



---

## Update on actions arising from the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB019)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON & J. PLANAS; 17 JANUARY 2019)

---

### PURPOSE

To provide the RAB with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB019).

### BACKGROUND

At the RAB019 meeting, a series of actions were agreed upon for implementation by the IPHC Secretariat. These action items and progress made on their implementation are detailed in [Appendix A](#).

### DISCUSSION

Noting that best practice governance requires the prompt delivery of core tasks assigned by the Commission, at each subsequent session of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies, attempts will be made to ensure that any recommendations and requests 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, 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 an subsidiary body, or other date).

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

### RECOMMENDATION/S

That the RAB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2019-RAB020-03 which provided the RAB with an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB019).
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary, the actions, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from the RAB020.

### APPENDICES

**Appendix A:** [Update on actions arising from the 19<sup>th</sup> IPHC Research Advisory Board \(RAB019\)](#)

## APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Research Advisory Board (RAB019)

Action No.	Description	Update
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
RAB019– Rec.01 ( <a href="#">para. 7</a> )	<p><b><i>Bycatch handling practices on all fleets catching Pacific halibut</i></b></p> <p><b>NOTING</b> that the IPHC Secretariat is currently conducting a research project evaluating handling practices associated with physiological condition and survival of discarded Pacific halibut in the directed longline fishery that will produce, as deliverables, best practice handling guidelines for the reduction or control of discard mortality rates by late 2019, the RAB reiterated its previous <b>RECOMMENDATION</b> that the IPHC Secretariat develop ‘Best practice handling guidelines’ for each of the primary gear types (fixed-hook, snap gear, auto-longline, pots and trawl) which catch Pacific halibut, both directed and non-directed.</p>	<p><b>In progress:</b> Endorsed by the Commission (AM093. Rec. 10, para. 128) <i>The Commission recalled its RECOMMENDATION from the 92nd Interim Meeting, that the IPHC Secretariat undertake a project to develop ‘Best practice handling guidelines’ for each of the primary gear types which catch Pacific halibut, both directed and non-directed.</i></p> <p><b>Update:</b> The IPHC is currently conducting a research project evaluating handling practices associated with physiological condition and survival of discarded Pacific halibut in the longline fishery that will produce, as deliverables, best practice handling guidelines for the reduction or control of discard mortality rates by late 2019.</p>
RAB019– Rec.02 ( <a href="#">para. 9</a> )	<p><b><i>IPHC Closed Area</i></b></p> <p>The RAB <b>AGREED</b> that the IPHC Closed Area (Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations 2018, Sect. 11) is not currently meeting its intended objective of protecting juvenile Pacific halibut when it is open to non-directed fisheries, and <b>RECOMMENDED</b>, in coordination with the NPMFC, that the IPHC Secretariat examine alternative management regimes for the Closed Area, and for these to be presented at the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in 2020.</p>	<p><b>In progress:</b> The NPFMC will be engaged throughout 2019, given the Commission’s directive to the IPHC Secretariat as follows:</p> <p><i>“The Commission <b>DEFERRED</b> regulatory proposal IPHC-2018-AM094-PropA1, which considered the intent, purpose and effectiveness of the IPHC Closed Area, as defined in IPHC Fishery Regulations (2017) Section 10, <b>NOTING</b> that the NPFMC is currently undertaking an Abundance-Based Management process aimed at limiting bycatch. The ABM process should be closely monitored and if considered necessary, the IPHC closed area proposal should be reconsidered at subsequent meetings of the Commission, but no later than in 2020.”</i></p>

Action No.	Description	Update
		(IPHC-2018-AM094-R, para. 47)
RAB019– Rec.03 ( <a href="#">para. 13</a> )	<p><b><i>Chalky Pacific halibut</i></b></p> <p>The RAB reiterated its previous <b>RECOMMENDATION</b> that the IPHC Secretariat undertake research to answer the following, with the intention of developing of simple field test for chalky flesh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What causes chalky flesh in Pacific halibut and to what degree? Are there particular environmental signatures (temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.) that characterize areas with incidence of chalky flesh?</li> <li>b) Why does the occurrence of chalky flesh in Pacific halibut appear to be reappearing after a period of limited occurrence in Regulatory Areas 3A and 3B in 2016, and again in 3A during the 2017 fishing period?</li> <li>c) Are there differences in the occurrence of chalky flesh in males and female, as well as fish of different sizes?</li> </ul>	<p><b>In progress:</b> The IPHC will initiate the collection of information from stakeholders on the incidence of chalky flesh in Pacific halibut through surveys during the 2019 commercial fishing period in order to understand the nature and timing of possible causes leading to its development (Project 2019-06).</p>
RAB019– Rec.04 ( <a href="#">para. 18</a> )	<p><b><i>Benthic habitat mapping</i></b></p> <p>The RAB <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that the IPHC include a requirement on all IPHC fishery-independent setline survey contracts, that vessels collect bathymetric composition data and provide them to the IPHC Secretariat.</p>	<p><b>In progress:</b> The collection of bathymetric composition data from FISS vessels commenced during the 2018 FISS, and is mandatory for all vessels during the 2019 FISS, specifically to provide greater resolution over time.</p>
RAB019– Rec.05 ( <a href="#">para. 38</a> )	<p><b><i>Calibration of snap versus fixed gear</i></b></p> <p>The RAB <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that after the current fishery-independent setline survey expansion project has been completed in 2019, a calibration experiment be conducted to evaluate the relative catchability of snap vs fixed gear types, and the potential for including snap gear in the annual setline survey design.</p>	<p><b>In progress:</b> The IPHC will be undertaking a gear comparison during the 2019 FISS to compare fixed-hook and snap gear. The comparison will evaluate whether data from both gear types can be used in the IPHC stock assessment process and how FISS work compares to the gear and results of the commercial fishery. All stations in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C will be fished twice, once by the FISS standard of fixed-hook gear and once by snap gear.</p>

Action No.	Description	Update
<b>REQUESTS</b>		
RAB019– Req.01 ( <a href="#">para. 42</a> )	<p><b>Whale depredation</b></p> <p>The RAB <b>REQUESTED</b> that the IPHC Secretariat evaluate possible gear solutions for avoiding whale depredation, such as pot gear.</p>	<p><b>In progress:</b> Project 2019-02 (“Whale detection methods relevant for Pacific halibut”) proposes testing electronic monitoring-based methods to detect whale presence in the directed longline Pacific halibut fishery. This study will be performed in the framework a Bycatch Reduction Engineering Program (BREP-NOAA)-funded study led by the Alaska Longline Fishing Association in which IPHC is a collaborating partner.</p>