



Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB025)

Anchorage, Alaska, U.S.A., 4-6 February 2020

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ACRONYMS

FCEY	Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
PAB	Processor Advisory Board
SPR	Spawning Potential Ratio
TCEY	Total Constant Exploitation Yield

DEFINITIONS

A set of working definitions are provided in the IPHC Glossary of Terms and abbreviations:
<https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/glossary-of-terms-and-abbreviations>

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

- Level 1: RECOMMENDED; RECOMMENDATION; ADOPTED** (formal); **REQUESTED; ENDORSED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary (advisory) body of the Commission and/or the IPHC Secretariat.
- Level 2: AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be elevated in the Commission's reporting structure.
- Level 3: NOTED/NOTING; CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED:** General terms to be used for consistency. Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference. Any other term may be used to highlight to the reader of an IPHC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. Other terms may be used but will be considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 25th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Processor Advisory Board (PAB025) was held in Anchorage, Alaska, U.S.A. from 4-6 February 2020. A total of 15 (18 in 2019) voting members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by the HANA president Ms. Jessie Keplinger who welcomed participants to Anchorage, Alaska.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the PAB025, which are provided at [Appendix IV](#).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

- PAB025–Rec.01 ([para. 13](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing period dates for the 2020:
- a) Opening: 21 March at noon local time [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0];
 - b) Closing: 31 October at noon local time [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0].

Mortality limits - TCEY Recommendations

- PAB025–Rec.02 ([para. 18](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2020 fishing period as provided in [Table 1](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat) provided in [Appendix III](#) and an SPR of 41.5% [in favour=08 (**Canada:** 1; **USA:** 7); against=07(**Canada:** 4; **USA:** 3 US); abstain=0]. These numbers reflect the needs of the catch share plans and stakeholder comment letters of areas 4CDE and Areas 2C and 3A. The motion adopted did not include U26 mitigation. Some members of the opposing Canadian and USA delegations expressed a desire to have a lower fishing intensity while the Canadians also wanted to retain the U26 mitigation.

Table 1. Processor Advisory Board (PAB) recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2020. See previous paragraphs for voting.

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)
2A	1.65
2B	6.72
2C	5.82
3A	12.11
3B	3.12
4A	1.94
4B	1.37
4CDE	4.17
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	36.9

Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)

- PAB025–Rec.03 ([para. 20](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA1, with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in [Section 5](#). [in favour=8; against=7; abstain=0]

Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)

- PAB025–Rec.04 ([para. 22](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA2, with the addition of the fishing periods as detailed in [Section 4](#)), and that season dates be revisited annually. [in favour=14; against=0; abstain=0; absent=01]

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 25th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Processor Advisory Board (PAB025) was held in Anchorage, Alaska, U.S.A. from 4-6 February 2020. A total of 15 (18 in 2019) voting members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by the HANA president Ms. Jessie Keplinger who welcomed participants to Anchorage, Alaska.
2. In accordance with Appendix VI, Section III of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2019), the PAB **ACKNOWLEDGED** the requirement to elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson of the PAB until the opening of the next PAB meeting in 2021.
3. The PAB **CALLED** for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the PAB until the opening of the next session in 2020. Ms Jessie Keplinger (USA) was nominated, seconded and elected as Chairperson.
4. The PAB **CALLED** for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the PAB until the opening of the next session in 2021. Mr Carl Nordmann (Canada) was nominated, seconded and elected as Vice-Chairperson.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

5. The PAB **ADOPTED** the amended agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#), which included an item to discuss the IPHC interim harvest management policy (5.1) and a discussion of the proposed FISS re-design (7.1). The documents provided to the PAB025 are those submitted for the 96th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096).
6. The PAB **NOTED** that it will convene on Thursday (6 February) morning to adopt the report of the PAB025, for presentation to the Commission on Thursday afternoon.

3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION

3.1 *Definition of Mortality Limits and TCEY*

7. The PAB **NOTED** the informal presentation by Dr Ian Stewart (IPHC Quantitative Scientist), which included outlining the IPHC definitions of total mortality and TCEY as follows:
 - a) **Total mortality:** Consists of all sources and sizes of dead Pacific halibut in two categories - 1) the TCEY and 2) U26 discard mortality in non-directed fisheries;
 - b) **Total Constant Exploitation Yield (TCEY):** The current basis for Commission mortality limits. Includes all sources and sizes of mortality, except U26 discards in non-directed fisheries.

3.2 *MSAB update*

8. The PAB **NOTED** the presentation by Dr Allan Hicks.

3.3 *IPHC Understanding of Movement*

9. The PAB **ACKNOWLEDGED** a presentation from Dr Allan Hicks on research results regarding Pacific halibut migration.

3.4 *Fisheries Economics*

10. The PAB **NOTED** the information presentation by Dr Barbara (Basia) Hutniczak (IPHC Fisheries Economist) which included a broad overview of her current work on Pacific halibut fishery economics.

4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES

11. The PAB **AGREED** on an opening date of Saturday 21 March 2020 is preferred, because it is after the Boston Seafood Expo North America, provides enough time for USA federal permits to be processed before the season opens, and is at the beginning of favourable tides for most areas. This opening date is also three weeks prior to sales on Easter which is on 12 April 2020.
12. The PAB **AGREED** that a closing date of 31 October 2020 is a traditional recommendation, supported by diminishing catches, the onset of rough weather, and continuing declines in the fresh fish selling

environment due in part to the approaching US Thanksgiving holiday and additional closed processing facilities.

Recommendation

13. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing period dates for the 2020:
- Opening: 21 March at noon local time [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0];
 - Closing: 31 October at noon local time [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0].

5. MORTALITY LIMITS

14. The PAB **NOTED** the IPHC's web-based mortality projection tool for use in the PAB025 and AM096 (<https://www.iphc.int/data/projection-tool>).
15. The PAB **NOTED** this years quota deliberations were a challenge, due in part to the complexity and inaccessibility of the tables showing TCEY by Regulatory Area. We understand there are challenges here but hope in the future we have a tool (or tools) that can be used effectively without requiring one of the staff scientists 20-30 minutes of calculations on each request.

5.1 Coastwide perspectives

16. The PAB **NOTED** that there were discussions of a range between SPR F46 to F41.5 as options within which a balance between industry needs and sustainability resource conservation can be found.

5.2 Regulatory Area perspectives

17. The PAB **NOTED** that each of the IPHC Regulatory Areas, with the possible exception of Reg. Area 3B, were considered in terms of catch share needs, non-directed discard mortality (bycatch) requirements and the impact of last year's agreements on TCEY.

5.3 TCEY Recommendations

18. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2020 fishing period as provided in [Table 1](#), which translate to the mortality estimates by sector (as provided by the IPHC Secretariat) provided in [Appendix III](#) and an SPR of 41.5% [in favour=08 (**Canada:** 1; **USA:** 7); against=07(**Canada:** 4; **USA:** 3 US); abstain=0]. These numbers reflect the needs of the catch share plans and stakeholder comment letters of areas 4CDE and Areas 2C and 3A. The motion adopted did not include U26 mitigation. Some members of the opposing Canadian and USA delegations expressed a desire to have a lower fishing intensity while the Canadians also wanted to retain the U26 mitigation.

Table 1. Processor Advisory Board (PAB) recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2020. See previous paragraphs for voting.

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4A	1.94
4B	1.37
4CDE	4.17
Total (IPHC Convention Area)	36.9

6. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2020

6.1 *IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals*

6.1.1 *Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)*

19. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA1, which aimed to improve clarity and transparency of fishery limits in the IPHC Fishery Regulations, and to provide the framework for mortality limits adopted by the Commission.
20. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA1, with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in [Section 5](#). [in favour=8; against=7; abstain=0]

6.1.2 *Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)*

21. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA2, which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. See [Section 4](#) for a summary of discussions and recommendations.
22. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA2, with the addition of the fishing periods as detailed in [Section 4](#)), and that season dates be revisited annually. [in favour=14; against=0; abstain=0; absent=01]

6.1.3 *IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments*

23. The PAB **AGREED** to take no action on regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA3 which proposed amendments to ensure clarity and consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations.
24. The PAB **REQUESTED** that future changes in regulatory language always be presented in redline form. [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0]

6.1.4 *Vessel Clearance in IPHC Regulatory Area 4 (Sect. 16)*

25. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA4, which proposed amendments to address the need for clearances when a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries observer or electronic monitoring device is present, and that this is a harvester issue and took no action. [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0]

6.1.5 *IPHC Closed Area (Sect. 11)*

26. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA5, which proposed amendments to consider the intent and purpose of the IPHC Closed Area, as defined in the Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (2019) Section 11, which currently excludes directed Pacific halibut fishing, but allows other forms of mortality such as trawling, and propose the removal of the IPHC Closed Area from the IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations.
27. The PAB **CONSIDERED** a motion that the Commission:
- a) does not open the area to directed Pacific halibut fishing;
 - b) request the NPFMC to undertake an action that would close that area to Trawl fishing.
- [in favour=05; against=05; abstain=05]
28. The PAB **AGREED** that the closed area remain closed, i.e. there continues to be no directed Pacific halibut fishery in the closed area.
29. The PAB **REQUESTED** that the IPHC revisit scientific and analytical studies and through the use of their data, determine if the area is still defined appropriately, including whether it would be possible to reduce the size of the closed area, while still adequately protecting the nursery grounds. [in favour=13; against=0; abstain=1; absent=1]. The results of this initiative could inform the PAB as well as the NPFMC and

IPHC's policy decisions regarding this area about both trawl and legal gear for the directed Pacific halibut fishery.

6.2 *Contracting Party regulatory proposals*

6.2.1 *Charter management measures in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A*

30. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB1, which proposed IPHC Regulation changes for charter recreational Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, in order to achieve the charter Pacific halibut allocation under the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council's (NPFMC) Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan.
31. The PAB **AGREED** to take no action on proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB1. [in favour=14; against=0; abstain=0; absent=1]

6.2.2 *Revising definition of IPHC Regulatory Area 2A-1*

32. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB2, which proposed an update to IPHC regulatory language regarding the usual and accustomed fishing areas of Indian tribes with treaty fishing rights to Pacific halibut, with the addition of the geographic reference for Point Chehalis (46° 53.30' N. lat.).
33. The PAB **AGREED** to take no action on proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropB2. [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0]

6.3 *Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals*

6.3.1 *Alaska Recreational Fisheries*

34. The PAB **AGREED** to take no action on proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropC1, which proposed a series of common regulations to be applied to all recreational fisheries in Alaska. [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0]

6.3.2 *Alaska Recreational Fisheries*

35. The PAB **AGREED** to take no action on proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropC2, which proposed a common daily bag limit for all non-resident fishers in the recreational fisheries in Alaska. [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0]

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

36. The PAB **EXPRESSED** thanks for the presentations made by Dr Ian Stewart, Dr Allan Hicks, Dr Ray Webster and Dr Basia Hutniczak, and Mark Fina of US Seafoods and Chris Woodley of the Groundfish Forum Suja Hall and Frank Lockhart of NOAA Fisheries. A special thanks to IPHC Secretariat staff Kamala Carroll and Colin Jones and for assistance with the PAB.

8. **REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 25TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB025)**

37. The Report of the 25th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (IPHC-2020-PAB025-R) was **ADOPTED** on 06 February 2020, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from PAB025, provided at [Appendix IV](#). [in favour=11; against=0; abstain=0; absent=4]

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 25TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD
(PAB025)

Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Ms Jessie Keplinger (United States of America)	Mr Carl Nordmann (Canada)

HANA Executive Director

Ms Peggy Parker : peggyparker616@gmail.com

PAB Members

Canada		
Member		Representative
1.7 Seas Fish	Mr Nick Heras	nheras@7seas.ca
2.French Creek Seafood	Mr Robbie St. Louis	rob@frenchcreek.ca
3.FAS Seafoods	Mr Pete Hartman Mr Bob Fraumeni	pete@finestatsea.com rghf@fasseafood.com
4.Aero Trading Company Ltd	Mr Brad Mirau Mr Liam Stockwell	brad@aerotrading.ca liam@aerotrading.ca
5.SM Products (BC) Ltd	Mr Carl Nordmann	carl@halibut.ca
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Member	Representative	Email
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6.Dana F. Besecker Co. Inc.	Mr Miles Smith Mr Eric Olson	miles@dfbcompany.com Elolson0829@gmail.com
7.Yakutat Seafoods/EE	Mr Greg Indreland	gregyak@yahoo.com
8.Kachemak Bay	Mr Bill Sullivan	freshhalibut@gmail.com
9.Bellingham Cold storage	Mr Joel Harvey	Joel.harvey@bellcold.com
10. Central Bering Sea fishermens Association	Ms Heather McCarty	hdmccarty@gmail.com

IPHC Secretariat

Participant	Title	Email
Ms Kamala Carroll	Fisheries Data Specialist	kamala.carroll@iphc.int
Mr Colin Jones	Setline Survey Specialist	colin.jones@iphc.int

APPENDIX II**AGENDA FOR THE 25TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB025)****Date:** 04-06 February 2020**Location:** Anchorage, AK, USA**Venue:** Hotel Captain Cook; **Room:** Endeavor**Time:** 4th: 13:30-17:00; 5th: 09:00-17:00; 6th: 09:00-12:00**Chairperson:** Ms Jessie Keplinger (USA); **Vice-Chairperson:** Mr Carl Nordmann (Canada)**1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1.1 Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**3. IPHC SECRETARIAT INFORMATIONAL SESSION**

- 3.1 Definition of Mortality Limits and TCEY
- 3.2 MSAB Update
- 3.3 IPHC Understanding of Movement (if desired)
- 3.4 Fisheries economics

4. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES**5. MORTALITY LIMITS**

- 5.1 Harvest policy
- 5.2 Coastwide perspectives
- 5.3 Regulatory Area perspectives
- 5.4 TCEY Recommendations

6. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2020

- 6.1 IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals
- 6.2 Contracting Party regulatory proposals
- 6.3 Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- 7.1 FISS expansion in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A

8. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 25TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB025)

APPENDIX III**PACIFIC HALIBUT MORTALITY PROJECTED FOR 2020 BASED ON THE PAB RECOMMENDED TCEY CATCH LIMITS**

Note: All values reported in millions of net pounds. Provided by the IPHC Secretariat based on the PAB 2020 TCEY recommendations.

	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4A	4B	4CDE	Total
Commercial discard mortality	0.03	0.13	NA	NA	0.16	0.10	0.04	0.07	0.54
O26 Bycatch	0.12	0.22	0.09	1.37	0.42	0.20	0.15	2.40	4.97
Non-CSP Recreational (+ discards)	NA	0.05	1.15	1.66	0.0	0.01	0.0	0.0	2.88
Subsistence	NA	0.41	0.37	0.19	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.04	1.03
Total Non-FCEY	0.15	0.77	1.61	3.22	0.6	0.33	0.19	2.51	9.41
Commercial discard mortality	NA	NA	0.07	0.29	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.36
CSP Recreational (+ discards)	0.60	0.87	0.77	1.68	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.92
Subsistence	0.03	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.03
Commercial Landings	0.86	5.05	3.37	6.92	2.52	1.61	1.18	1.66	23.17
Total FCEY	1.5	5.92	4.21	8.89	2.52	1.61	1.18	1.66	27.48
TCEY	1.65	6.74	5.82	12.11	3.12	1.94	1.37	4.17	36.9
U26 Bycatch	0.0	0.02	0.0	0.27	0.06	0.15	0.01	1.09	1.61
Total Mortality	1.65	6.74	5.82	12.38	3.18	2.09	1.38	5.26	38.51

APPENDIX IV

CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 25TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB025) (4-6 FEBRUARY 2020)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

- PAB025–Rec.01 ([para. 13](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** the following fishing period dates for the 2020:
- Opening: 21 March at noon local time [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0];
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Mortality limits - TCEY Recommendations

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Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)

- PAB025–Rec.03 ([para. 20](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA1, with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in [Section 5](#). [in favour=8; against=7; abstain=0]

Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)

- PAB025–Rec.04 ([para. 22](#)) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA2, with the addition of the fishing periods as detailed in [Section 4](#)), and that season dates be revisited annually. [in favour=14; against=0; abstain=0; absent=01]

REQUESTS

IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

- PAB025–Req.01 ([para. 24](#)) The PAB **REQUESTED** that future changes in regulatory language always be presented in redline form. [in favour=15; against=0; abstain=0]

IPHC Closed Area (Sect. 11)

PAB025–Req.02 ([para. 29](#)) The PAB **REQUESTED** that the IPHC revisit scientific and analytical studies and through the use of their data, determine if the area is still defined appropriately, including whether it would be possible to reduce the size of the closed area, while still adequately protecting the nursery grounds. [in favour=13; against=0; abstain=1; absent=1]. The results of this initiative could inform the PAB as well as the NPFMC and IPHC’s policy decisions regarding this area about both trawl and legal gear for the directed Pacific halibut fishery.