

**INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION**

**Pacific  
Halibut Fishery  
Regulations  
1978**

---

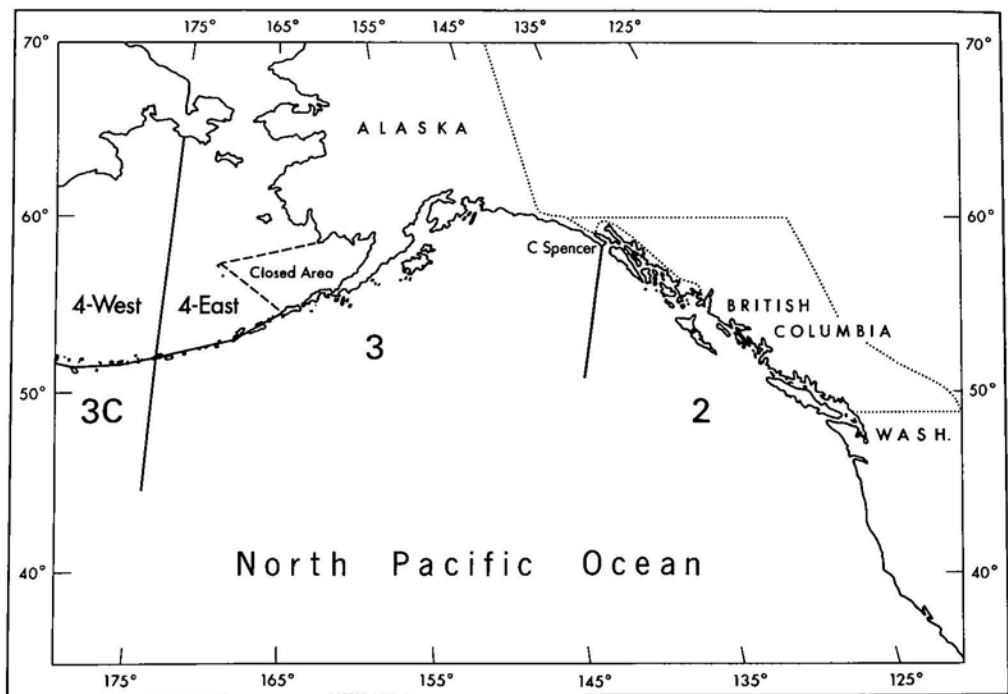
**INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION**

P. O. BOX 5009, UNIVERSITY STATION

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105

TELEPHONE  
(206) 634-1838

TWX  
(HALIBUTCOM SEA)  
910-444-2138



Regulatory areas for the Pacific halibut fishery, 1978.

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 waters east of a line running northwest one-quarter west ( $312^\circ$ ) 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 ( $177^\circ$ ) from said light.

(c) Area 3 includes all waters north and west of Area 2, excluding the Bering Sea. Area 3C (west of Atka Island) includes all waters west of the meridian of  $175^\circ$  W. and south of Area 4.

(d) Area 4 includes all waters in the Bering Sea and is subdivided into the following areas. Area 4-East includes all waters in the Bering Sea east of  $175^\circ$  W. Area 4-West includes all waters in the Bering Sea west of  $175^\circ$  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 Pomicestone 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 Seguam 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.

**Section 2. Commercial Fishing for Halibut**

The regulations and requirements in Sections 3 to 12 pertain only to commercial fishing. The regulations for sport fishing are listed in Section 13.

**Section 3. Fishing Seasons**

(a) In Areas 2 and 3 the fishing season shall be divided into four periods providing that the catch limits specified in Section 6 of these regulations are

## PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS, 1978

not taken earlier. The first period shall begin on May 15 and terminate on May 31. The second period shall begin on June 19 and terminate on July 6. The third period shall begin on July 25 and terminate on August 10. The fourth period shall begin on August 26 and terminate on September 11. Each fishing period shall begin at 1500 hours and terminate at 0600 hours on the designated dates.

(b) In Area 3C the fishing season, exclusive of the catch limit, shall begin at 1500 hours on April 8 and terminate at 0600 hours on November 15.

(c) In Area 4-East the first fishing period shall begin at 1500 hours on April 8 and terminate at 0600 hours on April 28. The second period shall begin at 1500 hours 12 days after the last closure of Area 3 as provided in subsection (a) and terminate at 0600 hours 19 days later.

(d) In Area 4-West the fishing season shall begin at 1500 hours on April 8 and terminate at 0600 hours on November 15.

(e) All hours of opening and closing shall be Pacific Standard Time.

### **Section 4. Closed Periods**

(a) All 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 is prohibited.

(b) These regulations shall not prohibit fishing for species of fish other than halibut during the closed periods, 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. Closed Area**

All waters in the Bering Sea (Area 4) that are east of a line from Cape Sarichef Light to a point northeast of St. Paul Island (latitude 57° 15' 00" N., longitude 170° 00' 00" W.); and south of a line from the latter point to Cape Newenham (latitude 58° 39' 00" N., longitude 162° 10' 25" W.) are 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 periods shall be limited to 9,000,000 pounds (4,082 metric tons) in Area 2 and to 11,000,000 pounds (4,990 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 except as provided in Section 3(b) of these regulations.

## PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS, 1978

---

### Section 7. 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 tail. If the head has been removed, a size limit of not 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 shall apply (see illustration on back page).

### Section 8. Licensing of Vessels

(a) All vessels 5 net tons or over that fish for halibut with setline gear must be licensed by the Commission. Vessels of less than five net tons or vessels which use hook and line gear other than setlines do not need a Commission license. The Commission's license requirements do not obviate licensing requirements of State or Federal Governments.

(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 customs or fishery officers of the Governments or by representatives of the Commission. Halibut licenses need not be renewed except that a new license is required for a vessel that is sold, transferred, renamed or redocumented.

(d) The captain or operator of any vessel licensed under these regulations that shall fish for halibut in Area 3C or Area 4 shall notify the United States customs officer at Unalaska, Alaska, the Commission representative at Sand Point, Alaska or the Commission headquarters in Seattle, Washington by wire or telephone at least 48 hours before entering these areas and at least 48 hours before halibut taken in these areas are unloaded at any port outside the areas.

(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 required to be licensed under Section 8 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

## PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS, 1978

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.

(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 9. 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 in contravention of these regulations is prohibited.

### **Section 10. Fishing Gear**

(a) Halibut are 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 11. 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.

### **Section 12. 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.

## **PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY REGULATIONS, 1978**

---

### **Section 13. Sport Fishing for Halibut**

(a) Sport fishing is permitted from March 1 to October 31. 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).

(c) The captain or operator of any vessel used in charter service for sport fishing for halibut shall be held responsible for violations of these regulations by any person on board said vessel.

### **Section 14. Previous Regulations Superseded**

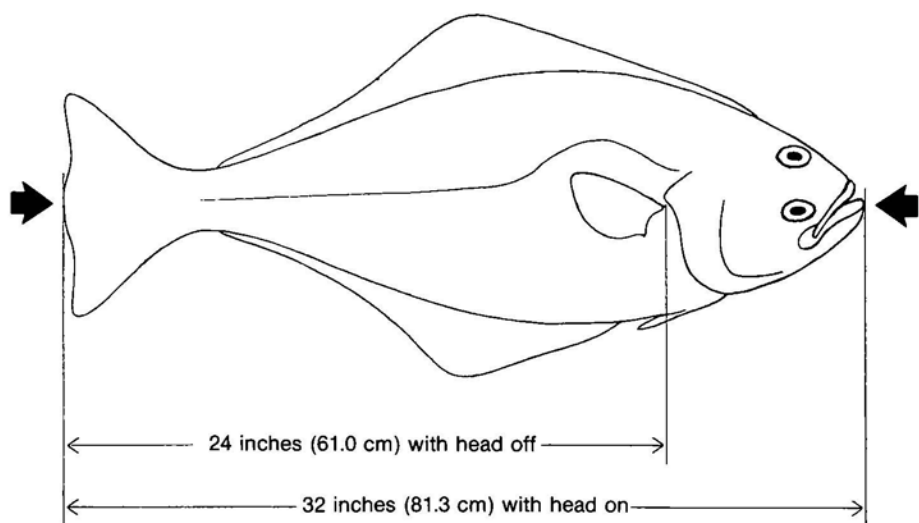
These regulations shall supersede all previous regulations of the Commission. These regulations shall be effective each succeeding year, until superseded.

CLIFFORD R. LEVELTON, Chairman  
ROBERT W. SCHONING, Vice Chairman  
NEILS M. EVENS  
WILLIAM S. GILBERT  
PETER C. WALLIN

Approved by:

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA, by Order-In-Council

THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Minimum commercial size. See Section 7.

Published by the International Pacific Halibut Commission