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## OUTCOMES OF THE 96<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE IPHC ANNUAL MEETING (AM096)

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### PURPOSE

To provide the SRB with the outcomes of the 96<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) relevant to the mandate of the SRB.

### BACKGROUND

The agenda of the Commission's Annual Meeting (AM096) included several agenda items relevant to the SRB:

6. *STOCK STATUS OF PACIFIC HALIBUT (2019) & HARVEST DECISION TABLE (2020)*
  - 6.1 *IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) design and implementation in 2019*
  - 6.2 *Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data*
  - 6.3 *Stock Assessment: Independent peer review of the Pacific halibut stock assessment*
  - 6.4 *Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2019), and harvest decision table (2020)*
  - 6.5 *Pacific halibut mortality projections using the IPHC mortality projection tool*
7. *IPHC 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAM*
  - 7.1 *IPHC 5-year Biological & Ecosystem Science Research Plan: update*
8. *REPORT OF THE 20TH SESSION OF THE IPHC RESEARCH ADVISORY BOARD (RAB020)*
9. *REPORTS OF THE 14th AND 15TH SESSIONS OF THE IPHC SCIENTIFIC REVIEW BOARD (SRB014; SRB015)*
10. *MANAGEMENT STRATEGY EVALUATION*
  - 10.1 *IPHC Management Strategy Evaluation: update*
  - 10.2 *Reports of the 13th and 14th Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013; MSAB014)*

### DISCUSSION

During the course of the 96<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) 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-2020-SRB016-04 which details the outcomes of the 96<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) relevant to the mandate of the SRB.

### APPENDICES

[Appendix A](#): Excerpts from the 96<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) Report ([IPHC-2020-AM096-R](#)).

**APPENDIX A**  
**Excerpt from the 96<sup>th</sup> Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM096) Report**  
**(IPHC-2020-AM096-R)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data***

- AM096–Rec.01 ([para. 31](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that for the 2020 FISS season, the IPHC Secretariat shall employ the proposed subarea design for Regulatory Areas 2A, 4A, 4B, 4CDE, and an enhanced randomised subsampling FISS design in Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, and 3B to meet the primary design objective, while also considering secondary and tertiary objectives ([Table 2](#)). The IPHC Secretariat shall determine the number of skates at each FISS station with the secondary objective in mind ([Table 2](#)). A demonstration of this design is provided at [Fig. 2](#).
- AM096–Rec.02 ([para. 32](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** the following specific additions to the new 2020 FISS design, on the basis of the tertiary objective specified in [Table 2](#) on a cost recovery basis. Any other tertiary sampling objective shall be at the discretion of the IPHC Secretariat unless specifically directed by the Commission:
- a) Regulatory Area 2A: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - rockfish sampling;
  - b) Regulatory Area 2B: DFO-Canada - rockfish sampling.

**REQUESTS**

***Space-time modelling of IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) data***

- AM096–Req.01 ([para. 33](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** the 2020 consultation process in preparation for the 2021 FISS and beyond be enhanced to include input from the IPHC subsidiary bodies, particularly the Research Advisory Board and the Scientific Review Board, as well as from stakeholders who have performed survey work for the IPHC, with a view to finalizing the FISS sampling design for the coming year as early as possible in the annual planning cycle.

***Stock Assessment: Data overview and stock assessment (2019), and harvest decision table (2020)***

- AM096–Req.02 ([para. 52](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC MSE process continue to evaluate status quo management related to discard mortality for non-directed fisheries (bycatch) under the current program of work for delivery of full MSE results at AM097 in 2021, noting that this source of mortality is currently modelled as a fixed component of the total (with variability).

***Reports of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the IPHC Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB013 and MSAB014)***

- AM096–Req.03 ([para. 89](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** the MSAB to confirm the proposed topics of work beyond the 2021 deliverables in time for the Interim Meeting (IM096), including work to investigate and provide advice on approaches for accounting for the impacts of bycatch in one Regulatory Area on harvesting opportunities in other Regulatory Areas.

***Size limits***

- AM096–Req.08 ([para. 158](#)) The Commission **REQUESTED** that the IPHC Secretariat prepare an updated discussion of the costs and benefits of removing or adjusting the current minimum size limit and/or adding a maximum size limit. This analysis would be presented during the 2020 Work Meeting and IM096.