

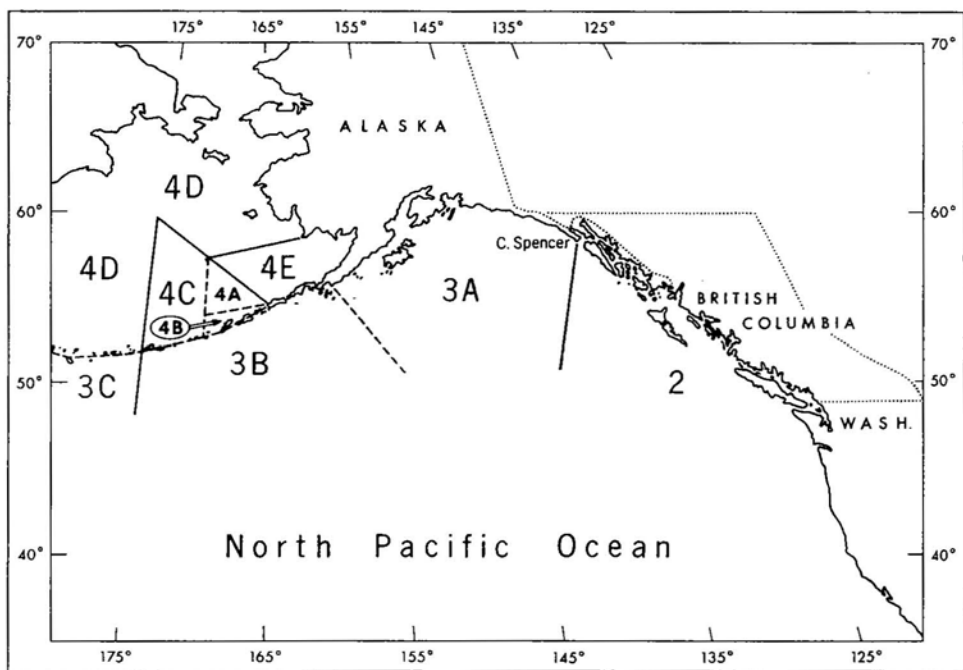
**INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION**

**Pacific  
Halibut Fishery  
Regulations  
1973**

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**INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION**

**P. O. BOX 9, UNIVERSITY STATION  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105**



Pacific Coast of North America showing the 1973 regulatory areas as defined by the International Pacific Halibut Commission

REGULATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC  
HALIBUT COMMISSION ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE  
PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY CONVENTION BETWEEN  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND CANADA,  
SIGNED MARCH 2, 1953

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**Section 1. Regulatory Areas**

(a) The "convention waters" include the territorial waters and the high seas off the western coasts of Canada and the United States of America and are divided into the following areas. All directions given are magnetic unless otherwise stated and all positions are determined by the most recent charts issued by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey or National Ocean Survey.

(b) Area 2 (south of Cape Spencer) shall include all convention waters southeast of a line running from the most westerly point of Glacier Bay, Alaska, to Cape Spencer Light (latitude 58° 11' 57" N., longitude 136° 38' 18" W.); thence south one-quarter east.

(c) Area 3A (Cape Spencer to Shumagin Islands) shall include all convention waters between Area 2 and a straight line running southeast one-half east from the highest point on Kupreanof Point (latitude 55° 34' 08" N., longitude 159° 36' 00" W.).

(d) Area 3B (Shumagin Islands to Atka Island, excluding the Bering Sea) shall include all convention waters between Area 3A and the meridian of 175° W. that are south of straight lines running from Cape Kabuch Light (latitude 54° 49' 00" N., longitude 163° 21' 36" W.); thence to Cape Sarichef Light (latitude 54° 36' 00" N., longitude 164° 55' 42" W.); thence to a point in Pumicestone Bay on Unalaska Island (latitude 53° 31' 45" N., longitude 166° 58' 15" W.); thence to Ananiuliak Island Light (latitude 52° 59' 48" N., longitude 168° 55' 06" W.); thence to Segum Island Light (latitude 52° 23' 16" N., longitude 172° 26' 15" W.); thence to the point of intersection with the meridian of 175° W. on Atka Island (latitude 52° 04' 08" N.).

(e) Area 3C (west of Atka Island, excluding the Bering Sea) shall include all convention waters west of Area 3B that are south of straight lines running from a point on Atka Island (latitude 52° 04' 08" N., longitude 175° 00' 00" W.); thence to Cape Amagalik (latitude 51° 40' 40" N., longitude 178° 07' 00" W.); thence to Aleut Point (latitude 51° 38' 20" N., longitude 178° 37' 20" E.); thence to Cape Wrangell, the westernmost extremity of Attu Island (latitude 52° 55' 20" N., longitude 172° 26' 50" E.); thence west northwest.

(f) Area 4A (the edge between Unimak Pass and the Pribilof Islands in Bering Sea) shall include all convention waters within the following

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boundary: from Cape Sarichef Light (latitude 54° 36' 00" N., longitude 164° 55' 42" W.); thence in a straight line to a point at latitude 54° 00' 00" N., longitude 170° 00' 00" W.; thence true north to a point northeast of St. Paul Island (latitude 57° 15' 00" N., longitude 170° 00' 00" W.); thence to the point of origin at Cape Sarichef Light.

(g) Area 4B (Fox Islands in Bering Sea) shall include all convention waters within the following boundary: from Cape Sarichef Light (latitude 54° 36' 00" N., longitude 164° 55' 42" W.); westerly along the boundary line of Area 3B, as described in paragraph (d) of this section to the point of intersection with the meridian of 170° W. at latitude 52° 48' 00" N.; thence true north to a point at latitude 54° 00' 00" N., longitude 170° 00' 00" W.; thence to the point of origin at Cape Sarichef Light.

(h) Area 4C (south of a line between Cape Sarichef and Cape Navarin between 170° W. and 175° W. in Bering Sea) shall include all convention waters between the meridians of 170° W. and 175° W. that are north of the boundary of Area 3B as defined in paragraph (d) of this section, and that are south of a straight line between a point at latitude 57° 15' 00" N., longitude 170° 00' 00" W., and a point at latitude 59° 42' 00" N., longitude 175° 00' 00" W.

(i) Area 4D (west of 175° W. and the northeastern flats in the Bering Sea) shall include all convention waters north of Areas 3C and 4C as defined in paragraphs (e) and (h) of this section, and north of a straight line extending between a point northeast of St. Paul Island (latitude 57° 15' 00" N., longitude 170° 00' 00" W.), and Cape Newenham (latitude 58° 39' 00" N., longitude 162° 10' 25" W.).

(j) Area 4E (southeastern flats in the Bering Sea) shall include all convention waters within the following boundary: from Cape Sarichef Light (latitude 54° 36' 00" N., longitude 164° 55' 42" W.); thence to a point northeast of St. Paul Island (latitude 57° 15' 00" N., longitude 170° 00' 00" W.); thence to Cape Newenham (latitude 58° 39' 00" N., longitude 162° 10' 25" W.); thence easterly and southerly along the Alaska coastline to Cape Kabuch Light (latitude 54° 49' 00" N., longitude 163° 21' 36" W.); thence to the point of origin at Cape Sarichef Light.

### **Section 2. Commercial Fishing for Halibut**

The regulations and requirements in Sections 3 to 15 pertain to commercial fishing operations and do not pertain to sport fishing. The regulations for sport fishing are listed in Section 16.

### **Section 3. Halibut Fishing Seasons**

(a) In Areas 2, 3A and 3B the halibut fishing season shall commence at 1500 hours of the 10th day of May and terminate at 0600 hours on a date to be determined and announced under paragraph (b) of Section 6 of these regulations, or at 0600 hours of the 1st day of October, whichever is earlier.

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(b) In Area 3C the halibut fishing season shall commence at 1800 hours of the 1st day of April and terminate at 0600 hours of the 15th day of November.

(c) In Areas 4A, 4B and 4C there shall be two halibut fishing seasons: the first season shall commence at 1800 hours of the 1st day of April and terminate at 0600 hours of the 19th day of April; the second season shall commence at 1800 hours of the 15th day of September and terminate at 0600 hours of the 30th day of September.

(d) In Area 4D the halibut fishing season shall commence at 1800 hours of the 1st day of April and terminate at 0600 hours of the 15th day of November.

(e) All hours of opening and closing of areas in this section and other sections of these regulations shall be Pacific Standard Time.

### **Section 4. Closed Seasons**

(a) All convention waters shall be closed to commercial halibut fishing except as provided in Section 3 of these regulations, and the retention and landing of any halibut caught during any closed period shall be prohibited.

(b) These regulations shall not prohibit the fishing for species of fish other than halibut during the closed halibut seasons, provided that it shall be unlawful for a vessel to have halibut aboard, or for any person to have halibut in his possession while so engaged. Nor shall these regulations prohibit the International Pacific Halibut Commission, hereafter in these regulations referred to as "the Commission," from conducting or authorizing fishing operations for investigation purposes.

### **Section 5. Closed Nursery Grounds**

Area 4E in southeastern Bering Sea is populated by small, immature halibut and is designated as a nursery ground and closed to halibut fishing, and no person shall fish for halibut therein, or shall have halibut in his possession therein except in the course of a continuous transit across the area.

### **Section 6. Catch Limits**

(a) The quantities of halibut to be taken during the halibut fishing season shall be limited to 13,000,000 pounds in Area 2 and to 25,000,000 pounds in Areas 3A and 3B combined.

(b) The Commission shall determine and announce the date on which it deems the catches defined in paragraph (a) of this section will be attained, and the catches shall then be limited to that taken prior to said date, and fishing for halibut in the area to which each limit applies shall at that date be prohibited until each area is reopened to halibut fishing as provided in Section 3 of these regulations, provided that if it becomes evident to the Commission that the original limit will not be reached by such date, it may substitute another date.

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(c) Catch limits shall apply only to the halibut fishing seasons in Areas 2, 3A and 3B.

### **Section 7. Size Limits**

(a) No person, firm or corporation may retain or have in possession any halibut caught in Areas 2, 3A, 3B or 3C that with head on is less than 32 inches in length as measured in a line, passing over the pectoral fin, from the tip of the lower jaw to the extreme end of the middle of the tail or that with head off is less than 24 inches in length as measured from the base of the pectoral fin, at its most anterior point, to the extreme end of the middle of the tail (see illustration on back page).

(b) No person, firm or corporation may retain or have in possession any halibut caught in Areas 4A, 4B, 4C or 4D which with head on is less than 26 inches in length as measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the extreme end of the middle of the tail or which with head off and entrails removed is less than 5 pounds in weight.

(c) Possession of halibut or portions from halibut below the minimum size is prohibited.

### **Section 8. Licensing of Vessels**

(a) All vessels of any tonnage which shall fish for halibut in any manner or hold halibut in possession in any area, or which shall transport halibut otherwise than as a common carrier documented by the Government of the United States or of Canada for the carriage of freight, must be licensed by the Commission, provided that vessels of less than five net tons or vessels which use hook and line gear other than set-lines need not be licensed.

(b) Each vessel licensed by the Commission shall carry the halibut license on board and the license shall at all times be subject to inspection by authorized officers of the Governments of Canada or the United States or by representatives of the Commission.

(c) The halibut license shall be issued without fee by the customs officers of the Governments of Canada or the United States or by representatives of the Commission or by fishery officers of the Governments of Canada or the United States at places where there are neither customs officers nor representatives of the Commission.

(d) The halibut license shall be validated before departure from port for each halibut fishing operation and at such times as required by other provisions of these regulations. This validation shall be by customs officers or by fishery officers of the Governments of Canada or the United States when available at places where there are no customs officers and shall not be made unless the area in which the vessel will fish is entered on the license form and unless the provisions of Section 9 of these regulations have been complied with for all landings and all fishing operations since issue of the license, provided that if the master or operator of any vessel

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shall fail to comply with the provisions of Section 9 of these regulations, the halibut license of such vessel may be validated upon evidence either that there has been a judicial determination of the offense or that the laws prescribing penalties therefor have been complied with, or that the said master or operator is no longer responsible for, nor sharing in, the operations of said vessel.

(e) The halibut license of any vessel fishing for halibut in Areas 3C, 4A, 4B, 4C or 4D must be validated at Sand Point, Alaska, both prior to such fishing and prior to unloading any halibut at any port or place other than Sand Point, Alaska.

(f) A halibut license shall not be validated for departure for halibut fishing in Areas 2, 3A or 3B from any port or place inside said areas prior to 0800 hours on May 8, or from any port or place outside said areas prior to 0800 hours on May 6.

(g) A halibut license shall not be validated for departure for halibut fishing in Areas 3C, 4A, 4B, 4C or 4D from any port or place outside said areas prior to 0800 hours March 28, except that a halibut license may be validated for departure for the second halibut fishing seasons in Areas 4A, 4B and 4C at any time prior to commencement of the second halibut fishing seasons in said areas.

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (d) of Section 3 of these regulations, a halibut license shall not be valid for halibut fishing in that portion of Area 4D that is east of the meridian of 175° W. after 0600 hours of the 20th day of June, unless the master or operator of the vessel shall notify the International Pacific Halibut Commission, Seattle; or the United States customs officer, Sand Point, Alaska, at least 24 hours prior to entry into said area the intention of the vessel to shift its fishing activities into the area.

(i) A halibut license may be validated for halibut fishing in more than one area.

(j) A halibut license shall not be valid for halibut fishing nor for possession of halibut in any area closed to halibut fishing except while in actual transit to an area open to halibut fishing, or to or within a port of sale. The said license shall become invalid for the possession of halibut if the licensed vessel is fishing or attempting to fish for any species of fish in any area closed to halibut fishing, or if the vessel has not complied with the provisions of Section 15 of these regulations, if applicable.

(k) Any vessel which is not required to be licensed for halibut fishing under paragraph (a) of this section of these regulations shall not possess any halibut of any origin in any area closed to halibut fishing except while in actual transit to or within a port of sale.

(l) A halibut license shall not be valid for halibut fishing in any area in 1973 if the vessel has fished in Areas 4A, 4B, 4C or that portion of Area 4D east of 175° W. longitude in 1973 with set-lines of the type commonly used in the Pacific Coast halibut fishery during the 48 hours prior to com-

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mencement of the halibut fishing season in the aforesaid areas in Bering Sea; and the fishing with set-lines shall in said areas and within this 48-hour period be construed to include the setting out of mark buoys.

(m) No person on any vessel which is required to have a halibut license under paragraph (a) of this section shall fish for halibut or have halibut in his possession, unless said vessel has a valid license issued and in force in conformity with the provisions of this section.

### **Section 9. Statistical Return by Vessels**

(a) Statistical return as to the amount of halibut taken during fishing operations must be made by the master or operator of any vessel licensed under these regulations following the landing, sale or transfer of halibut but prior to validation of the license for any subsequent fishing operation or at first entry thereafter into a port where there is an officer authorized to receive such return except that statistical return must be made within 96 hours of landing, sale or transfer of halibut following the final fishing operation in 1973.

(b) The statistical return must state the port and date of landing and the amount of halibut taken within each regulatory area or areas defined in these regulations in which the vessel fished.

(c) The statistical return must include all halibut landed or transferred to other vessels and must be full, true and correct in all respects herein required.

(d) The master or operator or any person engaged on shares in the operation of any vessel licensed under these regulations may be required by the Commission or by any officer of the Governments of Canada or the United States authorized to receive such return to certify to its correctness to the best of his information and belief and to support the certificate by a sworn statement. Validation of a halibut license after such sworn return is made shall be provisional and shall not render the license valid in case the return shall later be shown to be false or fraudulently made.

(e) The master or operator of any vessel holding a license under these regulations shall keep an accurate log of all fishing operations including date, locality, amount of gear used, and amount of halibut taken daily in each such locality. This log record shall be retained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection by representatives of the Commission authorized for this purpose.

(f) The master, operator or any other person engaged on shares in the operation of any vessel licensed under these regulations may be required by the Commission or by any officer of the Governments of Canada or the United States to certify to the correctness of such log record to the best of his information and belief and to support the certificate by a sworn statement.

(g) The master or operator of any vessel holding a license validated for fishing in Areas 3C, 4A, 4B, 4C or 4D on entering Sand Point, Alaska,



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en route to another port to unload, must report to an authorized representative of the United States or of the Commission the estimated amount of halibut on board that was caught in each regulatory area.

### **Section 10. Statistical Return by Dealers**

(a) All persons, firms or corporations that shall buy halibut or receive halibut for any purpose from fishing or transporting vessels or other carrier shall keep and on request furnish to customs officers or to any enforcement officer of the Governments of Canada or the United States or to representatives of the Commission, records of each purchase or receipt of halibut, showing date, locality, name of vessel, person, firm or corporation purchased or received from and the amount in pounds according to trade categories of the halibut.

(b) All records of all persons, firms or corporations concerning the landing, purchase, receipt and sale of halibut shall be retained for a period of two years and shall be open at all times to inspection by any enforcement officer of the Governments of Canada or the United States or by any authorized representative of the Commission. Such persons, firms or corporations may be required to certify to the correctness of such records and to support the certificate by a sworn statement.

(c) The possession by any person, firm or corporation of halibut known to have been taken by a vessel without a valid halibut license is prohibited.

(d) No person, firm or corporation shall unload any halibut from any vessel that has fished for halibut in Areas 3C, 4A, 4B, 4C or 4D and has entered Area 3A when Area 3A is closed to halibut fishing unless the license of said vessel has been validated at Sand Point, Alaska, as required in paragraph (e) of Section 8, and unless the vessel has complied with the provisions of Section 15 of these regulations, or unless permission to unload such halibut has been secured from an enforcement officer of the Governments of Canada or the United States.

### **Section 11. Retention of Halibut Taken by Nets and Pots**

(a) It is prohibited to have in possession any halibut while fishing with any net or nets other than bait nets.

(b) All vessels with any halibut on board are prohibited to use or possess any net or nets other than bait nets.

(c) The character and the use of bait nets referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section shall conform to the laws and regulations of the country where they may be utilized and shall be of a type commonly used for such purposes. Bait nets shall be utilized for no other purpose than the capture of bait for use of the vessel carrying them.

(d) It is prohibited to retain halibut taken with a net or pot of any kind.

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### **Section 12. Retention of Tagged Halibut**

Nothing contained in these regulations shall prohibit any vessel at any time from retaining and landing any halibut which bears a Commission tag at the time of capture, provided that such halibut with the tag still attached is reported at the time of landing to representatives of the Commission or to enforcement officers of the Governments of Canada or the United States and is made available to them for examination.

### **Section 13. Responsibility of Master**

Wherever in these regulations any duty is laid upon any vessel, the master or operator of said vessel shall personally be responsible for the performance of said duty. This provision shall not be construed to relieve any member of the crew of any responsibility with which he would otherwise be chargeable.

### **Section 14. Supervision of Unloading and Weighing**

The unloading and weighing of the halibut of any vessel licensed under these regulations shall be under such supervision as the customs or other authorized officer may deem advisable in order to assure the fulfillment of the provisions of these regulations.

### **Section 15. Sealing of Fishing Equipment**

Any fishing vessel, prior to entering Area 3A with any halibut on board when Area 3A as defined in Section 1 of these regulations is closed to halibut fishing, shall be equipped with approved attachments on the chute to permit the securing of a seal or seals, and prior to such departure shall request that said chute or the gurdy used for hauling gear or both chute and gurdy be sealed with such seal or seals as shall be required by any customs or fishery officer or any other duly authorized officer of the Government of the United States. The vessel shall keep such seal or seals intact until removed by a customs or fishery officer of the United States or of Canada and shall not unload any halibut until such time as said officer removes the seal or seals and grants permission to unload.

### **Section 16. Sport Fishing for Halibut**

(a) Sport fishing is permitted from March 1 to October 31 in all convention waters except that the daily catch by any person is limited to 3 halibut, of any size, caught with a hook attached to a handline or rod.

(b) It is illegal for any person or persons to possess sport-caught halibut when any commercially caught fish or shellfish are in their possession.

(c) Nothing in these regulations shall be deemed to restrict the right of the Government of Canada or of the state fisheries agencies of the United States of America to establish additional restrictive measures with respect to halibut sport fishery.

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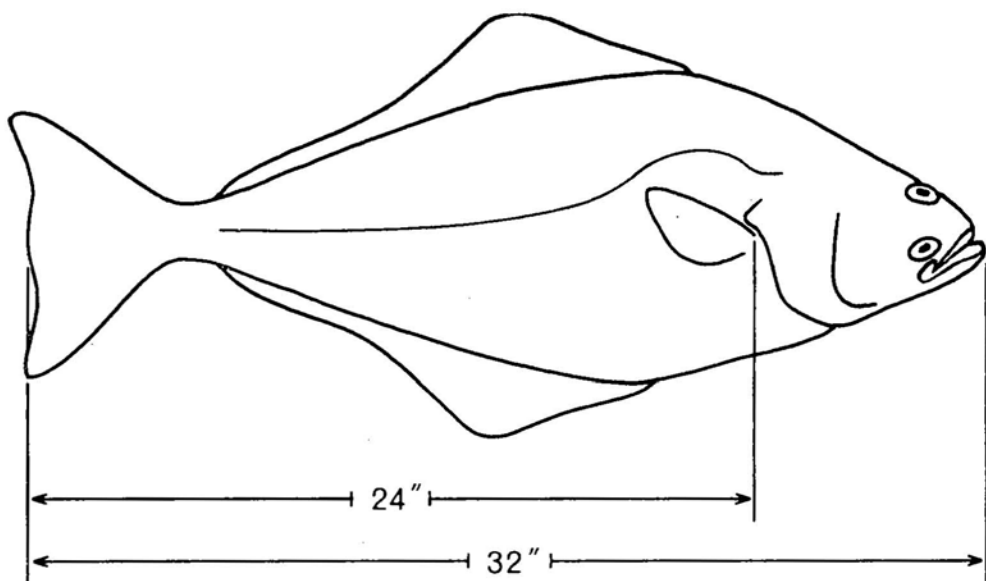
### **Section 17. Previous Regulations Superseded**

These regulations shall supersede all previous regulations adopted pursuant to the Convention between Canada and the United States of America for the preservation of the halibut fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, signed March 2, 1953, except as to offenses occurring prior to the approval of these regulations. These regulations shall be effective as to each succeeding year, with the dates herein specified changed accordingly, until superseded by subsequently approved regulations. Any determination made by the Commission pursuant to these regulations shall become effective immediately.

MARTIN K. ERIKSEN, Chairman  
ROBERT W. SCHONING, Vice Chairman  
NEILS M. EVENS  
WILLIAM S. GILBERT  
FRANCIS W. MILLERD  
WILLIAM M. SPRULES

Approved by THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA, March 20, 1973.

Approved by THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA,  
by Order-in-Council dated May 8, 1973.



Minimum commercial size in Area 2 and Area 3. See Section 7(a).