IPHC Secretariat shall facilitate this request for presentation at the 93rd Interim Meeting in November 2017.</p>	<p>Completed: See AM094 document: IPHC-2018-AM094-AR02</p>
AM093– Req.06 (para. 123)	<p>Reports of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that, in response to the SRB recommendation that the Ebio calculation be phased out in favour of alternatives, the SRB recommend specific alternatives that the IPHC Secretariat can explore.</p>	<p>In progress: See above AM093–Rec.04 (para. 29). The SRB is working to develop options for consideration. See IPHC-2017-SRB11-R Report of the 11th Session of the IPHC Scientific Review Board (SRB11)</p>
93rd Interim Meeting (November 2017): RECOMMENDATIONS		
IM093– Rec.01 (para. 6)	<p>Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2017)</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat develop a working paper for consideration at the 94th Annual Meeting, containing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A detailed description of how the Regulatory Area 2A commercial fishery (derby) is managed, including roles and responsibilities of agencies, the PFMC and the IPHC; and b) An update to the analysis of various fishing periods and fishing period limits provided to the PFMC in September 2017, including the addition of 2- and 5-day fishing periods. 	<p>Completed: See AM094 document: IPHC-2018-AM094-INF02</p>
IM093– Rec.02 (para. 38)	<p>Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive</p> <p>NOTING the goals and objectives related to distributing the TCEY presented during the meeting by the U.S.A. (Table 3), the Commission RECOMMENDED that they be considered at the 94th Annual Meeting in January 2018 after soliciting input from stakeholders.</p>	<p>In progress: IPHC Circular 2017-22 communicated to stakeholders on 18 December 2017.</p> <p>The Co-Chairpersons of the MSAB will present a summary at the AM094.</p>
93rd Interim Meeting (November 2017): REQUESTS		
IM093– Rec.01 (para. 8)	<p>Fishery statistics (2017)</p> <p>NOTING Appendix I of paper IPHC-2017-IM093-05 Rev_1 was provided the evening prior to the Interim Meeting, and detailed information available on bycatch levels among all gears/sectors, as requested by the Commission at its 93rd Annual Meeting (AM093-Rec.09), the Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat facilitate consideration of the information inter-sessionally, so that the Commission may provide further guidance on the type of information it requires, for consideration at the 94th Annual Meeting in January 2018.</p>	<p>Completed: IPHC Circular 2017-21 communicated to the Commission on 05 December 2017.</p> <p>Feedback was received that similar data would be desirable from the Canadian fleets.</p> <p>See AM094 document: IPHC-2018-AM094-INF03 for an expanded summary of the information currently assembled to meet this request.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
IM093– Req.02 (para. 17)	<p>Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; survey expansion results, etc.)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat examine alternative ways of computing bottom area that account for bathymetry, noting that the current method involves estimating the surface area of the ocean.</p>	<p>In progress: Consideration of this request has commenced and will be address in 2018.</p>
IM093– Req.03 (para. 28)	<p>Data overview and preliminary stock assessment (2017), and draft harvest decision table (2017)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat provide columns in the decision table, three-year graphical projections, and catch tables for SPR values of 42%, 44%, 48%, and 50% in addition to the 46% SPR that was presented in documents IPHC-2017-IM093-08 and IPHC-2017-IM093-09.</p>	<p>Completed: See AM094 document: IPHC-2018-AM094-08</p>
IM093– Req.04 (para. 29)	<p>NOTING questions arising regarding the specific fisheries contributing to projected bycatch reductions from 2010 to 2017, the Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat work with NMFS staff to facilitate a report for consideration at the 94th Annual Meeting in January 2018.</p>	<p>In progress: See Agency report IPHC-2018-AM094-AR13</p>
IM093– Req.05 (para. 36)	<p>Report of the 10th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB10)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the MSAB look at SPR values consistent with recent estimated SPR values from the assessment model and lower. This would mean expanding the lower range of SPR values to below 40%.</p>	<p>In progress: This request has been forwarded to the MSAB process in 2018.</p>
IM093– Req.06 (para. 39)	<p>Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED the IPHC Secretariat to consolidate the objectives related to TCEY distribution (Table 3) with the current goals, objectives and performance metrics provided as Appendix IV of the MSAB10 Report, for presentation at the 94th Annual Meeting in January 2018.</p>	<p>In progress: IPHC Circular 2017-22 communicated to stakeholders on 18 December 2017. The intention is to consolidate these for presentation at the AM094.</p>
IM093– Req.07 (para. 61)	<p>Contracting Party (Agency) updates</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat develop a standard template for agency reports to the Commission, in order to improve their structure and consistency, as well as to allow the agencies to prepare the appropriate information at the appropriate level of detail for the Commission's consideration.</p>	<p>Pending: Currently slated for development in early 2018.</p>