



2 August 2019

IPHC CIRCULAR 2019-016

Dear Commissioners,

SUBJECT: INDEPENDENT PEER REVIEW FOR THE 2019 IPHC STOCK ASSESSMENT

In accordance with Rule 13.1(e) of the International Pacific Halibut Commission's (IPHC) Rules of Procedure (2019), I am pleased to inform you that the Independent Peer Review for the 2019 IPHC Stock Assessment is now complete, and thus, the direction provided to the IPHC Secretariat via Commission decisions **AM095-Rec.10** and **IPHC-2019-ID001** (shown below), have been met.

95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) – 1 February 2019

AM095-Rec.10 (para. 129) *“The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat develop terms of reference for a consultant to undertake a peer review of the IPHC Pacific halibut stock assessment, for implementation in early 2019. The terms of reference and budget shall be endorsed by the Commission inter-sessionally.”*

2019 Inter-sessional decision – 17 April 2019

IPHC-2019-ID001: The Commission **ENDORSED** the *“Open call for expressions of interest: Independent peer reviewer for the IPHC stock assessment”*

The report by the independent peer reviewer, Dr Kevin Stokes, is available on the Stock Assessment page of the IPHC website under the 'Peer Review' tab for transparency and accountability purposes: <https://www.iphc.int/management/science-and-research/stock-assessment>.

A direct link to the pdf is also provided below:

https://www.iphc.int/uploads/pdf/sa/2019/stokes_2019-independent_peer_review_for_the_2019_iphc_stock_assessment.pdf

The review will be considered at the Commission's upcoming Work Meeting (18-19 September 2019), and also by the IPHC's Scientific Review Board at its 15th Session from the 24-26 September 2019.

Yours sincerely,

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.

Executive Director, IPHC

CC: Contracting Party Science Advisors

Attachments: Nil