



OUTCOMES OF THE 95TH SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM095)

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (D. WILSON, 21 MAY 2019)

PURPOSE

To provide the SRB with the outcomes of the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) relevant to the mandate of the SRB.

BACKGROUND

The agenda of the Commission's Annual Meeting (AM095) included several agenda items relevant to the SRB:

6. STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2018) & HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2019)
 - 6.1 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2018, including current and future expansions
 - 6.2 Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; FISS expansion results, etc.)
 - 6.3 Data overview and Stock assessment (2018), and draft harvest decision table (2019)
 - 6.4 Pacific halibut mortality projections – Using the IPHC mortality projection tool
7. IPHC 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM
 - 7.1 IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Sciences research program: update
8. REPORT OF THE 19TH SESSION OF THE IPHC RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (RAB019)
9. REPORT OF THE 13TH SESSION OF THE IPHC SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD (SRB013)
10. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION
 - 10.1 IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update
 - 10.2 Report of the 12th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB012)

DISCUSSION

During the course of the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) 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-2019-SRB014-04 which details the outcomes of the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) relevant to the mandate of the SRB.

APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Excerpts from the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) Report ([IPHC-2019-AM095-R](#)).

APPENDIX A
Excerpt from the 95th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM095) Report
(IPHC-2019-AM095-R)

Recommendations and Requests

RECOMMENDATIONS

IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation

AM095–Rec.01 ([para. 59c](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the MSAB develop the following additional objective, as well as prioritize this objective in the evaluation of management procedures, for the Commission’s consideration.

- i. A conservation objective that meets a spawning biomass target.

Report of the 12th Session of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB012)

AM095–Rec.02 ([para. 62](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the MSAB and IPHC Secretariat continue its program of work on the Management Procedure for the Scale portion of the harvest strategy, **NOTING** that Scale and Distribution components will be evaluated and presented no later than at AM097 in 2021, for potential adoption and subsequent implementation as a harvest strategy. The management procedure that best meets the primary objectives for coastwide scale is:

- a) A target SPR of 40% with a fishery trigger of 30% and a fishery limit of 20% in the control rule;
- b) An annual constraint of 15% from the previous year’s mortality limit.

Fishery Limits (Sect. 4)

AM095–Rec.04 ([para. 66](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** evaluating and redefining TCEY to include the U26 component of discard mortalities, including bycatch, as steps towards more comprehensive and responsible management of the resource, in coordination with the IPHC Secretariat and Contracting Parties. The intent is that each Contracting Party to the Treaty would be responsible for counting its U26 mortalities against its collective TCEY. This change would be intended to take effect for TCEYs established at the 2020 Annual Meeting.

AM095–Rec.05 ([para. 67](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat expand upon the analysis completed in IPHC-2019-AM095-INF08 “*Treatment and effects of Pacific halibut discard mortality (bycatch) in non-directed fisheries projected for 2019*”, to be reviewed by the SRB at its next meeting. The objective of this work is to estimate lost yield from bycatch of Pacific halibut in non-directed fisheries for the years of 1991-2018.

Peer review process for IPHC science products

AM095–Rec.10 ([para. 129](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat develop terms of reference for a consultant to undertake a peer review of the IPHC Pacific halibut stock assessment, for implementation in early 2019. The terms of reference and budget shall be endorsed by the Commission inter-sessionally.

AM095–Rec.11 ([para. 130](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat finalise terms of reference for an expert/consultant to undertake a peer review of the IPHC Pacific halibut MSE, for implementation in early November 2019 and July 2020. The terms of reference and budget shall be endorsed by the Commission inter-sessionally.

REQUESTS***Space-time modelling of survey data (WPUE; FISS expansion results, etc.)***

AM095–Req.03 ([para. 23](#)) **NOTING** that more FISS stations in the disputed area between Regulatory Areas 2B and 2C appear to be assigned to Regulatory Area 2C, and that the IPHC Secretariat indicated that this assignment is based on a ‘compromise’ boundary line previously developed, the Commission **REQUESTED** that this separation line be clarified and clearly marked on any future IPHC map to avoid confusion. The IPHC Secretariat shall develop such maps and distribute to the Commission in the coming weeks.