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Management Strategy Advisory Board

At the 2013 Annual Meeting, the International Pacific Halibut Commission advanced the development of a Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE) program for the halibut resource. The Commission approved the formation of a Management Strategy Advisory Board (MSAB) to oversee the MSE process and to advise the Commission and Staff on the development and evaluation of candidate objectives and strategies for managing the fishery. The MSE process will help the Commission develop and thoroughly test alternative management procedures, prior to actually implementing any management changes for the fishery.

This webpage is where the MSAB will post its news for the public. The most recent meetings, results, and announcements will be posted here, along with notices of upcoming meetings. References for the IPHC MSE process, as well as reports from earlier meetings, can be found via the links to the right.

Scroll down this page to see the membership of the MSAB. The public is encouraged to comment or provide input to the MSE process directly via the Board members.

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MSAB Meeting, June 13-14, 2013

The first meeting of the Management Strategy Advisory Board was held June 13-14, 2013 at the IPHC offices in Seattle Washington. The objectives for the meeting were to introduce the process of management strategy evaluation (MSE), how it would be developed at the IPHC, and the role of the MSAB members and staff, and to identify some working fisheries objectives and performance measures to start the investigation. These initial definitions of fisheries objectives and performance measures will aid in the development of a suitable operating MSE model for evaluating current and alternative management procedures for the Pacific halibut fishery. This process will allow the thorough testing of alternative management approaches under a wide variety of potential stock and environmental behaviour, prior to any consideration of using these alternatives in the actual management of the halibut fishery.

During discussions over two days, the board members wrestled with how to define fisheries objectives. This is an evolving process, and the term 'working' is applied to the objectives drafted during this meeting for the purpose of proceeding with the development of an operating MSE model. The draft working objectives suggested for the halibut fishery at this meeting are based on spawning biomass conservation, maintaining fishing opportunity, maximizing yield, and limiting variation in annual catch by regulatory area.

These working objectives will serve as an initial guide for developing the operating MSE model. Various management approaches (e.g., different harvest rates, minimum size limits, etc.) to achieving these objectives will be tested and evaluated using a common suite of performance measures (e.g., levels of spawning biomass and catches, average size of fish in the catch, variability in catches, etc.). A key component of the process will be to revisit and refine the objectives in light of the results of this testing.

The performance metrics used in evaluating alternative management procedures must be related to the fisheries objectives. Five draft working performance metrics were suggested during the meeting to capture the nine identified fisheries objectives. These performance metrics will also be re-evaluated to ensure that they capture the important features of the stock and the fishery under different population assumptions and fishery objectives.

The MSAB will meet again in October 2013 to follow up on the discussions of fisheries objectives and to learn more about the development of the operating model. In the meantime, MSAB members are encouraged to keep brainstorming MSE ideas with their constituents and interested members of the public.

Progress is being made on development of the operating MSE model for the Pacific halibut fishery. A prototype model is up and running, and some of the suggested management procedures will be tested at the October meeting. The MSE process is a long-term initiative and will require careful evaluation. A report on progress by the MSAB will be presented at the 2014 IPHC Annual Meeting but we do not anticipate recommending any changes to halibut management based on the MSE process at that time.

Presentations from the first meeting:

- MSAB Introduction
- Process Not Product

June 2013 MSAB Meeting Final Report

Next MSAB Meeting

The next MSAB meeting is scheduled for 16-17 October, 2013, at the IPHC offices in Seattle. This meeting will be broadcast via the web, and instructions for joining the webcast will be posted here.

MSAB Members

The Commission appreciates the broad interest expressed in participation on the MSAB. The suite of nominations was impressive and the Commission selected a Board of 24 official and ex-officio members representing viewpoints from commercial, sport, processing, Tribal/First Nations, and Fisheries Councils and managers. The Commission was pleased to make these selections for the Board and is extremely grateful to all of those who were willing to participate in this initiative.

The current MSAB members and ex-officio representatives are:

MEMBER	COUNTRY	SECTOR
1. Bruce Gabrys	U.S.	Commercial
2. John Woodruff	U.S.	Processing
3. Peggy Parker	U.S./CDN	Processing
4. Shane Halverson	U.S.	Processing
5. Brad Mirau	CDN	Processing
6. Jeff Kauffman	U.S.	Commercial
7. Per Odegaard	U.S.	Commercial
8. Ryan Littleton	U.S.	Commercial
9. Scott Mazzone	U.S.	Tribal
10. Michele Culver	U.S.	Fish Mgmt Cncl
11. Dan Hull	U.S.	Fish Mgmt Cncl
12. Gary Robinson	CDN	Commercial
13. Jim Lane	CDN	First Nations
14. Chris Sporer	CDN	Commercial
15. Gregg Elwood	U.S.	Commercial
16. Tom Marking	U.S.	Sport
<i>Ex-officio</i>		
Rachel Baker	U.S.	Manager
Adam Keizer	CDN	Manager
Scott Meyer	U.S.	Sport Manager
Rob Kronlund	CDN	MSE Expert
Robyn Forrest	CDN	Sci. Advisor
Loh-Lee Low	U.S.	Sci. Advisor
Commissioner Ryall	CDN	
Commissioner Balsiger	U.S.	

International Pacific Halibut Commission - 2320 W. Commodore Way, Suite 300 - Seattle, WA - 98199-1287 - U.S.A.