Report of the 24th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (PAB024)

Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, 29-30 January 2019
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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://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 24th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Processor Advisory Board (PAB024) was held in Victoria, Canada, from 29-30 January 2019. A total of 18 (20 in 2018) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, with a total of 33 meeting participants.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from the PAB024, which are provided at Appendix IV.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

PAB024-Rec.01 (para. 9) The PAB RECOMMENDED the following fishing period dates for the 2019:
   a) Opening: 23 March at noon local time;
   b) Closing: 7 November at noon local time.

Mortality limits

PAB024-Rec.02 (para. 12) The PAB RECOMMENDED the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2019 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 46%, modified by slow up fast down approach. To comply with the recommendation regarding PropC1, to allocate 1.65 mlbs to IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, taken proportionately from each Alaskan regulatory area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPHC Regulatory Area</th>
<th>Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>6.01</td>
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<tr>
<td>2C</td>
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<td>1.47</td>
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<tr>
<td>4CDE</td>
<td>3.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (IPHC Convention Area)</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.63</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PAB024-Rec.08 (para. 27) The PAB RECOMMENDED:
   a) a 1.65 million lbs TCEY in 2A for 2019, at FSPR46 total removal level be taken using Alaskan regulatory areas (prorated from 2019 TCEY in Alaskan IPHC Regulatory Area 2C-4) and needs to be reviewed annually. The purpose of this is to stay within the total mortality reflected in the F value adopted for coastwide removals.
   b) that the Commission look at IPHC Regulatory Area 2A year-to-year in this regard, and not set a five-year term for an elevated allocation.
1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1. The 24th Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Processor Advisory Board (PAB024) was held in Victoria, Canada, from 29-30 January 2019. A total of 18 (20 in 2018) voting members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. Thirty-one (31) participants in total participated over the two day meeting. The list of participants is provided at Appendix I. The meeting was opened by the HANA president Ms. Jessie Keplinger who welcomed participants to Victoria.

2. In accordance with Appendix VI, Section III of the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2017), the PAB NOTED the requirement to elect a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson of the PAB until the opening of the next PAB meeting in 2020.

3. The PAB CALLED for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the PAB until the opening of the next session in 2020. Mr. Blake Tipton (Canada) 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 2020. Ms Jessie Keplinger (USA) was nominated, seconded and elected as Vice-Chairperson.

2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION**

5. The PAB ADOPTED the Agenda as provided at Appendix II. The documents provided to the PAB024 are those submitted for the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095).

3. **FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES**

6. The PAB AGREED that a closing date of 7 November is preferable due to the substantial drop in market interest at the end of the season, deterioration of the weather in most areas, increased problems with quality, and the need for the IPHC Secretariat to collect and process data for the stock assessment in a timely manner.

7. The PAB NOTED that the relatively late opening date of March 23 reflects concern about another federal government shutdown in the U.S.A. which would delay issuance of permits, and the additional backlog the 35-day shutdown has caused now. The Saturday opening favors market timing, as well as the Boston Seafood Show, and tides. The early November closure is appropriate given weather for the fleets, market timing, and plant schedules.

8. The PAB ACKNOWLEDGED extensive discussion over season dates, including substitute motions (Recommendations), friendly amendments, a rescinded motion (Recommendation), and a final motion (Recommendation) with a friendly amendment during the two day session.

**Recommendation**

9. The PAB RECOMMENDED the following fishing period dates for the 2019 [in favour=14; against=2; abstain=2]:

   a) Opening: 23 March at noon local time;
   b) Closing: 7 November at noon local time.

4. **MORTALITY LIMITS**


11. The PAB NOTED the summary of IPHC Regulatory Area-specific mortality projections for 2019 based on the interim management procedure and other alternatives.

**Recommendation**

12. The PAB RECOMMENDED the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2019 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 46%, modified by slow up fast down approach. To
comply with the recommendation regarding PropC1, to allocate 1.65 mlbs to IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, taken proportionately from each Alaskan regulatory area.

Table 1. Processor Advisory Board (PAB) recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2019 [in favour 11; against=7; abstain=0]. (voting along Contracting Party lines)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPHC Regulatory Area</th>
<th>Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>1.65</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total (IPHC Convention Area)</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.63</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. The PAB NOTED that although this motion passed, the Canadian’s offered a substitute motion for a total of 37.21 mlbs, with the same shifting of a proportionate share of each IPHC Regulatory Area in Alaska to Regulatory Area 2A to increase their TCEY to 1.65mlb. Under the Canadian motion, prior to the calculations affecting each Alaskan IPHC Regulatory Area, 2A would get 1.32 mbls, 2B = 7.1 mlbs, 2C = 6.34 mlbs, 3A 12.54 mlbs, 3B = 3.27 mlbs, 4A = 1.74 mlbs, 4B = 1.28 mlbs, 4CDE = 3.62 mlbs. This motion failed along country lines on a 7 in favor, 11 opposed vote. The rationale in the Canadian motion was to keep a status quo and not increase mortalities in 2019. They also agreed to address IPHC Regulatory Area 2A’s concerns in the same way the earlier motion from the U.S.A. did.

14. The PAB NOTED the rationale for the U.S. motion concerning catch limits:
   a) Overall Stock status:
      i. USA PAB members note stock is facing a series of incoming weak year classes (recruitment) from 2006 to 2010 that will reduce spawning biomass in the near term, and that FISS WPUE declined in 5 of the 8 IPHC Regulatory Areas.
      ii. USA PAB members also note the significant uncertainty associated with the size of the 2011 and 2012 year classes at this time. This uncertainty is expected to be lessened with one to two years of additional data.
      iii. For these reasons, USA PAB members recommend a precautionary approach to setting 2019 catch limits until additional data can resolve recruitment uncertainty and stronger year classes enter the fishery.
      iv. We are supporting the slow up/fast down management procedure to smooth annual variability in catch limits and account for survey encounter variability and imprecision. Slow up means the catch limit is set 1/3 of the way up from last year’s TCEY to this year’s TCEY by area; fast down means the catch limit is set half way between last year’s TCEY and this year’s TCEY.
   b) MSE Process:
      i. USA PAB members support the goals established by the MSAB relating to conservation and fishery performance; and the prioritization of conservation objectives over fishery performance as necessary.

15. The PAB AGREED that both the Canada and U.S.A. mortality limit proposals were guided by the principal of conservation when setting catch limits, which using F46 with a SU/FD smoother does. In the end, the two proposals weren’t that far apart.
5. **REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2019**

5.1 **IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals**

5.1.1 **Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)**

16. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA1, which aimed to improve clarity and transparency of fishery limits in the IPHC Fishery Regulations.

17. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA1, with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in Section 4. [in favour=17; against=0; abstain=1]

5.1.2 **Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)**

18. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA2, which specified fishing periods for the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries. See Section 3 for additional summary of discussions.

19. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission does not adopt fixed dates for either the opening or closing of the Pacific halibut fishing season. Market conditions change every year, frozen inventory levels are different every year, and each year processor’s species mix may change and make conforming to a fixed date impossible. If the quota increases, there may be compelling reasons for opening a longer season, so flexibility is both necessary and efficient when setting annual opening and closing dates. [in favour=18; against = 0; abstain = 0]

5.1.3 **IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments**

20. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA3 which proposed amendments to ensure clarity and consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations. 1

21. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA3. [in favour=18 against=0 abstain=0]

5.2 **Contracting Party regulatory proposals**

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

22. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropB1, which proposed IPHC Regulation changes for charter 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.

23. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropB1. [in favour=18 against=0 abstain=0]

5.3 **Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals**

5.3.1 **Minimum TCEY in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A**

24. The PAB **NOTED** regulatory proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropC1, which proposed adopting a TCEY for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A that supports a FCEY no lower than 1.5Mlb. In years when the distribution would indicate a FCEY higher than 1.5Mlb is available, that number would be adopted.

25. The PAB **NOTED** that a separate motion that provides for the request made in PropC1, with some changes. After that motion was made, discussed, and adopted, the PAB took action on Prop C1.

26. The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission not adopt proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropC1. [in favour=16; against=1; abstain=0; -1 member missing].

27. The PAB **RECOMMENDED**: [in favour=18; against=0; abstain=0]

   a) a 1.65 million lbs TCEY in 2A for 2019, at FSPR46 total removal level be taken using Alaskan regulatory areas (prorated from 2019 TCEY in Alaskan IPHC Regulatory Area 2C-4) and
needs to be reviewed annually. The purpose of this is to stay within the total mortality reflected in the F value adopted for coastwide removals.

b) that the Commission look at IPHC Regulatory Area 2A year-to-year in this regard, and not set a five-year term for an elevated allocation.

5.3.2 IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Quota Proposal

28. The PAB NOTED paper IPHC-2019-AM095-PropC2, which proposed an individual quota system for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.

29. The PAB RECOMMENDED that the Commission take no action on Proposal C2, but ENCOURAGED the Commission to request information from the Pacific Council relating to this issue, including the process for changing from the current fishery to an IFQ fishery or other management option, encourage the council to consider a wide range of options, and to keep IPHC informed of their progress. [in favour=18; against=0; abstain=0]

6. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

30. The PAB REQUESTED the Commission arrange to have a publication similar to what has been provided in the past (2017 and earlier), known as the Blue Book, available during the 2020 Annual Meeting. This was characterized as having the highest level of importance for next year, as requested last year. The quality of the PAB’s deliberations and its overall productivity is damaged by not having the Blue Book available. [in favour=18; against=0; abstain=0]

31. The PAB NOTED the IPHC Secretariat’s indication that it continues to publish the blue book each year, as document IPHC-2019-AM095-00, which is a compendium of annual meeting documents (the former bluebook), 30 days prior to the annual meeting, for download and possible printing by users.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

32. The PAB EXPRESSED its appreciation for the assistance provided by the IPHC Secretariat, and for in-session presentations by Dr David Wilson, Dr Ian Stewart, Dr Ian Hicks, Ms Lara Erikson, Mr Glenn Merrill, Mr. Mike Pettis, and the Amendment 80 group (Mr. Mark Fina, Mr. Chris Woodley, Ms. Beth Conception).

USA Government shutdown impacts

33. The PAB NOTED the comments from Mr Glenn Merrill, USA Scientific and Technical Advisor, who elaborated on the previous and likely future shutdown of the US Government in three weeks’ time and the impacts this will have on the opening of the Pacific halibut fishery in the USA, primarily as a function of delays that will occur in quota permit issuance and season opening dates.

34. The PAB NOTED Mr Merrill’s indication that cost recovery funds may be parsed out to the Pacific halibut fishery to facilitate opening, and that it will depend on funds available from treasury, although they are being depleted.

IPHC Rules of Procedure

35. The PAB NOTED paper IPHC-2019-AM095-20 which provided an opportunity to consider proposed amendments to the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2017), as presented by the IPHC Executive Director. No objections to the improvements suggested by the IPHC Secretariat were provided by the PAB.

Trawl bycatch of Pacific halibut

36. The PAB NOTED paper IPHC-2019-AM095-INF05, which provided the Alaska Seafood Cooperative Halibut Bycatch Performance Report to the IPHC.

Abundance Based Management by the NPFMC

37. The PAB RECOMMENDED that the IPHC Secretariat be involved in the work at the NPFMC on Pacific halibut abundance based management. The IPHC should provide Secretariat staff members as needed and time for staff members to attend meetings and provide advice on the subject of Pacific halibut bycatch management. [in favour=16; against=0; abstain=2]

38. The report of the 24th Session of the IPHC Processor Advisory Board (IPHC-2019-PAB024-R) was **ADOPTED** via correspondence on 11 February 2019, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from PAB024, provided at Appendix IV.
# APPENDIX I

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 24th SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB024)

### Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chairperson</th>
<th>Vice-Chairperson</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Blake Tipton</td>
<td>Ms Jessica Keplinger (United States of America)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HANA Executive Director

Ms Peggy Parker: peggyparker616@gmail.com

### PAB Members

#### Canada

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Seas Fish</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>4. Aero Trading Company Ltd</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. SM Products (BC) Ltd</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Canadian Fishing Co.</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:phil.young@canfisco.com">phil.young@canfisco.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Scarlet Point Seafoods</td>
<td>Mr Arlo Kueber</td>
<td><a href="mailto:arlo@scarletpoint.ca">arlo@scarletpoint.ca</a></td>
</tr>
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#### United States of America

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Icicle Seafoods</td>
<td>Mr John Pettersen, Mr. John Woodruff, Ms Jessie Keplinger, Mr. Don Spigelmyre, Mr. Huff Hoyt</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Pacific Seafood</td>
<td>Mr Mike Okoniewski</td>
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<td>Mr Christopher (Kit) Durnil</td>
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<td>7. International Seafoods of Alaska</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>10. Kachemak Bay</td>
<td>Mr. Bill Sullivan</td>
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<tr>
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<td><a href="mailto:Joel.harvey@bellcold.com">Joel.harvey@bellcold.com</a></td>
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### IPHC Secretariat

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Tracee Geernaert</td>
<td>Survey Manager</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tracee.geernaert@iphc.int">tracee.geernaert@iphc.int</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Ed Henry</td>
<td>Fisheries Data Specialist</td>
<td><a href="mailto:edward.henry@iphc.int">edward.henry@iphc.int</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX II
AGENDA FOR THE 24TH SESSION OF THE IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB024)

Date: 29–30 January 2019
Location: Victoria, BC, Canada
Venue: Fairmont Empress, Room: Bengal Room
Time: 29th: 13:30-17:30; 30th: 09:00-17:00
Chairperson: Blake Tipton (Canada)
Vice-Chairperson: Jessie Keplinger (United States of America)

Note: All sessions are open to observers and the general public.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION
3. FISHING PERIODS: SEASON OPENING AND CLOSING DATES
4. MORTALITY LIMITS
5. REGULATORY PROPOSALS FOR 2019
   5.1 IPHC Secretariat regulatory proposals
   5.2 Contracting Party regulatory proposals
   5.3 Other Stakeholder regulatory proposals
6. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION
7. OTHER BUSINESS
## APPENDIX III

**PACIFIC HALIBUT MORTALITY PROJECTED FOR 2019 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 2019 TCEY recommendations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2A</th>
<th>2B</th>
<th>2C</th>
<th>3A</th>
<th>3B</th>
<th>4A</th>
<th>4B</th>
<th>4CDE</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commercial discard mortality</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.21</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O26 Bycatch</td>
<td>0.13</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>1.28</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>4.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-CSP Recreational (+ discards)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.07</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subsistence</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.41</td>
<td>0.44</td>
<td>0.22</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>1.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Non-FCEY</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>0.85</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>0.28</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>9.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial discard mortality</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSP Recreational (+ discards)</td>
<td>0.60</td>
<td>0.73</td>
<td>0.79</td>
<td>1.89</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>4.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsistence</td>
<td>0.03</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Landings</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>4.42</td>
<td>3.48</td>
<td>8.10</td>
<td>2.48</td>
<td>1.58</td>
<td>1.23</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>24.06</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total FCEY</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.50</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.15</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.32</strong></td>
<td><strong>10.30</strong></td>
<td><strong>2.48</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.58</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.23</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.91</strong></td>
<td><strong>28.47</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TCEY</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.65</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.01</strong></td>
<td><strong>6.17</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.54</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.06</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.86</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.47</strong></td>
<td><strong>3.87</strong></td>
<td><strong>37.63</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U26 Bycatch</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.37</td>
<td>0.11</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.01</td>
<td>1.12</td>
<td>1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Mortality</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>6.03</td>
<td>6.17</td>
<td>13.91</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>1.96</td>
<td>1.48</td>
<td>4.99</td>
<td>39.36</td>
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APPENDIX IV
CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS OF THE 24TH SESSION OF THE
IPHC PROCESSOR ADVISORY BOARD (PAB024) (29-30 JANUARY 2019)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Fishing periods: season opening and closing dates

PAB024-Rec.01  (para. 9) The PAB RECOMMENDED the following fishing period dates for the 2019:

a) Opening: 23 March at noon local time;
b) Closing: 7 November at noon local time.

Mortality limits

PAB024-Rec.02  (para. 12) The PAB RECOMMENDED the following TCEY mortality limits for the 2019 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 46%, modified by slow up fast down approach. To comply with the recommendation regarding PropC1, to allocate 1.65 mlbs to IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, taken proportionately from each Alaskan regulatory area.

Table 1. Processor Advisory Board (PAB) recommended TCEY mortality limits for 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPHC Regulatory Area</th>
<th>Mortality limit (TCEY) (mlbs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2A</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2B</td>
<td>6.01</td>
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<td>2C</td>
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<td>3A</td>
<td>13.54</td>
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<tr>
<td>4A</td>
<td>1.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>4B</td>
<td>1.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4CDE</td>
<td>3.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (IPHC Convention Area)</td>
<td>37.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)

PAB024-Rec.03  (para. 17) The PAB RECOMMENDED that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA1, with the addition of the mortality limits for each Contracting Party, by sector, as detailed in Section 4).

Commercial fishing periods (Sect. 9)

PAB024-Rec.04  (para. 19) The PAB RECOMMENDED that the Commission does not adopt fixed dates for either the opening or closing of the Pacific halibut fishing season. Market conditions change every year, frozen inventory levels are different every year, and each year processor’s species mix may change and make conforming to a fixed date impossible. If the quota increases, there may be compelling reasons for opening a longer season, so flexibility is both necessary and efficient when setting annual opening and closing dates.

IPHC Fishery Regulations: minor amendments

PAB024-Rec.05  (para. 21) The PAB RECOMMENDED that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropA3.

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

PAB024-Rec.06  (para. 23) The PAB RECOMMENDED that the Commission adopt proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropB1.
Minimum TCEY in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

PAB024-Rec.07 (para. 26) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission not adopt proposal IPHC-2019-AM095-PropC1.

PAB024-Rec.08 (para. 27) The PAB **RECOMMENDED**:

c) a 1.65 million lbs TCEY in 2A for 2019, at FSPR46 total removal level be taken using Alaskan regulatory areas (prorated from 2019 TCEY in Alaskan IPHC Regulatory Area 2C-4) and needs to be reviewed annually. The purpose of this is to stay within the total mortality reflected in the F value adopted for coastwide removals.

d) that the Commission look at IPHC Regulatory Area 2A year-to-year in this regard, and not set a five-year term for an elevated allocation.

IPHC Regulatory Area 2A Quota Proposal

PAB024-Rec.09 (para. 29) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the Commission take no action on Proposal C2, but **ENCOURAGED** the Commission to request information from the Pacific Council relating to this issue, including the process for changing from the current fishery to an IFQ fishery or other management option, encourage the council to consider a wide range of options, and to keep IPHC informed of their progress.

Abundance Based Management by the NPFMC

PAB024-Rec.10 (para. 37) The PAB **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat be involved in the work at the NPFMC on Pacific halibut abundance based management. The IPHC should provide Secretariat staff members as needed and time for staff members to attend meetings and provide advice on the subject of Pacific halibut bycatch management.

REQUESTS

Additional recommendations to the Commission

PAB024-Req.01 (para. 30) The PAB **REQUESTED** the Commission arrange to have a publication similar to what has been provided in the past (2017 and earlier), known as the Blue Book, available during the 2020 Annual Meeting. This was characterized as having the highest level of importance for next year, as requested last year. The quality of the PAB’s deliberations and its overall productivity is damaged by not having the Blue Book available.