



OUTCOMES OF THE 94TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM094)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (16 MAY 2018)

PURPOSE

To provide the SRB with the outcomes of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) relevant to the mandate of the SRB.

BACKGROUND

The agenda of the Commission's Annual Meeting (AM094) included several agenda items relevant to the SRB:

6. *STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2017) & HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2018)*
7. *MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION*
10. *IPHC RESEARCH AND 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM*

DISCUSSION

During the course of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) the Commission made a number of specific recommendations and requests for action regarding the stock assessment, MSE process, and 5-year research program. Relevant sections from the report of the meeting are provided in [Appendix A](#) for the SRB's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

That the SRB:

- 1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2018-SRB012-04 which details the outcomes of the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) relevant to the mandate of the SRB.

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Excerpts from the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) Report ([IPHC-2018-AM094-R](#)).

APPENDIX A
Excerpt from the 94th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM094) Report ([IPHC-2018-AM094-R](#)).

Recommendations and Requests
RECOMMENDATIONS

Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive

- AM094–Rec.01 ([para. 36](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the draft goals, objectives, and performance metrics, as detailed in Appendix IV, IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R be used for ongoing evaluation in the MSE process, and that they may be refined in the future. The objectives should be evaluated in a hierarchal manner, with conservation as the first priority.
- AM094–Rec.02 ([para. 39](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat consider the setline survey WPUE grid across the fishery as well as other biological factors (e.g. habitat configuration, size distribution in the region etc.) and provide alternatives to the current management areas (e.g. biological regions), and that the MSAB consider additional ways to incorporate biological information into TCEY distribution procedures.
- AM094–Rec.03 ([para. 44](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that long- and mid-term performance metrics for conservation objectives be considered in the MSE process for conservation objectives, and that short-term metrics be included for fishery-related objectives in the MSE process, via the MSAB.

Evaluation of the IPHC’s 32” minimum size limit

- AM094–Rec.04 ([para. 89](#)) The Commission **NOTED** report IPHC-2018-AM094-14, which indicated that the performance of the management procedure is dominated by management decisions other than the size limit, (e.g. removal of the size limit is likely to result in minimal changes in yield) and **RECOMMENDED** that the size limit remain unchanged.

REQUESTS

Reports of the 10th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB10)

- AM094–Req.01 ([para. 31](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the MSAB look at SPR values consistent with recent estimated SPR values from the assessment model and lower. This would mean expanding the lower range of SPR values to below 40%.

Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive

- AM094–Req.02 ([para. 37](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the objectives related to distributing the TCEY, as detailed in Circular IPHC-2017-CR022, be presented at MSAB11 for further stakeholder feedback.
- AM094–Req.03 ([para. 38](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the proposed TCEY distribution methodology of the Harvest Strategy Policy reflect an understanding of both stock distribution and fishery management distribution procedures.

Supporting report text

7. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION

7.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update

27. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-12 which provided an update on the progress of the IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation process and seeks recommendations for future work, including a review of goals and objectives defined by the MSAB, an overview of the simulation framework to evaluate the fishing intensity and harvest control rules in the IPHC harvest strategy policy, results from the closed-loop simulations, ideas for distributing the TCEY to Regulatory Areas, and a five-year work plan.
28. The Commission **CONSIDERED** the following items:
- The simulation framework and assumptions as described, including introducing variability to the Operating Model, simulating weight-at-age and an environmental regime, and allocation of the Total Mortality to sectors;
 - The long-term results looking at the outcomes of various management procedures and the trade-offs among them;
 - Management procedures (e.g. values of SPR in combination with a control rule threshold) that would meet the goal and objectives important to the Commission, based on the results shown, and additional procedures that may be of interest to evaluate in 2018;
 - Whether the clear separation of stock distribution (a scientific product), and distribution procedures (management decision) satisfies the Commission's recommendation to replace apportionment with a more suitable term; and
 - The concept of distributing the TCEY to biological regions defined here as a method to satisfy the Commission's request to "initiate a process to develop alternative, biologically based stock distribution strategies."

7.2 Reports of the 10th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB10)

29. The Commission **NOTED** the Report of the 10th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB10) (IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R) which was presented by Mr Adam Keizer (Canada). The MSAB consists of 20 board members, 19 of which attended the Session from the two (2) Contracting Parties. A total of five (5) individuals attended the Session as Observers. In addition, two (2) IPHC Commissioners were in attendance, Mr Paul Ryall (Canada) and Mr Bob Alverson (U.S.A.).
30. The Commission **AGREED** to the updated Program of Work provided at Appendix VI of IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R.
31. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the MSAB look at SPR values consistent with recent estimated SPR values from the assessment model and lower. This would mean expanding the lower range of SPR values to below 40%.

7.3 Review of fishery goals and objectives: Commission directive

32. The Commission **NOTED** the current fishery goals, objectives, and performance metrics identified by the MSAB for the MSE process, as detailed in Appendix IV of the MSAB10 report (IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R).
33. The Commission **NOTED** the summary presentation which was in response to Circular IPHC-2017-CR022 requesting stakeholder feedback on objectives proposed by a USA Commissioner related to distributing the TCEY presented at IM093. These objectives were categorized under the overarching goals defined by the MSAB for AM094.
34. The Commission **NOTED** the other concepts proposed by a USA Commissioner related to distributing the TCEY were not stated as measurable objectives but may be useful when developing management procedures to evaluate.
35. The Commission **NOTED** that:

- a) the Commission objectives related to distributing the TCEY may be presented at MSAB11 for further stakeholder feedback.
- b) the intent of the “other Commission concepts” could be further clarified and incorporated into the MSAB process, and can be converted to measurable objectives.
- c) the MSAB may develop measurable outcomes and performance metrics associated with these Commission objectives.
36. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the draft goals, objectives, and performance metrics, as detailed in Appendix IV, IPHC-2017-MSAB10-R be used for ongoing evaluation in the MSE process, and that they may be refined in the future. The objectives should be evaluated in a hierarchal manner, with conservation as the first priority.
37. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the objectives related to distributing the TCEY, as detailed in Circular IPHC-2017-CR022, be presented at MSAB11 for further stakeholder feedback.
38. The Commission **REQUESTED** that the proposed TCEY distribution methodology of the Harvest Strategy Policy reflect an understanding of both stock distribution and fishery management distribution procedures.
39. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat consider the survey WPUE grid across the fishery as well as other biological factors (e.g. habitat configuration, size distribution in the region etc.) and provide alternatives to the current management areas (e.g. biological regions), and that the MSAB consider additional ways to incorporate biological information into TCEY distribution procedures.
40. The Commission **NOTED** that the current procedure to distribute the TCEY could be replaced by an interim procedure to be developed in the near term while the MSAB completes their Program of Work to deliver guidance in 2021 on scale and TCEY distribution.
41. The Commission **AGREED** to meet via an inter-sessional electronic meeting (soon after the AM094), along with the IPHC Secretariat, to discuss TCEY distribution procedures to use in the interim while long-term distribution procedures are being developed by the MSAB. MSAB representatives and the IPHC Secretariat will inform the Commission of what guidance the MSAB may be able to provide to help develop an interim distribution strategy, and how the development of an interim harvest procedure may affect the MSAB's current Program of Work.
42. The Commission **AGREED** that distributing the TCEY to regions does not necessarily need to be the first step of the TCEY distribution procedure, and other biological factors, such as habitat and size distribution, be considered.
43. The Commission **NOTED** that the work the MSAB has already completed on distribution procedures may help to inform the development of an interim distribution strategy. MSAB representatives and the IPHC Secretariat will advise the Commission of how this may affect their current Program of Work, and what guidance they may be able to provide to help develop an interim distribution strategy.
44. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that long- and mid-term performance metrics for conservation objectives be considered in the MSE process for conservation objectives, and that short-term metrics be included for fishery-related objectives in the MSE process, via the MSAB.

10. IPHC RESEARCH AND 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM

10.4 *Evaluation of the IPHC's 32" minimum size limit*

86. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2018-AM094-14 which provided a response to the Commission request made during the 2016 Interim Meeting (IPHC 2016):

IM092–Req.07 (para. 73) *“The Commission REQUESTED that a review of the analysis of the effectiveness of size limits be undertaken by the IPHC Staff throughout 2017, for consideration by the Commission at its annual meeting in 2018.”*

87. The Commission **NOTED** the work of the IPHC Secretariat during 2017, and the challenges to an evaluation of the Minimum Size Limit (MSL).

88. The Commission **AGREED** that consideration of the magnitude of current discard mortality, the potential change in fishery yield, uncertainty in the market value of Pacific halibut below the current MSL and potential changes in fishery practices in response to a change in the MSL represent the primary trade-offs identified.
89. The Commission **NOTED** report IPHC-2018-AM094-14, which indicated that the performance of the management procedure is dominated by management decisions other than the size limit, (e.g. removal of the size limit is likely to result in minimal changes in yield) and **RECOMMENDED** that the size limit remain unchanged.
90. The Commission **AGREED** that the work of the IPHC Secretariat has satisfied the Commission's request, and directed the IPHC Secretariat to postpone further investigation of the MSL until such time as either additional information or changes in the fishery, markets, or Pacific halibut stock warrant additional work.