

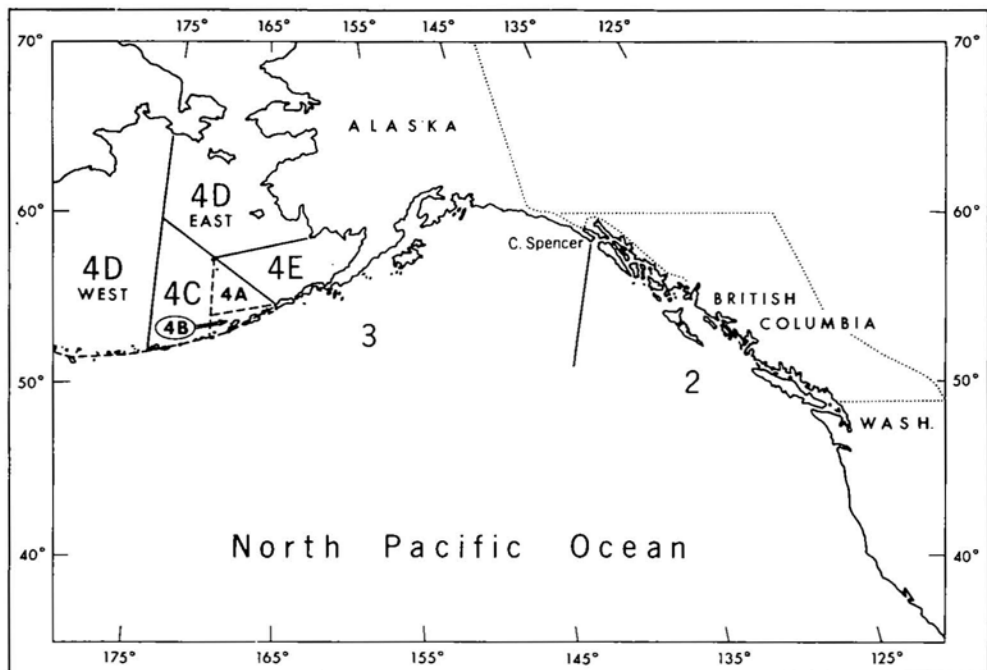
INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

Pacific
Halibut Fishery
Regulations
1976

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 5009, UNIVERSITY STATION

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105



Regulatory areas for the Pacific halibut fishery, 1976.

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

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 bearings are magnetic 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 includes all convention waters east of a line running northwest one-quarter west (312°) from Cape Spencer Light (latitude $58^\circ 11' 57''$ N., longitude $136^\circ 38' 18''$ W.), and south and east of a line running south one-quarter east (177°) from said light.

(c) Area 3 includes all convention waters north and west of Area 2, excluding the Bering Sea.

(d) Area 4 includes all convention waters in the Bering Sea. Areas 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D-East and 4E include all waters in the Bering Sea east of 175° W. Area 4D-West includes all waters in the Bering Sea west of 175° W.

(e) The boundary between Area 3 and Area 4 is from Cape Kabuch Light (latitude $54^\circ 49' 00''$ N., longitude $163^\circ 21' 36''$ W.) to Cape Sarichef Light (latitude $54^\circ 36' 00''$ N., longitude $164^\circ 55' 42''$ W.); then to a point in Pumicestone Bay on Unalaska Island (latitude $53^\circ 31' 45''$ N., longitude $166^\circ 58' 15''$ W.); then to Ananiuliak Island Light (latitude $52^\circ 59' 48''$ N., longitude $168^\circ 55' 06''$ W.); then to Seguan Island Light (latitude $52^\circ 23' 16''$ N., longitude $172^\circ 26' 15''$ W.); then to Cape Amagalik (latitude $51^\circ 40' 40''$ N., longitude $178^\circ 07' 00''$ W.); then to Aleut Point (latitude $51^\circ 38' 20''$ N., longitude $178^\circ 37' 20''$ E.); then to Cape Wrangell, the westernmost extremity of Attu Island (latitude $52^\circ 55' 20''$ N., longitude $172^\circ 26' 50''$ E.); then west northwest.

(f) Area 4E includes all convention waters in the Bering Sea that are east of a line from Cape Sarichef Light (latitude $54^\circ 36' 00''$ N., longitude $164^\circ 55' 42''$ W.); to a point northeast of St. Paul Island (latitude $57^\circ 15' 00''$ N., longitude $170^\circ 00' 00''$ W.); and south of a line from the latter point to Cape Newenham (latitude $58^\circ 39' 00''$ N., longitude $162^\circ 10' 25''$ W.).

Section 2. Commercial Fishing for Halibut

The regulations and requirements in Sections 3 to 11 pertain only to commercial fishing. The regulations for sport fishing are listed in Section 12.

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Section 3. Fishing Seasons

(a) In Areas 2 and 3 the halibut fishing season shall commence at 1500 hours on May 8 and terminate at 0600 hours on a date to be determined and announced under paragraph (b) of Section 5 of these regulations, or at 0600 hours on September 8, whichever is earlier.

(b) In Areas 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D-East the first halibut fishing season shall commence at 1800 hours on April 1 and terminate at 0600 hours on April 19; the second halibut fishing season shall commence at 1800 hours on September 15 and terminate at 0600 hours on September 30.

(c) In Area 4D-West the halibut fishing season shall commence at 1800 hours on April 1 and terminate at 0600 hours on November 15.

(d) Area 4E in southeastern Bering Sea is 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.

(e) All hours of opening and closing 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 referred to as "the Commission", from conducting or authorizing fishing operations for research purposes.

Section 5. Catch Limits

(a) The quantities of halibut to be taken during the halibut fishing season shall be limited to 13,000,000 pounds (5,897 metric tons) in Area 2 and to 12,000,000 pounds (5,443 metric tons) in Area 3.

(b) The Commission will determine and announce the dates on which the catch limits will be attained in each area. Fishing for halibut in the area will be prohibited after that date.

Section 6. Size Limits

No person, firm or corporation shall take or have in possession any halibut that with head on is less than 32 inches (81.3 centimeters) as measured in a straight line, passing over the pectoral fin, from the tip of the lower jaw with mouth closed, to the extreme end of the middle of the

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tail, or with head off is less than 24 inches (61.0 centimeters) 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).

Section 7. Licensing of Vessels

(a) All vessels of any tonnage which shall fish for halibut in any manner 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 setlines need not be licensed.

(b) The halibut license must be carried on the vessel at all times and shall be subject to inspection by customs and fishery officers of the Governments of Canada or the United States (hereafter called the Governments) 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, 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 of any vessel fishing for halibut in Area 4 must be validated at Sand Point, Alaska, both prior to such fishing and prior to unloading any halibut at any port other than Sand Point, Alaska. This validation shall be by United States customs or fishery officers or by a representative of the Commission.

(e) 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 transit to an area open to halibut fishing, or to or within a port of sale. The license shall be 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.

(f) 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.

(g) No person on any vessel shall fish for halibut or have halibut in his possession, unless said vessel has a valid license issued in conformity with the provisions of this section.

(h) The captain 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 authorized representatives of the Commission.

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(i) The captain, 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 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.

Section 8. Statistical Return by Dealers

(a) All persons, firms or corporations that buy halibut or receive halibut from fishing or transporting vessels or other carrier shall keep records of each purchase or receipt of halibut, showing date, locality (statistical area), name of vessel, person, firm or corporation purchased or received from and the amount in pounds according to trade categories of the halibut.

(b) These records shall be retained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection by enforcement officers of the Governments 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 of halibut known to have been taken by a vessel without a valid halibut license is prohibited.

Section 9. Fishing Gear

(a) Halibut are permitted to be taken only with hook and line gear. The retention or possession of halibut taken with any other gear, such as nets or pots, is prohibited.

(b) The retention or possession of halibut is prohibited when any commercial fishing gear other than hook and line gear or nets used solely for the capture of bait are on board.

Section 10. Retention of Tagged Halibut

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

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Section 11. Supervision of Unloading and Weighing

The unloading and weighing of halibut may be subject to the supervision of customs or other authorized officers to assure the fulfillment of the provisions of these regulations.

Section 12. Sport Fishing for Halibut

(a) Sport fishing is permitted from March 1 to October 31 in all convention waters. The daily catch limit by any person is two (2) halibut of any size, caught with a hook attached to a handline or rod, or by spear. After two halibut have been taken by any person, those halibut shall be landed before that person takes more halibut on any succeeding day.

(b) It is illegal for any person to possess sport-caught halibut aboard a vessel when other fish or shellfish aboard said vessel are destined for commercial use (sale, trade or barter).

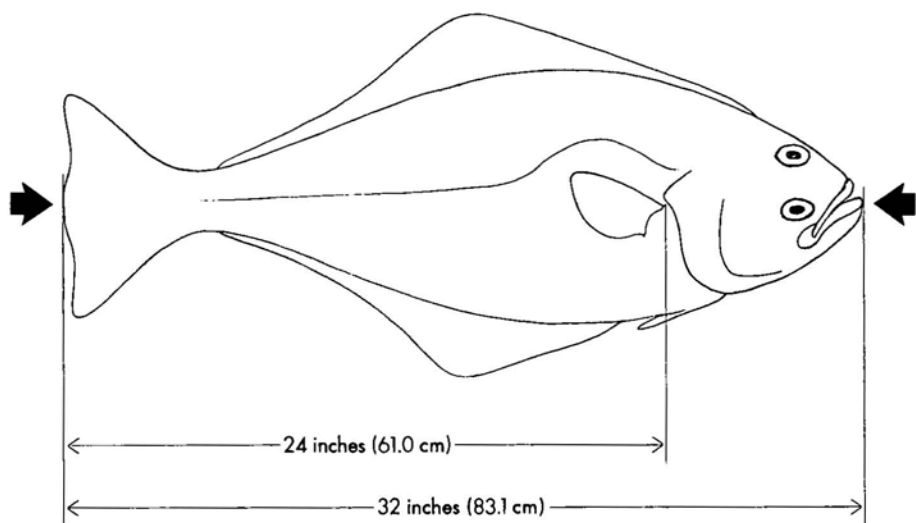
Section 13. Previous Regulations Superseded

These regulations shall supersede all previous regulations of the Commission. These regulations shall be effective each succeeding year, until superseded.

CLIFFORD R. LEVELTON, Chairman
ROBERT W. SCHONING, Vice Chairman
NEILS M. EVENS
WILLIAM S. GILBERT
FRANCIS W. MILLERD
JACK T. PRINCE

Approved by THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA,
by Order-in-Council, March 30, 1976.

Approved by THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA, March 16, 1976.



Minimum commercial size. See Section 6.

Published by the International Pacific Halibut Commission