



INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC  
HALIBUT COMMISSION

## **SCIENCE EXPERT FOR THE 2<sup>ND</sup> PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION**

### ***Terms of reference and call for expressions of interest***

#### **Background:**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) is an intergovernmental organization established by a Convention between Canada and the United States of America. The IPHC Convention was concluded in 1923 and entered into force that same year. The Convention has been revised several times since, to extend the Commission's authority and meet new conditions in the fishery. The most recent change occurred in 1979 and involved an amendment to the 1953 Halibut Convention. The amendment, termed a "protocol", was precipitated in 1976 by Canada and the United States of America extending their jurisdiction over fisheries resources to 200 miles.

In response to calls from the international community for a review of the performance of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), the IPHC agreed in 2011 to implement a process of Performance Review. In undertaking the review, the following approaches were used by an outside contractor to assess the Commission's work and practices, track effectiveness, and gauge the need for revised approaches:

- 1) Conducting a set of 43 in-depth interviews with a representative and diverse set of stakeholders;
- 2) Observing the 2011 Interim and 2012 Annual Meetings and reviewing Commission background materials;
- 3) Reviewing practices at other regional fishery management organizations; and
- 4) Drawing on the contractor's professional judgment and experience.

In 2012, the report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Performance Review was published, outlining 12 recommendations (containing 39 parts) to improve the functioning of the IPHC ([1<sup>st</sup> Performance Review of the IPHC](#)).

In January 2014, the Commission issued a Progress Report, documenting the Commission's response to the 1<sup>st</sup> IPHC Performance Review ([PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2012: A Progress Report](#)). At Interim and Annual Meetings since then, Contracting Parties have noted the status of implementation of each of the recommendations arising from the report of the 1<sup>st</sup> IPHC Performance Review, the most recent documented at the [95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the IPHC](#).

In its January 2014 progress report, the Commission noted that:

*"Performance reviews are an important tool to help ensure the Commission continues to fulfill its mission and maintain accountability to its stakeholders and community. The Commission has benefitted significantly from the 2012*



*performance review and intends to continue the work stemming from that review...”*

*“One fundamental best practice that stands out in the literature is the need to review performance on a regular basis. The Commission intends to make periodic performance reviews a regular feature of its operations. Future reviews may be structured as broad looks or as more focused evaluations, depending on conditions and developments at the time. They may be performed by internal or external reviewers. Key to a successful review program is to track all recommendations, actions, and outcomes, so that each review builds on its predecessors.”*

*“The Commission also continues to solicit comment and advice from stakeholders on its ongoing performance review process.”*

At the 93<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting held in January 2017, the Commission considered how best to move forward with a 2<sup>nd</sup> Performance Review of the IPHC. As a result, the Commission requested that the IPHC Secretariat finalize performance review [terms of reference and criteria](#), as well as provide a proposed process and budget to conduct the review. The Commission subsequently adopted the terms of reference, criteria, process, and budget to conduct the 2<sup>nd</sup> Performance Review of the IPHC at its 94<sup>th</sup> Session in January 2018, with the intention of implementing a 2<sup>nd</sup> Performance Review of the IPHC in 2019.

### **Aims and Objectives:**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified candidates to evaluate the progress made on the recommendations arising from the first performance review of the IPHC related to science, and also to the criteria set forth below with regards to the delivery and management of the science process and scientific advice to the Commission.

The specific objectives are to:

- 1) Review the recommendations relevant to the science process arising from the first performance review of the IPHC, notably through the tables/matrix prepared by the IPHC Secretariat;
- 2) Carry out an assessment of the current IPHC science process, compared against the mandate detailed in the IPHC Convention, and also in comparison to international best practice;
- 3) Evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks to the organization from the current science processes;
- 4) Assess the consistency between scientific advice and management measures adopted by the Commission;
- 5) Make recommendations on how to improve the IPHC science process to meet or exceed international best practice.



**Scope:**

The work to be carried by the science expert shall be in accordance to the following criteria, while also noting that the reviewer is free to comment on any aspect of the IPHC's science processes.

**Criteria: *Conservation and management*** (status of living marine resources; quality and provision of scientific advice; data collection and sharing; adoption of fishery Regulations, also known in other RFMO's as Conservation and Management Measures, including measures adopted at the national level; compatibility of fishery Regulations)

- i. Status of living marine resources
  - Status of Pacific halibut stock under the purview of the IPHC in relation to relevant biological standards.
  - Trends in the status of the stock.
  - Status of species that belong to the same ecosystems as, or are associated with or dependent upon, Pacific halibut (hereinafter "non-target species").
  - Trends in the status of non-target species.
- ii. Quality and provision of scientific advice
  - Extent to which the IPHC receives and/or produces the best scientific advice relevant to the fish stocks and other living marine resources under its purview, as well as to the effects of fishing on the marine environment.
  - Extent to which the IPHC obtains and evaluates scientific advice, reviews the status of the stock, promotes the conduct of relevant scientific research, and disseminates the results thereof.
- iii. Data collection and sharing
  - Extent to which the IPHC has agreed formats, specifications and timeframes for data submission, taking into account UNFSA Annex I.
  - Extent to which IPHC Contracting Parties, individually or through the IPHC, collect and share complete and accurate fisheries data concerning target stocks and non-target species and other relevant data in a timely manner.
  - Extent to which fishing data and fishing vessel data are gathered by the IPHC and shared among Contracting Parties and other relevant bodies.
  - Extent to which the IPHC is addressing any gaps in the collection and sharing of data as required.
  - Extent to which the IPHC has set standards for the collection of socio-economic data from the fisheries; and extent to which this information is used to inform decisions by the Commission.
  - Extent to which the IPHC has set security and confidentiality standards and rules for sharing of sensitive science and operational/compliance data.
- iv. Consistency between scientific advice and fishery Regulations adopted;



**INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC  
HALIBUT COMMISSION**

- Extent to which the IPHC has adopted fishery Regulations for both Pacific halibut, and proposed regulations for non-target species to relevant bodies, that ensure the long-term sustainability of the ecosystem as well as of such stocks and species and are based on the best scientific evidence available.
  - Extent to which the IPHC has applied the precautionary approach as set forth in UNFSA Article 6 and the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries Article 7.5, including the application of precautionary reference points and harvest control rules.
  - Extent to which the IPHC has adopted and implemented effective rebuilding plans for depleted or overfished stocks.
  - Extent to which the IPHC has taken due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity and minimise harmful impacts of fisheries on living marine resources and marine ecosystems.
  - Extent to which the IPHC has adopted measures to minimise pollution, waste, discards, catch by lost or abandoned gear, catch of non-target species, both fish and non-fish species, and impacts on associated or dependent species, in particular endangered species, through measures including, to the extent practicable, the development and use of selective, environmentally safe and cost-effective fishing gear and techniques.
- v. Compatibility of management measures
- Extent to which measures have been adopted as reflected in UNFSA Article 7.
- vi. Fishing allocations and opportunities
- Extent to which the IPHC agrees on the allocation of allowable catch or levels of fishing effort, including taking into account requests for participation from new Contracting Parties or participants as reflected in UNFSA Article 11.

**Qualifications, experience and expressions of interest (EOI):**

The IPHC seeks a qualified individual with expertise in evaluating complex fisheries science programs in an international context. Preference may be given to individuals who are familiar with the Performance Review process for Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, or similar processes.

EOIs from qualified individuals are invited for this contract, and should include:

1. Full name
2. Contact information
3. Detailed CV including relevant experience
4. Three examples of relevant previous work in the field.



## **Honoraria**

Fees will be commensurate with experience but will not typically exceed \$800 USD per day unless otherwise negotiated, in addition to expenses, and any other approved expenses. It is anticipated that the review will require up to ten (10) days to completed by the applicant. Additional days may be added by mutual agreement to attend a Panel meeting.

## **Conflict of Interest Statement**

Selected individuals will be required to provide their expert advice free from influence by government officers, fishing industry, or other interest groups. Individuals should include a statement regarding their actual or potential perceived conflicts of interest.

## **Estimated time frame:**

The reviewer will be asked to meet electronically with relevant IPHC Secretariat staff to discuss the review, the draft, and the final report. In addition, should it be necessary and should the expert be available, the reviewer may be asked to travel to meet with the rest of the Performance Review Panel in person, either in the USA or Canada (TBA), in June or September 2019.

## **Key dates (flexible – may be extended by request and agreement)**

- 1 June 2019: Draft written report to be submitted to the IPHC Secretariat for consideration;
- 4 June 2019: Presentation of the Draft report to the Performance Review Panel: Via electronic means or in person, to be mutually agreed.
- 14 June 2019: Comments or requests for modifications/clarifications on the draft report to be provided to the consultant.
- 15 July 2019: Final written report to be submitted to the IPHC Secretariat.

## **Application Deadline**

EOIs must be received by the IPHC Secretariat via email at [secretariat@iphc.int](mailto:secretariat@iphc.int) no later than the close of business on 23 April 2019.

Questions may be directed to the IPHC Secretariat at [secretariat@iphc.int](mailto:secretariat@iphc.int).