

Action Items

1. Adam, with support of steering committee, to complete edits to the Terms of Reference regarding term limits and consensus in time for adoption at interim meeting. The first draft to be provided to steering committee by November 4th. The final draft to be completed by steering committee by November 11th.
2. Staff will propose changes to the MSAB Terms of Reference to standardize with IPHC rules of procedure at Interim Meeting for adoption in January.
3. Allan is going to define the term scenario and include in his list of definitions in workplan by November 4th.
4. Allan to write up his qualitative evaluation of current harvest policy as a RARA chapter. The RARA chapter will be published in time for the annual meeting.
5. Staff (Allan) to develop materials by the Interim Meeting to describe SPR for the purpose of supporting MSAB members' communication with their constituents. Chris Joseph to work with Allan to incorporate relevant material in meeting summary, which is due on November 11th.
6. Michele is going to revise goals, objectives and intent document and send to steering committee by November 4th. Steering committee will make adjustments as needed and publish on Sharepoint by November 11th.
7. Adam and Michele to gather guidance from Commissioners on what they seek for interim and annual meetings.

*wasn't there something that members are to send me comments (if any)?? am I missing an action?

Decisions

1. MSAB confirmed they were comfortable with revised workplan.
2. MSAB accepted staff's presentation and forthcoming RARA chapter as an initial evaluation of the current harvest policy.
3. MSAB want staff to use social media to announce release of meeting summaries.
4. MSAB supported staff pursuing the hiring of a programmer and bringing in a consultant to support the MSE, pending budget constraints.

Recommendations to Commissioners for Interim and Annual Meetings

- Regarding Current Harvest Policy
 - The MSAB was tasked by Commissioners with reviewing the current harvest policy ("Halibut Commission Completes 2016 Annual Meeting" at <http://iphc.int/news-releases/447-nr20160208.html>). The MSAB reviewed the current harvest policy and found that the current harvest policy is unresponsive to U26 mortality, and selectivity curves used to define Ebio are outdated. The forthcoming 2016 RARA will include a chapter describing the results of this review in greater detail. The MSAB recommends to the Commission that alternative harvest policy approaches that address these shortcomings and take into account all sizes of fish be evaluated. One approach that should be evaluated is a Spawning Potential Ratio (SPR) based harvest policy.

Material for meeting summary

- Regarding Bycatch
 - Staff presented Commission questions regarding bycatch that were raised at the September 2016 Commissioner's Work Meeting.
 - 1. What are the goals of the directed fishery in relation to ABM/PSC limits?
 - [Reference IPHC convention—primary charge is conservation, and IPHC goal to optimize yield for directed fishery.] MSAB has an overarching goal to minimize bycatch mortality; acknowledge need more discussion about what that means (2017).
 - 2. How do PSC limits affect the directed fishery?
 - MSAB is unable to quantify the effects of bycatch in general, and PSC limits in particular, on the conservation of the stock and the directed fishery at this time. We are in the process of building our modeling capacity, and we anticipate being able to address in 2017/2018, at the earliest.
 - 3. What analysis can/will be done to address this issue?
 - MSAB anticipates addressing bycatch in general, and ABM/PSC limits, as a scenario in the MSE process.