



Update on actions arising from the 20th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB020)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON & J. PLANAS; 27 JANUARY 2020)

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 20th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB020).

BACKGROUND

At the RAB020 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the RAB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2020-RAB021-03, 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 20th Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB020).
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary the actions, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from RAB021.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Update on actions arising from the 20th IPHC Research Advisory Board \(RAB020\)](#)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 20th Session of the Research Advisory Board (RAB020)

Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS		
RAB020– Rec.01 (para. 10)	IPHC Closed Area The RAB AGREED that the IPHC Closed Area (Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations 2019, Sect. 11) is not currently meeting its intended objective of protecting juvenile Pacific halibut when it is open to non-directed fisheries, and RECOMMENDED , 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 th Annual Meeting in 2020.	In progress: Noting the Commission’s request to reconsider the proposal at the 96 th Annual Meeting in 2020, the IPHC Secretariat has submitted Regulatory Proposal A5 for AM096 (IPHC-2020-AM096-PropA5). The outcome of this discussion will be included in IPHC-2020-RAB021-04 for the RAB’s information.
RAB020– Rec.02 (para. 33)	Hook standardization The RAB RECOMMENDED that the IPHC consider standardising the FISS to use a particular model hook and to encourage each vessel to begin its FISS contract work each year with all new hooks.	Completed: The 2020 FISS vessel tender specifications include the following requirement: <i>“Skates shall be uniformly rigged with circle hooks (#3 (16/0) Mustad model 39965 or equivalent) in average or better condition spaced along the groundline at 18-foot (0.5 km) intervals (100 per skate).”</i>
REQUESTS		
RAB020– Req.01 (para. 21)	Effects of longline gear on benthic habitats, lost gear, and spatial patterns in fishing The RAB NOTED the limitations imposed on the fishing industry by the growing number of marine conservation areas that restrict particular fishing activities, and REQUESTED that the IPHC consider research examining the following aspects of the longline fishery: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The impact of longline gear on the ocean bottom, including how much habitat disturbance is created by setting and retrieving the gear; The magnitude and impact of lost and abandoned longline gear over time; and The extent of the geographic footprint (the bottom area directly affected) of longline gear. 	In progress: The IPHC has added online reporting of annual gear loss and estimates of Pacific halibut mortality associated with this lost gear: https://www.iphc.int/data/time-series-datasets Calculation of disturbance and habitat interaction has not yet been undertaken.

Action No.	Description	Update
RAB020– Req.02 (para. 24)	<p><i>Black cod pot fishing</i></p> <p>The RAB NOTED the increasing use of pot gear to fish for sablefish in Alaska, and REQUESTED the IPHC gather data on the effect of this shift, including potentially:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> How this change affects the catch of Pacific halibut in the sablefish fishery; How the gear shift in the sablefish fishery might drive whale predation toward the Pacific halibut fishery; and The change in these effects over time. 	<p>In progress: The IPHC Secretariat reported on the first three years of using pot gear in IPHC-2020-AM096-INF02, and will continue to report the use of pot gear as part of its regular fisheries statistics reporting.</p>
RAB020– Req.03 (para. 29)	<p><i>Impact of recreational fishery releases</i></p> <p>The RAB NOTED the possibility of engaging recreational fishers in data collection efforts in order to better characterize the population of Pacific halibut released in the fishery, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat begin to explore such research possibilities, including guidance and best practices that might be required.</p>	<p>In progress: The IPHC Secretariat has already begun gathering information on capture and handling practices by the guided recreational fishery and is currently synthesizing the results that will be presented at the RAB021.</p>
RAB020– Req.04 (para. 30)	<p><i>Impact of recreational fishery releases</i></p> <p>The RAB NOTED that recreational fishing logs may be left incomplete, in particular with regard to numbers of fish caught and released, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat work with relevant Contracting Party agencies to encourage and enforce complete data collection.</p>	<p>In progress: The IPHC Secretariat queried charter companies in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A regarding their handling and release practices to inform a discard mortality project planned for 2020.</p>
RAB020– Req.05 (para. 41)	<p><i>Migration</i></p> <p>The RAB NOTED the ongoing IPHC research into Pacific halibut migration, and REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat incorporate into its research the question of how changing ocean conditions might affect both migration rates and stock distribution over time.</p>	<p>In progress: The IPHC Secretariat is working on incorporating ocean conditions and environmental parameters into migration-related research.</p>
RAB020– Req.06 (para. 52)	<p><i>Whale depredation</i></p> <p>The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat evaluate possible gear solutions for avoiding whale depredation, such as pot gear.</p>	<p>In progress: The IPHC Secretariat is collecting information on how to address this issue.</p>
RAB020– Req.07 (para. 58)	<p><i>Date and place of the 21st and 22nd Sessions of the IPHC Research Advisory Board</i></p> <p>The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat consider dates earlier in February for RAB021 and RAB022 in order to enable better participation by current or potential RAB members.</p>	<p>In progress: The date for RAB021 was unable to be shifted, but RAB022 and RAB023 are scheduled to take place earlier in February (see the proposed three-year meetings calendar at IPHC-2020-AM096-15)</p>