



24 May 2023

IPHC CIRCULAR 2023-008

SUBJECT: FOR DECISION – 2023 FISS DESIGN AMENDED

Dear Commissioners,

In accordance with the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2023), Rule 11 – Decision Making (paragraphs 4-10) shown below, please note the subsequent text detailing an Intersessional Decision requiring your attention:

IPHC Rules of Procedure (2022)

Rule 11 – Decision making - Intersessional decision-making

4. *In case of the need for adoption of an emergency measure between Sessions, or where a decision needs to be taken intersessionally, the Chairperson may propose that a decision be taken by mail, telephone, or electronic communication.*
5. *When a decision is to be taken by electronic means, the Executive Director shall transmit the proposed decision to all Commissioners.*
6. *Commissioners shall promptly acknowledge receipt of any proposed decision by electronic means. If no acknowledgement is received from any particular Commissioner within one week of the date of transmittal, the Executive Director will retransmit the proposed decision, and will use all reasonable means to ensure that it has been received.*
7. *Members shall have **10 days** to respond, unless a longer period is specified by the Executive Director in the transmittal.*
8. *If no reply from a Commissioner reaches the Executive Director within the period established under [Rule 11.7](#), that decision shall be deferred to the next session of the Commission.*
9. *All inter-sessional decisions must be made by consensus.*
10. *The Executive Director shall promptly ascertain and transmit the decision to all Commissioners via an IPHC Circular. The date of that transmittal shall be the 'date of notification'. Such decisions shall be duly recorded in the Commission's records by the Executive Director. Copies of such decisions shall be published with unique Intersessional Decision (ID) numbering on the IPHC website, via an IPHC Circular.*

At the 98th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM098), the Commission endorsed a 2023 FISS design that included 958 stations coastwide. However, at the AM099 in January 2023, the Commission agreed that pending the outcome of the Request for Tender process, the Commission may decide to further amend

the 2023 FISS design based on bids received and economic factors associated with in-year FISS operations.

Subsequently, bids received for the following charter regions were not deemed economically viable and the Commission informally agreed to exclude these stations from the 2023 FISS design:

- 1) Adak – 16 stations
- 2) Unalaska - 16 stations
- 3) Portlock – 31 stations
- 4) Yakutat – 36 stations

To formalize the above agreement that will result in 891 stations being sampled in 2023, the following intersessional decision is being provided for your consideration.

Intersessional decision:

Please provide your decision on the below action no later than 03 June 2023, in accordance with Rule 11.7 shown above.

I approve / I do not approve the following actions:

That the Commission:

- 1) **ENDORSE** an optimized design for the 2023 FISS as provided at **Appendix I**, that balances the Commissions primary and secondary objectives for the FISS, noting that the design amends that which was previously endorsed at IM098 in November 2022 and will consist of 891 stations.

Yours sincerely



David T. Wilson, Ph.D.
Executive Director, IPHC

Appendices:

Appendix I: Optimised FISS design for 2023 – Amended (May 2023)



APPENDIX I
OPTIMISED FISS DESIGN FOR 2023 - AMENDED

