



Report of the 23rd Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB023)

Seattle, Washington, USA, 28 November 2022

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Paul Ryall	Jon Kurland
Neil Davis	Robert Alverson
Peter DeGreef	Richard Yamada

Executive Director

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.

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Participants in the Session
Members of the Commission
IPHC Secretariat

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HALIBUT COMMISSION

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Contact details:

International Pacific Halibut Commission
2320 W. Commodore Way, Suite 300
Seattle, WA, 98199-1287, USA
Phone: +1 206 634 1838
Fax: +1 206 632 2983
Email: Secretariat@iphc.int
Website: <http://www.iphc.int>

ACRONYMS

ADFG	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
FISS	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
RAB	Research Advisory Board
SRB	Scientific Review Board

DEFINITIONS

A set of working definitions is provided in the IPHC Glossary of Terms and abbreviations: <https://www.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; ACCEPTED** (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 23rd Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Research Advisory Board (RAB023) was held in Seattle, Washington, USA on 28 November 2022. A total of eleven (11) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as five (5) observers. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Dr David Wilson, and the Vice-Chairperson Dr Josep Planas.

The following are a subset of the complete recommendations and requests for action from RAB023, which are provided in [Appendix IV](#).

2022 FISS season: Design and implementation

RAB023-Req.01 ([para. 18](#)) The RAB **NOTED** that the ADFG have formally indicated to the Commission and the IPHC Secretariat that they will be requiring 100% of bycatch revenue in Alaska State waters to be provided to the agencies commencing in 2023. In the past, the IPHC has provided vessel crews working in the USA with 50% of bycatch proceeds to cover crew time and their efforts to process the bycatch and ensure it is maintained in a sellable condition. Under the new requests from ADFG, \$0 would be provided to the vessel. The RAB **REQUESTED** that the Commission consider the following:

- a) Requiring the crew to forego any remuneration for their efforts to clean and ice bycatch to ensure quality product is landed for sale, is likely to result in a reduced willingness to do so. Some RAB members indicated that if \$0 are provided for work, that their crews will refuse to handle the fish other than for required retention.
- b) Reduced bycatch handling practices that result in poorer quality bycatch in the vessel hold, may also impact the quality of Pacific halibut in the hold, thereby reducing overall fish sale revenue for Pacific halibut.
- c) Reduced or degraded quality bycatch being landed, will result in either fish rejection at port, or very low prices being received at the dock.
- d) The IPHC Secretariat is intending on working with vessel captains to ensure bycatch receives a fair price at the dock in 2023, however some vessel captains indicated that if there was no financial benefit to the vessel, that they saw no need to assist the Secretariat in trying to obtain higher prices.

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 23rd Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Research Advisory Board (RAB023) was held in Seattle, Washington, USA on 28 November 2022. A total of eleven (11) members attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties, as well as five (5) observers. Apologies were received from Angus Grout. The list of participants is provided at [Appendix I](#). The meeting was opened by the Chairperson, Dr David Wilson, and Vice-Chairperson, Dr Josep Planas.
2. The RAB **NOTED** the revisions to the IPHC Rules of Procedure adopted by the Commission at its 98th Session of the Annual Meeting (AM098): [IPHC Rules of Procedure \(2022\)](#).
3. The RAB **RECALLED** its mandate as stated in the IPHC Rules of Procedure (2022) as follows:
Appendix VII, I.1-2:
“1. The Research Advisory Board (RAB) is composed of members of the Pacific halibut community that shall:
 - a. Suggest research topics to be considered for incorporation in the IPHC integrated research and monitoring activities, as well as to comment upon operational and implementation considerations of those research and monitoring activities;*
 - b. provide the IPHC Secretariat staff (who participate in Sessions of the RAB as Observers) with direct input and advice from industry on current and planned research activities contemplated for inclusion in the IPHC 5-Year program of integrated research and monitoring.*
 - 2. The RAB may also make recommendations to the Scientific Review Board concerning options for new suggest research topics, and current and planned research activities, and their prioritization for its consideration.”*

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION

4. The RAB **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix II](#). The documents provided to the RAB are listed in [Appendix III](#).

3. IPHC PROCESS

3.1 *Update on the actions arising from the 22nd Session of the RAB (RAB022)*

5. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-03](#), that provided an opportunity to consider the progress made during the inter-sessional period, in relation to the recommendations and requests of the 22nd Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB022).
6. The RAB **AGREED** to consider the actions arising from RAB022 and revise as necessary, and for these to be combined with any new actions arising from RAB023.

3.2 *Outcomes of the 98th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098)*

7. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-04](#), that provided the outcomes of the 98th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098) relevant to the mandate of the RAB.
8. The RAB **NOTED** with appreciation the updated length-weight relationship as detailed in paper [IPHC-2022-AM098-INF07](#), and that domestic management agencies have adopted its use.

4. SEASON OVERVIEW – 2022: RAB MEMBERS

9. The RAB **NOTED** the following key 2022 fishery updates provided by RAB members:
 - a) Commercial catch rates were much lower than expected in all IPHC Regulatory Areas except 2A and 2B in 2022;
 - b) Sablefish quota remained the focus in early 2022, and Pacific halibut wasn't the target for many fishers until later in the season;
 - c) The use of slinky pots for sablefish early in the season may also have contributed to lower landings at the start of the season;

- d) Depredation remains an issue coastwide, with 4CDE edge and 3A being highlighted by some RAB members;
- e) Catches in the charter sector were high, but required more searching to obtain those rates;
- f) Small fish (24-32 inches) were being seen in numbers in IPHC Regularly Areas 3A in the Charter Sector;
- g) Commercial fishery bycatch of dogfish, lingcod and rockfish was noted to be high in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A.

5. IPHC RESEARCH AND MONITORING

5.1 International Pacific Halibut Commission 5-year program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26)

10. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-05](#), that provided the RAB with the IPHC 5-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26).

5.2 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey

5.2.1 2022 FISS season: Design and implementation

11. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-06](#), that provided an overview of the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2022.
12. The RAB **CONGRATULATED** the IPHC Secretariat, and in particular the FISS team led by Ms Ualesi, for undertaking a successful and efficient FISS in 2022. It was acknowledged how difficult the operating environment became in 2021 and also in 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and industry have appreciated the professional and efficient interactions with the IPHC Secretariat in 2021 and 2022.
13. The RAB **NOTED** with appreciation the continued enhanced communication and consultation undertaken immediately prior to and during the 2022 FISS seasons by the IPHC Secretariat and looked forward to this heightened level of communication continuing in the future.
14. The RAB **NOTED** that the FISS stations not sampled in 2022, were primarily due to logistical, technological, and mechanical issues for the vessels assigned the areas, in addition to poor weather.
15. The RAB **NOTED** that the increased sablefish quota in 2022 is likely to be increased further in 2023 and lead to additional challenges in securing competitive FISS bids.
16. The RAB **NOTED** the challenges experienced in securing enough fixed-gear vessels in 2022 to be able to complete the FISS in a cost-effective manner, and that the FISS may be opened up to snap-gear vessels in 2023. Some RAB members indicated that many snap-gear vessels are in the 30-40 ft range and may pose challenges in terms of adding extra bodies on-board as well as their equipment.
17. The RAB **NOTED** the ongoing challenges with permitting the FISS in various IPHC Regulatory Areas and **ENCOURAGED** efforts to continue to streamline these processes. In particular, there were challenges in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A in 2022.
18. The RAB **NOTED** that the ADFG have formally indicated to the Commission and the IPHC Secretariat that they will be requiring 100% of bycatch revenue in Alaska State waters to be provided to the agencies commencing in 2023. In the past, the IPHC has provided vessel crews working in the USA with 50% of bycatch proceeds to cover crew time and their efforts to process the bycatch and ensure it is maintained in a sellable condition. Under the new requests from ADFG, \$0 would be provided to the vessel. The RAB **REQUESTED** that the Commission consider the following:
- a) Requiring the crew to forego any remuneration for their efforts to clean and ice bycatch to ensure quality product is landed for sale, is likely to result in a reduced willingness to do so. Some RAB members indicated that if \$0 are provided for work, that their crews will refuse to handle the fish other than for required retention.

- b) Reduced bycatch handling practices that result in poorer quality bycatch in the vessel hold, may also impact the quality of Pacific halibut in the hold, thereby reducing overall fish sale revenue for Pacific halibut.
- c) Reduced or degraded quality bycatch being landed, will result in either fish rejection at port, or very low prices being received at the dock.
- d) The IPHC Secretariat is intending on working with vessel captains to ensure bycatch receives a fair price at the dock in 2023, however some vessel captains indicated that if there was no financial benefit to the vessel, that they saw no need to assist the Secretariat in trying to obtain higher prices.
19. The RAB **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat sent a survey to past FISS charter vessel captains in October 2022 for feedback on current FISS practices. The questions asked were as follows:
- a) *What is the most rewarding part of conducting the IPHC's annual Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)?*
 - b) *The maximum skate count per sampling station has been eight (8) skates.*
 - c) *What are your thoughts on this maximum for the Charter areas you've sampled?*
 - d) *What are your thoughts on this maximum on Charter areas that you have not sampled?*
 - e) *Does this maximum skate count work better in certain charter regions than in others? If yes, please provide some context.*
 - f) *Prior to the FISS each year, IPHC Secretariat field staff complete a thorough training that covers safety at sea, IPHC sampling protocols, etc. What type of additional training do you think would benefit field staff sampling aboard your vessel during the FISS?*
 - g) *How would you describe the communication between yourselves and the IPHC Secretariat during your participation in the FISS, for each of the following?*
 - i. *Field staff?*
 - ii. *HQ staff?*
 - h) *Please comment on the information provided to you before the survey. Was it adequate to orient you with procedures and the expectations placed on you and your crew?*
 - i) *Did any aspects of the FISS work in general come as a surprise? If so, please describe both the topic, and how it could be improved for 2023.*
 - j) *In 2023, IPHC plans to modify our tender specifications regarding customs invoicing for Canadian vessels completing working in the U.S. Beginning in 2023, we plan to have Marine Exchange of Alaska as well as Alaska Maritime Agencies invoice the vessel directly. The current arrangement is that vessels are responsible for 100% of these expenses. The IPHC has been making these payments directly to the customs brokers and then requesting a reimbursement from each vessel (100%). Perman Stoler will continue to invoice IPHC directly as they handle the sale of U.S. fish caught in the U.S. by a Canadian vessel. IPHC will continue to seek reimbursement from the vessel for this expense as has been the case in prior years. What are your thoughts regarding this change?*
 - k) *Beginning in 2021, the IPHC set minimum bycatch prices in order to prevent buyers from bidding unfairly low prices for Pacific Cod & Rockfish (in some cases \$0.01/lb). The minimum prices were set in 2021 at US\$0.25 for Pacific Cod and US\$0.30 for Rockfish. What are your thoughts on these price minimums?*
 - l) *What is the most challenging part of conducting the FISS? Please provide examples and suggested improvements.*
 - m) *The primary objective of the FISS is the standardized, fishery-independent data collection for the Pacific halibut stock (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) assessment and stock distribution estimation. While still achieving this primary objective, how could IPHC improve efficiencies in the FISS?*
 - n) *Do you have any additional comments? Please provide them here."*
20. The RAB **NOTED** the summary of responses provided by the IPHC Secretariat as follows:
- a) **Most rewarding part of FISS:** Nearly all responses stated that they enjoy knowing that they are helping the fishery;
 - b) **Skate count:** All responses indicated that 8 skates is very challenging and that 7 or less would be preferable, with most stating that 6 or less would be preferred. One response indicated that unless they could plan to complete 4 sets each day then they likely wouldn't consider participating. Another

response indicated that it would be hard for them to retain crew with 8 skates as not many crew want to bait sets that long;

- c) **Communication:** all responses were highly positive.
 - d) **Training of SSS(F):** All responses to this question stated that IPHC has provided well-trained professional staff aboard their vessels;
 - e) **Bycatch price:** Some captains indicated that the yelloweye rockfish minimum should be higher than other rockfish species. Maybe use an average price for each month;
 - f) **Challenging part of FISS:** Run times between stations can be long, weather issues, deep expansion stations where gear is more likely to be lost, retaining crew to complete work.
21. The RAB **AGREED** that it was more preferable to have lower numbers of skates per station in the FISS, given that some vessels were finding it challenging to find crew to fish eight (8) skates.
22. The RAB **ACKNOWLEDGED** that the reason some charter areas were being fished with eight (8) skates was to ensure sufficient positive revenue was being obtained to offset the revenue deficit expected in other charter areas. The overall aim being revenue neutrality.

5.2.2 2023-25 FISS design evaluation

23. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-07](#), that provided proposed designs for the IPHC's Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) for the 2023-25 period, and an evaluation of those designs, as reviewed and endorsed by the Scientific Review Board in June and September 2022 (SRB020 and SRB021).
24. The RAB **NOTED** that fishing sets of fewer than eight (8) skates may be more cost effective and attractive to potential bidders, and that costs of different numbers of skates are accounted for by the IPHC Secretariat when accounting for the goal of long-term revenue neutrality in the final FISS design. Reducing the number of skates does not necessarily reduce costs or duration of trip to the vessel.
25. The RAB **NOTED** that the FISS design review timeline allows for design changes by the Commission to be made at the Annual Meeting each year (after requests for tenders have gone out), but that the intention is for design approval at the Interim Meeting each year, prior to the tender being released.
26. The RAB **NOTED** that a FISS design based on blocks of stations in the core IPHC Regulatory Areas rather than a randomised design would be more operationally efficient and may be more attractive to potential charter vessel operators, as there would be less transit time between randomly designed stations.
27. The RAB **NOTED** that the proposed 2023 FISS design endorsed by the SRB will be modified to account for the Commission's secondary objective of revenue neutrality, and that this is likely to lead to reductions in coverage at the ends of the stock's distribution.

5.3 Description of IPHC Biological and Ecosystem Sciences Research (Core research streams)

28. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-08](#), that provided a description of the biological and ecosystem science research projects conducted and planned by the IPHC Secretariat and contemplated within the Five-year Program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26).
29. The RAB **NOTED** that the main objectives of the Biological and Ecosystem Science Research at the IPHC are to:
- a) identify and assess critical knowledge gaps in the biology of the Pacific halibut;
 - b) understand the influence of environmental conditions; and
 - c) apply the resulting knowledge to reduce uncertainty in current stock assessment models.

5.3.1 Mapping of Pacific halibut juvenile habitat

30. The RAB **NOTED** that the IPHC Secretariat is working towards generating a map of Pacific halibut juvenile habitat by compiling existing data sources in order to guide future studies investigating potential juvenile Pacific halibut movement to and from nursery areas.

5.3.2 *Reproductive assessment of the female Pacific halibut population*

31. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-09](#), that provided a description of the studies designed to improve our knowledge on reproductive development in female and male Pacific halibut.

5.3.3 *Refining the genetic population structure of Pacific halibut throughout Convention Waters*

32. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-12](#), that provided a description of the studies conducted by IPHC Secretariat on population genomics.

5.3.4 *Discard mortality rates and post-release survival in the guided recreational Pacific halibut fishery*

33. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-10](#), that provided a description of an ongoing study designed to improve our knowledge on discard mortality rates in the Pacific halibut charter recreational fishery.

5.3.5 *Whale depredation mitigation strategies involving longline catch protection devices*

34. The RAB **NOTED** paper [IPHC-2022-RAB023-11](#), that provided a description of an ongoing study designed to identify and test new tools to minimize marine mammal depredation of hook-captured Pacific halibut.

6. **GUIDANCE ON, AND DISCUSSION OF, OTHER POTENTIAL APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS**

35. The RAB **NOTED** that the Pacific halibut stock in Biological Region 4 is highly dynamic and that efforts to improve stock estimates in that region would be welcome.
36. The RAB **NOTED** the potential overlap of proposed offshore wind turbines/wave energy in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A with the spatial extent of the FISS.
37. The RAB **NOTED** the importance of continuing environmental monitoring through the use of water profilers during the FISS and the publication of environmental data collected.
38. The RAB **NOTED** the importance of investigating juvenile Pacific halibut movement and distribution and assessing potential impacts on stock health and composition.
39. The RAB **NOTED** their concerns regarding a possible reduction of the spatial extent of the FISS in future designs and **DISCUSSED** various potential additional sources of funding for FISS. Further discussions between the IPHC Secretariat and vessel captains/owners on tender specifications are planned prior to publication.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

7.1 *IPHC Meeting Calendar (2023-25)*

40. The RAB **AGREED** that the placement of the RAB meeting in November, before or after the Pacific Marine Expo and prior to the Interim Meeting, works better than early February each year.

8. **REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 23RD SESSION OF THE IPHC RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (RAB023)**

41. The Report of the 23rd Session of the Research Advisory Board (RAB023) ([IPHC-2022-RAB023-R](#)) was **ADOPTED** on 28 November 2022, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from RAB023 provided at [Appendix IV](#).

APPENDIX I
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

RAB Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Dr David T. Wilson Executive Director, International Pacific Halibut Commission Email: david.wilson@iphc.int	Dr Josep Planas Branch Manager: Biological and Ecosystem Sciences Branch, International Pacific Halibut Commission Email: josep.planas@iphc.int

RAB Members

Canada	United States of America
	Ms Grace Allan Email: gdallan18@gmail.com
	Mr Wade Bassi Email: w.bassi@att.net
	Mr Kevin Bennett Email: kevin.bennett6@gmail.com
	Mr Steve Daniels Email: steve@highlinerlodge.com
	Mr Lando Echevario Email: lechevario@yahoo.com
	Mr Scott Mazzone Email: smazzone@quinault.org
	Mr Shawn McManus shawn.mcmanus@yahoo.com
	Mr Al Pazar Email: alpazar@gmail.com
	Mr Brian Richie Email: brianandrewritchie@gmail.com
	Mr Alex Rodriguez Email: north40nm@yahoo.com
	Ms Lauren Wild Email: lawild@alaska.edu
Absent	
Mr Angus Grout Email: rommel@telus.net	Mr Jay Hebert Email: jipeche@comcast.net
Mr Brad Mirau Email: brad@aerotrading.ca	Mr Jim Hubbard Email: kruzof@ak.net
Mr Richie Shaw Email: SOIpow@recn.ca	Mr Stephen Rhoads Email: deep_pow@hotmail.com

Observers

Participant	Organisation	Email
Mr Peter Allan	Fisherman	wildfins@alaska.net
Ms Mary Hickey	N/A	N/A
Mr Tom Meyer	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	meyer@noaa.gov
Mr Brett Roth	Fisherman	alaskabrett@yahoo.com

Mr John Turnea	N/A	jturnea@gmail.com
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IPHC Secretariat

Participant	Title	Email
Mr Claude Dykstra	Research Biologist	claude.dykstra@iphc.int
Mr Andrew Jasonowicz	Research Biologist	andy.jasonowicz@iphc.int
Ms Lauri Sadorus	Communications Specialist/Research Biologist	lauri.sadorus@iphc.int
Dr Ian Stewart	Quantitative Scientist (Stock Assessment)	ian.stewart@iphc.int
Ms Kayla Ualesi	Setline Survey Coordinator	kayla.ualesi@iphc.int
Dr Raymond Webster	Quantitative Scientist (Biometrician)	ray.webster@iphc.int
Support		
Ms Tara Coluccio	Administrative Specialist/Communications	tara.coluccio@iphc.int
Ms Joan Forsberg	Otolith Technician, Senior	joan.forsberg@iphc.int
Mr Edward Henry	Communications Specialist	edward.henry@iphc.int
Dr Allan Hicks	Quantitative Scientist (MSE)	allan.hicks@iphc.int
Dr Barbara Hutniczak	Fisheries Policy Branch Manager	barbara.hutniczak@iphc.int
Mr Tyler Jack	Setline Survey Specialist	tyler.jack@iphc.int
Dr Jason Jannot	Fisheries Data Services Branch Manager	jason.jannot@iphc.int
Mr Christopher Johnston	Otolith Technician	chris.johnston@iphc.int
Mr Colin Jones	Research Biologist	colin.jones@iphc.int
Ms Andrea Keikkala	Assistant Director	andrea.keikkala@iphc.int
Mr Thomas Kong	Fisheries Data Specialist	tom.kong@iphc.int
Ms Rachel Rillera	Setline Survey Specialist	rached.rillera@iphc.int
Mr Afshin Taheri	Programmer	afshin.taheri@iphc.int

APPENDIX II**AGENDA FOR THE 23RD SESSION OF THE IPHC RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (RAB023)****Date:** 28 November 2022**Location:** Seattle, Washington, USA**Venue:** IPHC HQ office**Time:** 09:00-17:00**Chairperson:** Dr David T. Wilson (Executive Director)**Vice-Chairperson:** Dr Josep V. Planas (Biological & Ecosystem Sciences Branch Manager)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SESSION** (Chairperson)
3. **IPHC PROCESS** (Chairperson)
 - 3.1 Update on the actions arising from the 22nd Session of the RAB (RAB022)
 - 3.2 Outcomes of the 98th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098)
4. **SEASON OVERVIEW – 2022: RAB MEMBERS**
5. **IPHC RESEARCH AND MONITORING**
 - 5.1 International Pacific Halibut Commission 5-year program of Integrated Research and Monitoring (2022-26) (D. Wilson, J. Planas, I. Stewart, A. Hicks, R. Webster, B. Hutniczak, J. Jannot)
 - 5.2 IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)
 - 5.2.1 2022 FISS season: Design and implementation (K. Ualesi)
 - 5.2.2 2023-24 FISS design evaluation (R. Webster)
 - 5.3 Description of IPHC Biological and Ecosystem Sciences Research (Core research streams)
 - 5.3.1 Mapping of Pacific halibut juvenile habitat (L. Sadorus)
 - 5.3.2 Reproductive assessment of the female Pacific halibut population (J. Planas)
 - 5.3.3 Refining the genetic population structure of Pacific halibut throughout Convention Waters (A. Jasonowicz).
 - 5.3.4 Discard mortality rates and post-release survival in the guided recreational Pacific halibut fishery (C. Dykstra)
 - 5.3.5 Whale depredation mitigation strategies involving longline catch protection devices (C. Dykstra).
6. **GUIDANCE ON, AND DISCUSSION OF, OTHER POTENTIAL APPLIED RESEARCH PROJECTS** (Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson)
7. **OTHER BUSINESS**
8. **REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 23rd SESSION OF THE IPHC RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (RAB023)** (Chairperson)

APPENDIX III**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 23RD SESSION OF THE IPHC RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (RAB023)**

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2022-RAB023-01	Agenda & Schedule for the 23 rd Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB023)	✓ 18 Aug 2022 ✓ 13 Sept 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-02	List of Documents for the 23 rd Session of the IPHC Research Advisory Board (RAB023)	✓ 13 Sept 2022 ✓ 26 Oct 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-03	Update on the actions arising from the 22 nd Session of the RAB (RAB022) (D. Wilson & J. Planas)	✓ 30 Sept 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-04	Outcomes of the 98 th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM098) (D. Wilson)	✓ 30 Sept 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-05	International Pacific Halibut Commission 5-Year program of integrated research and monitoring (2022-26) (D. Wilson, J. Planas, I. Stewart, A. Hicks, R. Webster, B. Hutniczak, & J. Jannot)	✓ 30 Sept 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-06	IPHC Fishery-independent setline survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2022 (K. Ualesi, C. Jones, R. Rillera & T. Jack)	✓ 26 Oct 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-07	2023-25 FISS Design evaluation (R. Webster)	✓ 25 Oct 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-08	Report on current and future biological and ecosystem science research activities (J. Planas)	✓ 19 Oct 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-09	Reproductive assessment of the Pacific halibut population (J. Planas)	✓ 19 Oct 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-10	Evaluating discard mortality rates and developing best management practices in the Pacific halibut charter recreational fisheries (C. Dykstra)	✓ 19 Oct 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-11	Gear-based approaches to catch protection as a means for minimizing whale depredation in longline fisheries (C. Dykstra)	✓ 19 Oct 2022
IPHC-2022-RAB023-12	Genetic population structure (A. Jasonowicz)	✓ 19 Oct 2022

APPENDIX IV

CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 23RD SESSION OF THE IPHC
RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (RAB023)*RECOMMENDATIONS**Nil**REQUESTS**2022 FISS season: Design and implementation*

RAB023-Req.01 ([para. 18](#)) The RAB **NOTED** that the ADFG have formally indicated to the Commission and the IPHC Secretariat that they will be requiring 100% of bycatch revenue in Alaska State waters to be provided to the agencies commencing in 2023. In the past, the IPHC has provided vessel crews working in the USA with 50% of bycatch proceeds to cover crew time and their efforts to process the bycatch and ensure it is maintained in a sellable condition. Under the new requests from ADFG, \$0 would be provided to the vessel. The RAB **REQUESTED** that the Commission consider the following:

- a) Requiring the crew to forego any remuneration for their efforts to clean and ice bycatch to ensure quality product is landed for sale, is likely to result in a reduced willingness to do so. Some RAB members indicated that if \$0 are provided for work, that their crews will refuse to handle the fish other than for required retention.
- b) Reduced bycatch handling practices that result in poorer quality bycatch in the vessel hold, may also impact the quality of Pacific halibut in the hold, thereby reducing overall fish sale revenue for Pacific halibut.
- c) Reduced or degraded quality bycatch being landed, will result in either fish rejection at port, or very low prices being received at the dock.
- d) The IPHC Secretariat is intending on working with vessel captains to ensure bycatch receives a fair price at the dock in 2023, however some vessel captains indicated that if there was no financial benefit to the vessel, that they saw no need to assist the Secretariat in trying to obtain higher prices.