



Update on actions arising from the 95th Annual Meeting (AM095)

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PURPOSE

To provide the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095, January 2019).

BACKGROUND

At the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095), Contracting Parties agreed on a series of actions to be taken by Commissioners, subsidiary bodies, and the IPHC Secretariat on a range of issues as detailed in [Appendix A](#).

DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned to the IPHC Secretariat by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that any recommendations for action are carefully constructed so that each contains the following elements:

- 1) a specific action to be undertaken (deliverable);
- 2) clear responsibility for the action to be undertaken (i.e. a specific Contracting Party, the IPHC Secretariat staff, a subsidiary body of the Commission, or the Commission itself);
- 3) a desired time frame for delivery of the action (i.e. by the next session of a subsidiary body, or other date).

This involves numbering and tracking all action items (see [Appendix A](#)) from the Commission, as well as including clear progress updates and document reference numbers.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2019-IM095-03 Rev_1, which provided the Commission with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the direct requests for action by the Commission during its 95th Annual Meeting (AM095, January 2019).

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Update on actions arising from the 95th Annual Meeting \(AM095: January 2019\)](#).

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 95th Annual Meeting (AM095: January 2019)

95 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095)		
Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
AM095– Rec.01 (para. 59c)	<p>IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED the MSAB develop the following additional objective, as well as prioritize this objective in the evaluation of management procedures, for the Commission’s consideration.</p> <p>i. A conservation objective that meets a spawning biomass target.</p>	<p>Lead: Allan Hicks</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress.</p> <p>The MSAB discussed this objective at MSAB013 and MSAB014 and the objective recommended at MSAB014 will be presented to the Commission.</p>
AM095– Rec.02 (para. 62)	<p>Report of the 12th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB012)</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that the MSAB and IPHC Secretariat continue its program of work on the Management Procedure for the Scale portion of the harvest strategy, NOTING that Scale and Distribution components will be evaluated and presented no later than at AM097 in 2021, for potential adoption and subsequent implementation as a harvest strategy. The management procedure that best meets the primary objectives for coastwide scale is:</p> <p>a) A target SPR of 40% with a fishery trigger of 30% and a fishery limit of 20% in the control rule;</p> <p>b) An annual constraint of 15% from the previous year’s mortality limit.</p>	<p>Lead: Allan Hicks</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress.</p> <p>Additional results from simulations for coastwide fishing intensity (Scale) were presented and discussed at MSAB013, with similar outcomes as presented at AM095. Work is now focused on defining objectives related to distribution, identifying management procedures for scale and distribution components, and developing a simulation framework that allows for the evaluation of management procedures with both scale and distribution components.</p>
AM095– Rec.03 (para. 65)	<p>Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)</p> <p>The Commission RECOMMENDED that Contracting Parties undertake a detailed review of the amendments to the IPHC Fishery Regulations contained in IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA1, and to provide initial feedback at the 95th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095) on whether agreement could be reached to adopt the amendments at the subsequent 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) in January 2020.</p>	<p>Lead: Steve Keith</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress.</p> <p>Updated version published 7 Oct 2019 in order complete review before IM095. The intention is for the Commission to tentatively endorse the proposal at IM095 for adoption at AM096.</p> <p>See paper IPHC-2019-IM095-PropA1</p>

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Action No.	Description	Update
AM095– Rec.04 (para. 66)	The Commission RECOMMENDED evaluating and redefining TCEY to include the U26 component of discard mortalities, including bycatch, as steps towards more comprehensive and responsible management of the resource, in coordination with the IPHC Secretariat and Contracting Parties. The intent is that each Contracting Party to the Treaty would be responsible for counting its U26 mortalities against its collective TCEY. This change would be intended to take effect for TCEYs established at the 2020 Annual Meeting.	Lead: Ian Stewart Status/Plan: Completed. Discussion paper comparing several alternatives for the treatment of U26 within a total mortality limit prepared for WM2019: IPHC-2019-WM2019-13 See paper IPHC-2019-IM095-10
AM095– Rec.05 (para. 67)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat expand upon the analysis completed in IPHC-2019-AM095-INF08 “ <i>Treatment and effects of Pacific halibut discard mortality (bycatch) in non-directed fisheries projected for 2019</i> ”, to be reviewed by the SRB at its next meeting. The objective of this work is to estimate lost yield from bycatch of Pacific halibut in non-directed fisheries for the years of 1991-2018.	Lead: Ian Stewart Status/Plan: Completed. Discussion paper describing methods and results reviewed at SRB015 (IPHC-2019-SRB015-12), and presented for IM095: See paper IPHC-2019-IM095-11
AM095– Rec.06 (para. 71)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat continue to report out annually on Regulatory Area mortality against the TCEY adopted for each Regulatory Area.	Lead: Lara Erikson Status/Plan: Completed. Incorporated into regular reporting on the fishery provided to the Commission and stakeholders via the Landing Report which is updated bi-monthly: https://www.iphc.int/data/landings-2019
AM095– Rec.07 (para. 72)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat develop options for accounting for Pacific halibut mortalities associated with the FISS and their other research projects in the definition of the coastwide TCEY.	Lead: Ian Stewart & L. Erikson Status/Plan: Completed. Discussion paper comparing several accounting alternatives prepared for WM2019 and also for IM095. See paper IPHC-2019-IM095-INF03
AM095– Rec.08 (para. 78)	IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Non-Tribal Directed Commercial Fishery NOTING the indication made to the PFMC in a letter dated 25 January 2019, that the IPHC Secretariat would welcome the opportunity to further address the safety concerns in the fishery, and to examine other potential management options for the fishery such as an IFQ or limited entry, as well as its management responsibilities, the Commission RECOMMENDED that this workshop take place, given the desire for the IPHC to move full management of the fishery from the IPHC (an international fisheries management body) to the relevant domestic agencies.	Lead: Steve Keith Status/Plan: In progress. Coordinating with relevant Contracting Party domestic agencies regarding shifting management of all Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A from the IPHC to the relevant domestic agencies. The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) affirmed its willingness to pursue domestic management at its June 2019 meeting, and has initiated

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		the necessary regulatory process with NOAA Fisheries. The workshop described in the January 2019 PFMC letter has been postponed, as the current focus is to transfer management of the fishery in its current form. The PFMC may then later investigate other potential management options for the fishery.
AM095– Rec.09 (para. 82)	IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments The Commission RECOMMENDED that Contracting Parties undertake a detailed review of the amendments to the IPHC Fishery Regulations contained in IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA3 Rev_1, and to provide initial feedback at the 95 th Session of the IPHC Interim Meeting (IM095) on whether agreement could be reached to adopt the amendments at the subsequent 96 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) in January 2020.	Lead: Steve Keith Status/Plan: In progress. Updated version of published 7 Oct 2019 in order complete review before IM095. See paper IPHC-2019-IM095-PropA3
AM095– Rec.10 (para. 129)	Peer review process for IPHC science products 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.	Lead: David Wilson & Ian Stewart Status/Plan: Completed. TORs drafted, sent and reviewed by SRB, sent to Commissioners for formal decision via Circular 2019-007. Approved by consensus. Contract awarded, peer review undertaken by Dr Kevin Stokes. Final report/review circulated to Commission on 2 Aug 2019 via IPHC Circular 2019-015 .
AM095– Rec.11 (para. 130)	The Commission RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise terms of reference for an expert/consultant to undertake a peer review of the IPHC Pacific halibut MSE, for implementation in early November 2019 and July 2020. The terms of reference and budget shall be endorsed by the Commission inter-sessionally.	Lead: David Wilson & Allan Hicks Status/Plan: In progress. TORs in development. Plan is for the review to occur in 2020, not 2019.
REQUESTS		
AM095– Req.01 (para. 06)	Report of the IPHC Secretariat (2018) The Commission NOTED the new functionality added to the IPHC website in 2018, and REQUESTED that these initiatives continue to be enhanced, with the overall aim of further improving the transparency of the IPHC's operations and data collected (http://iphc.int/): a) Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data interactive b) Regulations portal , including the online regulatory proposal submission form c) Landings Report	Lead: All Branch Managers Status/Plan: In progress. See webpages for updates.

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	d) Mortality projection tool e) Commercial Fisheries data interactive (in development)	
AM095– Req.02 (para. 12)	<p><i>Fishery statistics (2018)</i></p> <p>NOTING the uncertainty associated with various estimates of removals, as listed below, the Commission REQUESTED each Contracting Party address these uncertainties in a report to the Commission at its next Session. The intention is to provide greater detail on how each removal category is quantified, and verified:</p> <p>Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) self-reporting of lodges for recreational estimates in Canada; b) subsistence estimates in Canada; <p>United States of America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) self-reporting of lodges for recreational estimates in the U.S.A. (Alaska); d) recreational discard mortality estimates for U.S.A. (IPHC Regulatory Area 2A); e) subsistence estimates in the U.S.A.; f) estimates for the Pacific halibut commercial fishery discard mortality in U.S.A. (Alaska) due to the estimates calculated by the IPHC Secretariat differing from those provided by NMFS, due primarily to the way coverage is measured (by fish weight caught, versus fishing trip); g) the estimates for Pacific halibut bycatch mortality in other fisheries in the U.S.A., for the same reasons identified in the previous point. 	<p>Lead: Lara Erikson</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress.</p> <p>Report in development for IM095.</p> <p>Clarity around what sort of things are needed. Template needed once agencies consulted.</p>
AM095– Req.03 (para. 23)	<p><i>Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; FISS expansion results, etc.)</i></p> <p>NOTING that more FISS stations in the disputed area between Regulatory Areas 2B and 2C appear to be assigned to Regulatory Area 2C, and that the IPHC Secretariat indicated that this assignment is based on a ‘compromise’ boundary line previously developed, the Commission REQUESTED that this separation line be clarified and clearly marked on any future IPHC map to avoid confusion. The IPHC Secretariat shall develop such maps and distribute to the Commission in the coming weeks.</p>	<p>Lead: Ray Webster</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed.</p> <p>Following discussions with Commissioners, all FISS stations within the overlap of Canadian and USA maritime claims are included in both Regulatory Areas 2B and 2C’s WPUE and NPUE indices. Use of a “compromise” boundary line has been discontinued.</p>

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AM095– Req.04 (para. 91)	<p>Contracting Party (by Agency) reports - Regulatory Area 2A (U.S.A.: West coast)</p> <p>NOTING a lack of clarity regarding the accounting for Pacific halibut caught recreationally in British Columbia waters (Canada) and landed in Washington ports (U.S.A.), the Commission REQUESTED continued liaison between the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Fisheries and Oceans Canada on the subject.</p>	<p>Lead: Steve Keith</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress.</p> <p>Working with both Contracting Party agencies to promote clear accounting for all recreational removals, aiming to having both agencies report results of their liaison via the Contracting Party reports at AM096.</p>
AM095– Req.05 (para. 117)	<p>Budget estimates for FY2020 (for approval), and tentatively for FY2021</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat continue to develop a proposal for a potential Life History Modeller to join the IPHC Secretariat and for this to be provided to the Commission for consideration inter-sessionally.</p>	<p>Lead: Josep Planas</p> <p>Status/Plan: In progress.</p> <p>The position description was provided to the Commissioners inter-sessionally via IPHC Circular 2019-022 and will be discussed informally prior to the AM096 in February 2020 where the Commission may choose to appropriate funds for the position.</p>
AM095– Req.06 (para. 120)	<p>IPHC Financial Regulations (2019)</p> <p>The Commission ADOPTED the revised IPHC Financial Regulations (2019) by consensus, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed. IPHC Financial Regulations 2019 were published to the IPHC website on 4 February 2019.</p>
AM095– Req.07 (para. 124)	<p>IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019)</p> <p>The Commission ADOPTED the revised IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019) by consensus, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish them accordingly.</p>	<p>Lead: David Wilson</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed. IPHC Rules of Procedure 2019 were published to the IPHC website on 4 February 2019.</p>
AM095– Req.08 (para. 150)	<p>Review of the draft and adoption of the report of the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095)</p> <p>The Commission REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat finalise and publish the IPHC <i>Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2019)</i> no later than 28 February 2019, NOTING that only minor editorial and formatting changes are permitted beyond the decisions made by the Commission at the AM095.</p>	<p>Lead: Steve Keith</p> <p>Status/Plan: Completed. IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations 2019 were published to the IPHC website on 19 February 2019.</p>