



Date and place of the 94th and 95th Sessions of the IPHC Interim Meeting (2018 and 2019)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (S. KEITH, 27 OCTOBER 2017)

PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to direct the IPHC Secretariat with regard to future sessions of the IPHC Interim Meeting.

BACKGROUND

The IPHC Interim Meeting is a large public meeting, which requires enough advance notice for the IPHC Secretariat to secure a venue and organize the meeting, as well as for stakeholders to plan their attendance. The scheduling of the Interim Meeting is influenced by the production of the annual stock assessment and harvest advice, which itself is related to when the commercial Pacific halibut fishing season ends, by the schedules of our partner agencies and stakeholder groups in preparation for the following IPHC Annual Meeting in January, and by the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States of America.

DISCUSSION

The IPHC Interim Meeting has customarily been held in Seattle, and the IPHC Secretariat recommends that this practice continue, due to the logistical challenges and potential increased costs of holding the meeting in another city.

In recent years, the Interim Meeting has been scheduled after the US Thanksgiving holiday (late November) and before the December North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) meeting. This timing works well for the IPHC Secretariat, as it allows enough time to complete the stock assessment before the Interim Meeting and for the results to be published before the NPFMC meeting, when the NPFMC approves its recommendations to the IPHC. This Interim Meeting timing also supports the customary December meeting dates of a number of other Pacific halibut stakeholder organizations, at which they prepare their positions for the IPHC Annual Meeting.

In some years the Interim Meeting has been held as early as the week of the US Thanksgiving holiday, which the Commission has found less desirable because of the reduced time available for assessment and the difficulty of traveling during that week. This may be necessary for the 2019 Interim Meeting (IM095) because of the late date of the US holiday (28 Nov 2019) and the early date of the NPFMC meeting (tentatively scheduled for 2-10 Dec 2019).

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPhC-2017-IM093-21 which outlines possible dates and places for future Sessions of the IPhC Interim Meeting.
- 2) **AGREE** to the proposed dates and place for the 94th Session of the IPhC Interim Meeting (IM094, 2018), as provided in Table 1.
- 3) **NOTE** the potential scheduling conflicts around the 95th Session of the IPhC Interim Meeting (IM095, 2019), with a view toward making a decision regarding IM095 no later than January 2018.

Table 1. Draft meeting schedule for the IPhC Interim Meetings and Work Meetings (2017 and 2018)

Meeting	Session	2018		Session	2018	
		Date	Location		Date	Location
Interim Meeting	94 th	27-28 November	Seattle, WA, U.S.A.	95 th	TBD	Seattle, WA, U.S.A.