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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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30 March 2019

Under Secretary General Soares

United Nations

New York, NY 10017, USA

RE: Performance review of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements

Dear Under-Secretary-General Soares,

On behalf of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), I would like to thank you for your letter dated 28 December 2018 requesting information on performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements. In accordance with this request, I am providing the following information and perspectives.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) is an intergovernmental organization established by a Convention between Canada and the United States of America. The IPHC Convention was concluded in 1923 and entered into force that same year. The Convention has been revised several times since, to extend the Commission's authority and meet new conditions in the fishery. The most recent change occurred in 1979 and involved an amendment to the 1953 Halibut Convention. The amendment, termed a "protocol", was precipitated in 1976 by Canada and the United States of America extending their jurisdiction over fisheries resources to 200 miles.

In response to calls from the international community for a review of the performance of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), the IPHC agreed in 2011 to implement a process of Performance Review. In undertaking the review, the following approaches were used to assess the Commission's work and practices, track effectiveness, and gauge the need for revised approaches:

- 1) Conducting a set of 43 in-depth interviews with a representative and diverse set of stakeholders;
- 2) Observing the 2011 Interim and 2012 Annual Meetings and reviewing Commission background materials;
- 3) Reviewing practices at other regional fishery management organizations; and
- 4) Drawing on its professional judgment and experience.

In 2012, the report of the 1st Performance Review was published outlining 12 recommendations (containing 39 parts) to improve the functioning of the IPHC ([1st Performance Review of the IPHC](#)).

In January 2014, the Commission issued a Progress Report, documenting the Commission's response to the 1st IPHC Performance Review ([PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2012: A Progress Report](#)). At Interim and Annual Meetings since then, Contracting Parties have noted the status of implementation of each of the recommendations arising from the report of the 1st IPHC Performance Review, the most recent documented at the [95th Annual Meeting of the IPHC](#).

In its January 2014 progress report, the Commission noted that:

“Performance reviews are an important tool to help ensure the Commission continues to fulfill its mission and maintain accountability to its stakeholders and community. The Commission has benefitted significantly from the 2012 performance review and intends to continue the work stemming from that review...”

“One fundamental best practice that stands out in the literature is the need to review performance on a regular basis. The Commission intends to make periodic performance reviews a regular feature of its operations. Future reviews may be structured as broad looks or as more focused evaluations, depending on conditions and developments at the time. They may be performed by internal or external reviewers. Key to a successful review program is to track all recommendations, actions, and outcomes, so that each review builds on its predecessors.”

“The Commission also continues to solicit comment and advice from stakeholders on its ongoing performance review process.”

At the 93rd Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting held in January 2017, the Commission considered how best to move forward with a 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC. As a result, the Commission requested that the IPHC Secretariat finalize performance review terms of reference and criteria, as well as provide a proposed process and budget to conduct the review. The Commission subsequently adopted the terms of reference, criteria, process and budget to conduct the 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC at its 94th Session in January 2018, with the intention of implementing a 2nd Performance Review of the IPHC in 2019.

Additional background information on the IPHC performance review process and outcomes is available on the IPHC website: <https://www.iphc.int/>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this background information, which we hope will contribute to a successful meeting of the States Parties to the Agreement.

Yours sincerely,



David T. Wilson, Ph.D.

Executive Director, IPHC