

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC



HALIBUT COMMISSION

# Report of the Secretariat (2022)

Agenda Item 3.2  
(IPHC-2023-AM099-04)  
(D. Wilson & B. Hutniczak)



# Purpose

- To provide the Commission with an update on the activities of the IPHC Secretariat in 2022, not already contained within other papers before the Commission.



# Secretariat

- The IPHC Secretariat, formed in support the Commission's activities, consists of 34 fulltime positions (FTEs) and 35-45 temporary/seasonal positions to staff our ports and research vessels (**Appendix I**).
- As our shared vision, the IPHC Secretariat aims to deliver positive economic, environmental, and social outcomes for the Pacific halibut resource for Canada and the U.S.A. through the application of rigorous science, innovation, and the implementation of international best practice.



# IPHC Internship program: 2022

The IPHC funds two full-time internships each summer. In 2022 the IPHC hosted the following undergraduate interns:

**Ms Vasilisa (Vasi) Tyurina**, a Biology major at Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA)

**Ms Kaitlyn Murray**, an Environmental Science major at Sweet Briar College (Amherst, VA)



- Vasi and Kaitlyn have participated in two research activities of the Biological and Ecosystem Sciences Branch. First, Vasi and Kaitlyn have contributed to the generation of sex ratio information from the 2021 commercial samples by participating in all components of this important monitoring effort: from extracting DNA from fin clips to conducting the genotyping assays.
- Secondly, Vasi and Kaitlyn have participated in the reproductive assessment project by processing blood samples and testing methods for measuring the blood levels of reproductive hormones as reproductive indicators in female Pacific halibut at different stages in their reproductive development. The internship period runs from 31 May through 15 August 2022.



# IPHC Merit Scholarship for 2022-25

The IPHC funds several Merit Scholarships to support university, technical college, and other post-secondary education for students from Canada and the United States of America who are connected to the Pacific halibut fishery.

Generally, a single new scholarship valued at US\$4,000 per year is awarded every two years. The scholarships are renewable annually for the normal four-year period of undergraduate education, subject to maintenance of satisfactory academic performance.

Since the scholarships inception in 2002, the IPHC has awarded over US\$150,000 in scholarship funds to 18 recipients.

In 2022, the IPHC Merit Scholarship Selection Panel reviewed applications and selected an outstanding candidate from a very strong application pool, based on academic qualifications, career goals, and relationship to the Pacific halibut industry.

The Selection Panel consists of the following five (5) panelists:

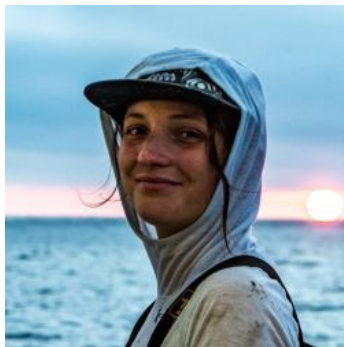
- Mr Robert Alverson (Commissioner - USA)
- Mr Peter DeGreef (Commissioner - Canada)
- Ms Angel Drobnica (Aleutian Probliof Island Community Development Association (APICDA) – AK, USA)
- Mr Patrick DePoe (Makah tribe, WA, USA)
- Ms Christa Rusel (A-TLEGAY Fisheries Society, Campbell River, BC, Canada)

***"We had 12 excellent candidates of which five stood out to me. All five had strong academics, connection to the Pacific halibut resource, and career goals. Although we decided on Lucy any of the other 4 candidates would have been excellent choices. This process has shown me that the future is in great hands."***



# IPHC Merit Scholarship for 2022-25

The Selection Panel unanimously awarded Lucy Hankins (Seward, AK, USA) the 2022 IPHC Merit Scholarship.



Ms Hankins is attending Utah State University to undertake a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in aviation technology and intends on returning to Alaska to serve remote communities once she graduates.

The current recipients and their expected years of receipt are provided below.

| Name   | 2022    | 2023    | 2024    | 2025    |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| <b>Hahlen Behnken-Barkhau</b> (Sitka, AK, USA) | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | -       | -       |
| <b>Lucy Hankins</b> (Seward, AK, USA)          | -       | \$4,000 | \$4,000 | \$4,000 |



# Meetings of the Commission and its Subsidiary bodies during 2022

| Meeting  | No.                    | Date                  | Location                     | Secretariat material                      |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <a href="#">Finance and Administration Committee (FAC)</a> | 98 <sup>th</sup>       | 24 Jan                | Electronic                   | 9 working papers                          |
| <a href="#">Annual Meeting (AM)</a>                        | <b>98<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>24-28 Jan</b>      | Electronic                   | 15 working papers, 3 regulatory proposals |
| <a href="#">Conference Board (CB)</a>                      | 92 <sup>nd</sup>       | 25-26 Jan             | Electronic                   | Commission papers                         |
| <a href="#">Processor Advisory Board (PAB)</a>             | 27 <sup>th</sup>       | 25-26 Jan             | Electronic                   | Commission papers                         |
| <a href="#">Special Session (SS)</a>                       | 12 <sup>th</sup>       | 25 Feb                | Electronic                   | 4 working papers                          |
| <a href="#">Scientific Review Board (SRB)</a>              | 20 <sup>th</sup>       | 14-16 June            | Seattle, USA & Electronic    | 10 working papers                         |
| Work Meeting (WM)  | 2022                   | 14-15 Sept            | Bellingham, USA & Electronic | 14 working papers                         |
| <a href="#">Scientific Review Board (SRB)</a>              | 21 <sup>st</sup>       | 20-22 Sept            | Seattle, USA & Electronic    | 7 working papers                          |
| <a href="#">Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB)</a>  | 17 <sup>th</sup>       | 18-20 Oct             | Electronic                   | 7 working papers                          |
| <a href="#">Research Advisory Board (RAB)</a>              | 23 <sup>rd</sup>       | 28 Nov                | Seattle, USA & Electronic    | 10 working papers                         |
| <a href="#">Interim Meeting (IM)</a>                       | <b>98<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>30 Nov – 1 Dec</b> | Electronic                   | 14 working papers                         |



# IPHC Fishery Regulations

| Ref. No.                                      | Title   | Decision             |
|---|---|----------------------|
| <b>IPHC Secretariat</b>                       |   |                      |
| <a href="#"><u>IPHC-2022-AM098-PropA1</u></a> | Mortality and Fishery Limits (Sect. 5)                                    | Adopted at the AM098 |
| <a href="#"><u>IPHC-2022-AM098-PropA2</u></a> | Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9)                                      | Adopted at the AM098 |
| <a href="#"><u>IPHC-2022-AM098-PropA3</u></a> | Minor amendments  | Adopted at the AM098 |
| <b>Contracting Parties</b>                    |   |                      |
| <a href="#"><u>IPHC-2022-AM098-PropB1</u></a> | Recordkeeping for charter Pacific halibut annual limits (Sect. 29)        | Adopted at the AM098 |
| <a href="#"><u>IPHC-2022-AM098-PropB2</u></a> | Charter Management Measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A (Sect. 29) | Adopted at the AM098 |
| <a href="#"><u>IPHC-2022-AM098-PropB3</u></a> | Trap gear use in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 18)                       | Adopted at the AM098 |
| <a href="#"><u>IPHC-2022-AM098-PropB4</u></a> | Daily bag limit in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (Sect. 28)                     | Adopted at the SS012 |
| <b>Stakeholders</b>                           |   |                      |
| <a href="#"><u>IPHC-2022-AM098-PropC1</u></a> | Processing Pacific halibut for eating and/or preservation (Sect. 29)      | Deferred             |





# Interactions with Contracting Parties

## Canada (*selection*)

### Multiyear permit for the IPHC survey in Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area

In May 2022, the Archipelago Management Board (AMB) approved the application the DFO put forward to permit multi-year approvals for FISS in Gwaii Haanas National Marine Conservation Area.

### Halibut Advisory Board

The Executive Director of the IPHC (or alternate) participates as a Halibut Advisory Board (HAB) member.

## USA (*selection*)

### 2A management transition

In November 2020, the Pacific Fishery Management Council took final action on the 2A fishery management transition to NMFS. The resulting [final rule \(87 FR 74322\)](#) was published on 5 December 2022 and is effective on 4 January 2023. Accordingly, NMFS will be responsible for issuing permits for all 2A halibut fisheries and management of the 2A non-tribal directed commercial fishery beginning in 2023. Annual management alternatives for 2A will be considered through the Council process in September and November, together with the Catch Sharing Plan. See more details in [IPHC-2023-AM099-INF03](#).

### Pacific halibut catch sharing plan

In February 2022, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted the purpose and need statement and set of alternatives for analysis of Pacific halibut catch sharing plan allocations between the charter sector and the commercial sector in Alaska.

### Recreational Quota Entity

In April 2022, the Council took final action on establishing a fee collection program for charter vessel operators to fund the Recreational Quota Entity (RQE).

### IFQ Omnibus Action

In April 2022, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council adopted several changes to the individual fishing quota (IFQ) program regulations, including clarification that slinky pots are a legal gear for IFQ and Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries.



# IPHC Communications and Outreach

**WEBSITE:** The IPHC Secretariat continues to develop new ways to display data and statistics for our stakeholders and other interested parties, focusing particularly on the addition of timely and useful visual displays such as those listed below.

In 2022, we developed and published all of our historical water column profiler data which has been collated annually since 2009, as part of our FISS activities.

## Water Column Profiler Data:


<https://www.iphc.int/datatest/data/water-column-profiler-data>














## Water Column Profiler Data

The IPHC conducts an annual [Fishery-Independent Setline Survey \(FISS\)](#) on a 10x10 nautical mile grid typically from Oregon northward to the Gulf of Alaska, along the Aleutian Island chain, and into the Bering Sea in depths ranging from 30 to 500 m. The geographic range of the FISS is sometimes expanded south into California, north onto the Bering Sea flats, or into more shallow and deeper depths, depending on objectives for that year.

Beginning in 2000, the IPHC conducted a pilot project looking at the practicality of collecting oceanographic profile data alongside fishery data at the longline survey stations. The project was expanded coastwide starting in 2009. Profiles were taken at each station immediately prior to hauling the longline gear so that oceanographic data collection is coincident with the haul. A profile was attempted at all stations within the prescribed depth range regardless of whether they were standard or temporary expansion stations. The data collected were surface to depth profiles of pressure (depth), temperature, conductivity (salinity), dissolved oxygen, pH, and chlorophyll a concentration.

For details on IPHC Water Column Profiler deployment procedures and maintenance, please refer to the following manual:

| Document           | Title  | PDF   | Availability |
|--------------------|--|---|--------------|
| IPHC-2022-WCPM-001 | IPHC Water Column Profiler Deployment Procedures and Maintenance Guide |  | 22 Feb 2022  |

| Water Column Profiler Data |   |      |   |
|----------------------------|---|------|---|
| 2021                       |  | 2014 |  |
| 2020*                      |  | 2013 |  |
| 2019                       |  | 2012 |  |
| 2018                       |  | 2011 |  |
| 2017                       |  | 2010 |  |
| 2016                       |  | 2009 |  |
| 2015                       |  |      |   |

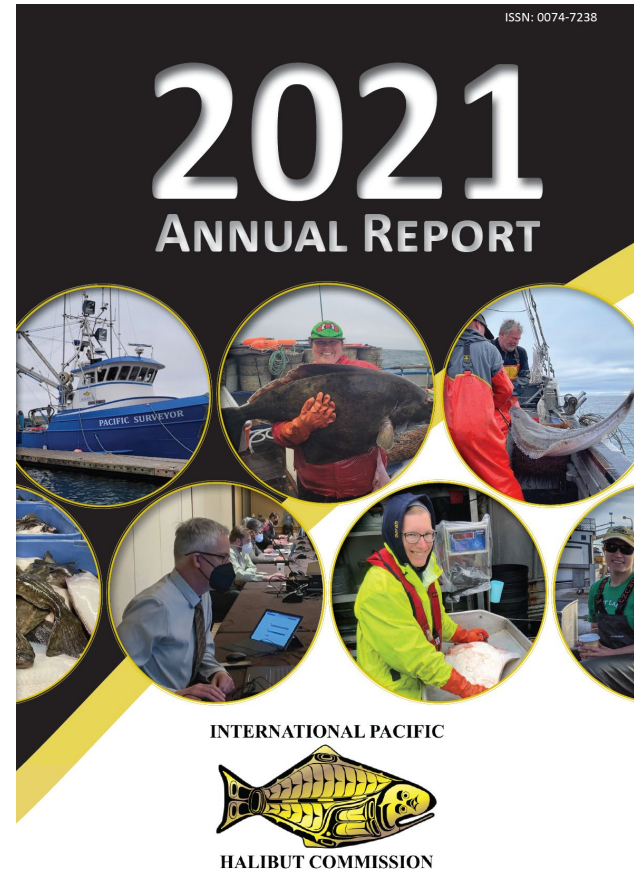
\*The COVID-19 pandemic led to disruptions in gear readiness and a reduced FISS, resulting in a reduced oceanographic data collection footprint.

**Note** - If you are having trouble viewing an individual spreadsheet, please download the file or switch browsers.



# IPHC Communications and Outreach

**ANNUAL REPORT:** The 2021 Annual Report (1 January to 31 December 2021) was published on 31 March 2022 and is available for download from the IPHC website at the following link: <https://www.iphc.int/uploads/pdf/ar/iphc-2022-ar2021-r.pdf>



# IPHC Communications and Outreach

## *IPHC Circulars and Media Releases*

**2022 IPHC Circulars** continue to serve as the formal inter-sessional communication mechanism for the Commission. Circulars are used to announce meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, as well as inter-sessional decisions made by the Commission.

The full list may be accessed via the following weblink (24 Circulars in 2022):

<https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/circulars>

**2022 IPHC Media Releases** are the primary informal communication with all stakeholders (17 Media releases in 2022):

<https://www.iphc.int/library/documents/category/media-releases>



# IPHC External engagement & Publications

Committees and external organisation appointments

Conferences and symposia

Academic affiliations 2022

Affiliate Faculty

Graduate student committee member

Affiliate Faculty:

- 1) Dr. Allan Hicks - University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 2) Dr. Ian Stewart - University of Washington School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 3) Dr. Josep Planas - Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK, USA

Graduate student committee member:

- 1) Dr. Allan Hicks - University of Massachusetts School for Marine Science & Technology, Dartmouth, MA, USA
- 2) Dr. Allan Hicks - University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 3) Dr. Ian Stewart - University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, Seattle, WA, USA
- 4) Dr. Josep Planas - Alaska Pacific University, Anchorage, AK, USA

IPHC publications in 2022 (8 x published to-date, others in-review & preparation)

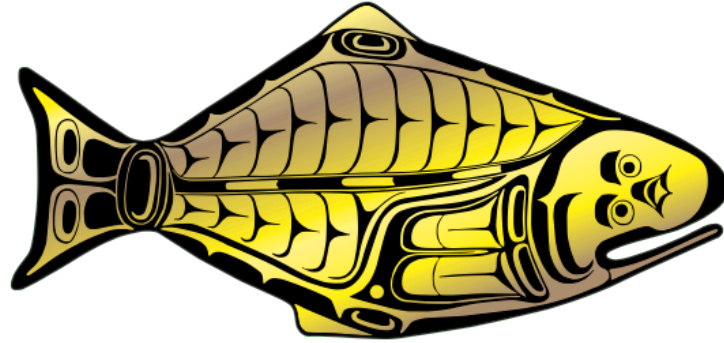


# Recommendation

That the Commission **NOTE** paper IPHC-2023-AM099-04 which provides the Commission with an update on activities of the IPHC Secretariat in 2022 not detailed in other papers before the Commission.



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