



Update on actions arising from the 21st Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB021)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON & J. PLANAS; 22 OCT 2021)

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 21st Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB021).

BACKGROUND

At the RAB021 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-2021-RAB022-03, 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 21st Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB021).
- 2) **AGREE** to consider and revise as necessary the actions, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from RAB022.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: [Update on actions arising from the 21st IPHC Research Advisory Board \(RAB021\)](#)

APPENDIX A

Update on actions arising from the 21st Session of the Research Advisory Board
(RAB021)

Action No.	Description	Update
RECOMMENDATIONS - Nil		
REQUESTS		
RAB021-Req.01 (para 14)	Effect of hypoxia off the Oregon and Washington coast The RAB REQUESTED the IPHC Secretariat consider how environmental monitoring could continue in areas where FISS sampling is not taking place in a given year, in particular to help understand environmental trends in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.	In progress: The IPHC Secretariat is evaluating current efforts towards environmental monitoring, and continues to review external sources of environmental information in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.
RAB021-Req.02 (para 17)	IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey Recalling the hook standardization discussion from RAB020, the RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat consider investigating the possible effects of hook differences on FISS results.	Pending: Although supportive of this investigation, the IPHC considers this to be a lower priority than current ongoing research.
RAB021-Req.03 (para 18)	The RAB REQUESTED the IPHC Secretariat consider the effect of different bycatch species on hook competition rates.	In progress: The IPHC is currently collaborating on a study of standard and modified circle hooks that will use hook timers to record the capture time of different species. It is hoped that data from this study will inform the hook competition standardization.
RAB021-Req.04 (para 20)	NOTING the increasing cost of the FISS, the RAB REQUESTED the IPHC Secretariat consider additional ways to incorporate commercial fishery data into stock assessment.	In progress: All available components of fishery-dependent data are currently included in the stock assessment. The rationalized FISS design-process now actively works to minimize costs through both station selection and skate deployment.

Action No.	Description	Update
RAB021-Req.05 (para 21)	The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat engage with stakeholders who have performed FISS work in the western regulatory areas to improve the design and feasibility of the FISS, including the possibility of multi-year FISS contracts.	In progress: The IPHC notes both the challenges and critical nature of sampling these areas. Guidance will be provided to vessels in 2022 on a prioritized order for stations within charter regions. The IPHC welcomes dual-vessel bidding, sharing of stations among vessels sampling the same area, multi-year proposals, and other accommodations to make these areas more logistically feasible.
RAB021-Req.06 (para 33)	<i>Migratory behavior and distribution of Pacific halibut</i> NOTING that some commercial and recreational fishers may release IPHC-tagged fish without realizing that they do not count against any regulatory limits and should be kept, the RAB REQUESTED the IPHC Secretariat conduct outreach with fishers and enforcement agencies on this issue.	In progress: The IPHC Secretariat is continuing to inform stakeholders on the implications of catching IPHC-tagged fish.
RAB021-Req.07 (para 41)	<i>Guidance on, and discussion of, other potential applied research projects</i> The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat consider migration studies specific to IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, given that it represents the southernmost range of Pacific halibut distribution.	In progress: The IPHC Secretariat is planning studies to investigate possible changes in distribution of Pacific halibut in latitudinal extremes of the species range through population genomic analyses.
RAB021-Req.08 (para 43)	The RAB REQUESTED that the IPHC Secretariat review the definition of “washed” fish and the weight deduction that is applied for washed fish.	In progress: The IPHC has been attempting to collect data from commercial sampling to estimate the deduction due to washing for several years. This effort has not been successful, but remains ongoing.