

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

**Pacific
Halibut Fishery
Regulations
1981**

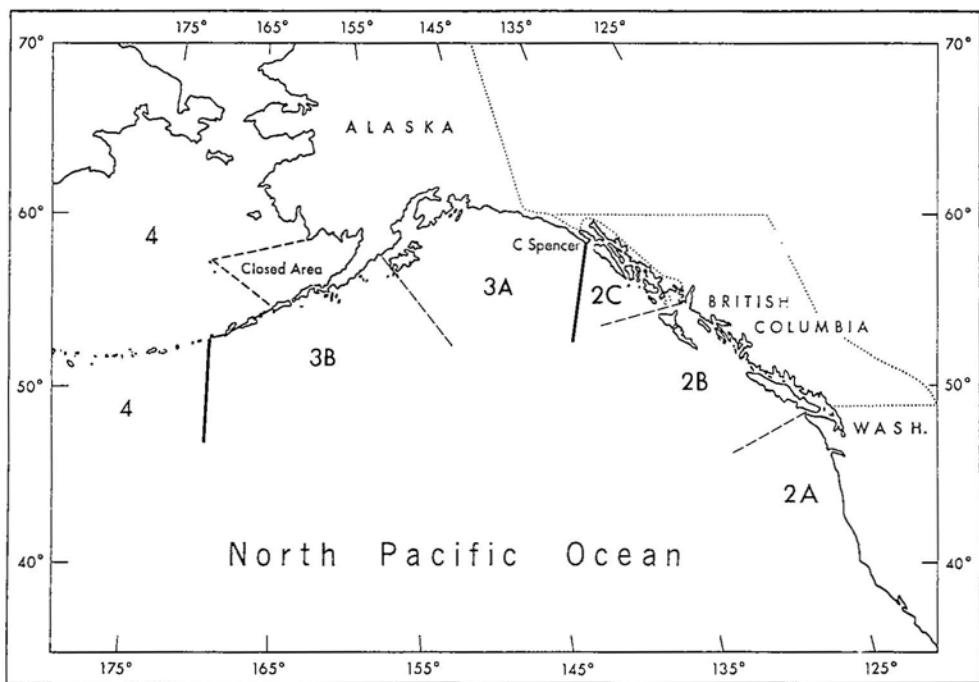
INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

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Regulatory areas for the Pacific halibut fishery, 1981

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) "Convention waters" means the waters off the west coasts of the United States and Canada, including the southern as well as the western coasts of Alaska, within the respective maritime areas in which each Party exercises exclusive fisheries jurisdiction as of March 29, 1979. For purposes of this Convention, the "maritime area" in which a Party exercises exclusive fisheries jurisdiction includes without distinction areas within and seaward of the territorial sea or internal waters of that Party. All bearings 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 includes all 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, and is subdivided as follows: Area 2A includes all waters off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington in which the United States claims exclusive fisheries jurisdiction; Area 2B includes all waters off the coast of British Columbia in which Canada claims exclusive fisheries jurisdiction; and Area 2C includes all waters off the coast of Alaska, that are south of Cape Spencer, in which the United States claims exclusive fisheries jurisdiction.

(c) Area 3 includes all waters north and west of Area 2 that are east of the meridian of 170° W., excluding the Bering Sea, and is subdivided as follows: Area 3A includes all waters between Area 2 and a line extending from the most northerly point on Cap Aklek (latitude $57^\circ 41' 15''$ N., longitude $155^\circ 35' 00''$ W.) to Cape Ikolik (latitude $57^\circ 17' 17''$ N., longitude $154^\circ 47' 18''$ W.), then along the Kodiak Island coastline to Cape Trinity (latitude $56^\circ 44' 50''$ N., longitude $154^\circ 08' 44''$ W.), then southeast by east one-quarter east (121°); Area 3B includes all waters between Area 3A and the meridian of 170° W.

(d) Area 4 includes all waters in the Bering Sea and all waters in the Gulf of Alaska west of the meridian of 170° 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 Anangula (Ananiuliak) Island Light (latitude $52^\circ 59' 48''$ N., longitude $168^\circ 55' 06''$ W.), then to the point of intersection with the meridian of 170° W. on Chuginadak Island (latitude $52^\circ 49' 42''$ N., longitude $170^\circ 00' 00''$ W.), then true south.

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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) The fishing seasons for each Regulatory Area are shown in the following table and will apply providing that the catch limits specified in Section 6 are not taken earlier.

Regulatory Area	Fishing Period	Opening Date	Closing Date
2A	1	June 7	June 21
	2	July 7	July 21
	3	August 6	August 20
	4	September 5	September 19
2B	1	May 7	May 22
	2	June 7	June 22
	3	July 7	July 22
	4	August 6	August 21
	5	September 5	September 20
2C	1	June 7	June 14
	2	July 12	July 19
3A	1	June 7	June 20
	2	July 12	July 25
	3	August 16	August 29
	4	September 19	October 2
3B	1	June 7	June 20
	2	July 12	July 25
	3	August 25	September 7
	4	September 28	October 11
4	1	June 7	June 22
	2	July 14	July 29
	3	August 20	September 4
	4	September 26	October 11

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), if Area 3A is closed under the provisions of Section 6 during either the first or second fishing period and prior to attaining the catch limit in Area 3B, Area 3B will close on the same date. Area 3B will reopen on August 25 and continue on the schedule specified in paragraph (a) until the catch limit specified in Section 6 is attained.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a), if Area 3A is closed under the provisions of Section 6 prior to attaining the catch limit in Area 4, Area 4 will close on the same date. Area 4 will reopen for an additional fishing period 10 days after the closure of Area 3A and remain open until the catch limit specified in Section 6 is attained, or November 15, whichever is earlier.

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(d) Each fishing period shall begin at 1500 hours and terminate at 0600 hours on the designated dates. All hours of opening and closing shall be Pacific Standard Time (see table on back page).

Section 4. Closed Periods

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

(b) Except as provided in Section 10(c), 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, hereinafter 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 total allowable catch of halibut to be taken in Area 2 during the halibut fishing periods shall be limited to 9,000,000 pounds (4,082 metric tons). It shall be divided as follows: 200,000 pounds (91 metric tons) of the total allowable catch may be caught in Area 2A; 5,400,000 pounds (2,449 metric tons) of the total allowable catch may be caught in Area 2B; and 3,400,000 pounds (1,542 metric tons) of the total allowable catch may be caught in Area 2C.

(b) The total allowable catch of halibut to be taken in Area 3 during the halibut fishing periods shall be limited to 13,000,000 pounds (5,897 metric tons). It shall be divided as follows: 11,000,000 pounds (4,990 metric tons) of the total allowable catch may be caught in Area 3A; 2,000,000 pounds (907 metric tons) of the total allowable catch may be caught in Area 3B.

(c) The total allowable catch of halibut to be taken in Area 4 during the halibut fishing periods shall be limited to 1,000,000 pounds (454 metric tons).

(d) 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 7. Size Limits

(a) 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

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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).

(b) It is unlawful for any person while on a fishing vessel and engaged in commercial fishing to mutilate or otherwise disfigure a halibut in any manner which prevents determining the minimum size set forth in sub-section (a).

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 5 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, hereinafter referred to as "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 4 must obtain a vessel clearance which must be validated both prior to such fishing and prior to unloading any halibut. This vessel clearance and validation shall be obtained at Dutch Harbor, Alaska, from United States customs officers, or from fishery officers if there are no United States customs officers. This regulation does not apply to fishermen who are resident in Area 4, and who unload all of their catches at ports within Area 4.

(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 sub-section (a) 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 sub-section (a) 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 9. Requirements for Halibut Processors

(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 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.

(c) No person or vessel that has deployed any longline fishing gear in any area of convention waters during the 72 hours immediately preceding the opening of any applicable halibut fishing period shall catch, retain, or possess halibut in convention waters prior to the opening of the succeeding halibut fishing period.

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 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.

Section 13. Sport Fishing for Halibut

(a) Sport fishing is permitted from March 1 to October 31, and may be conducted with no more than two hooks attached to a handline or rod, or by spear. Not more than two halibut of any size per person per day shall be caught, possessed, or landed from a vessel that is engaged in sport fishing. After two halibut have been taken by any person, those halibut shall be landed before that person takes more halibut on any succeeding day.

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(b) No sport-caught halibut shall be possessed aboard a vessel when the fish or shellfish aboard said vessel are destined for commercial use (sale, trade, or barter).

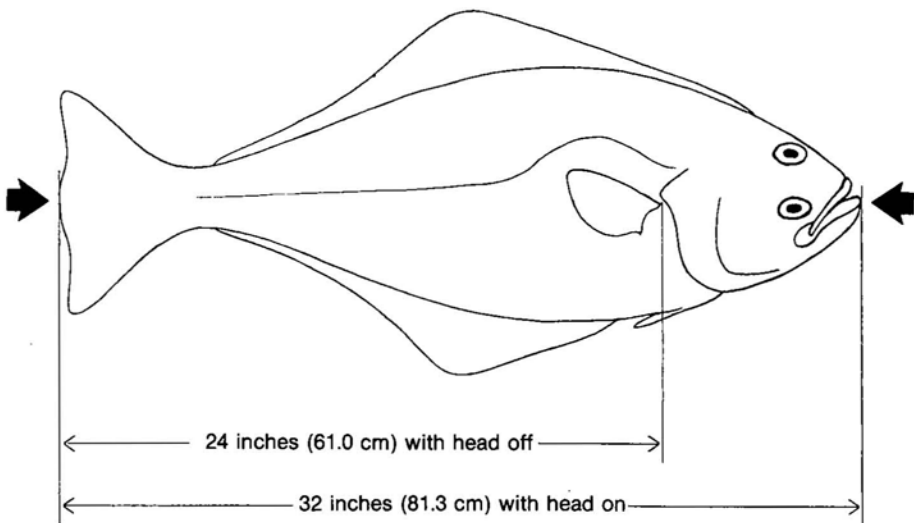
Section 14. Previous Regulations Superseded

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

ROBERT W. SCHONING, Chairman
MICHAEL HUNTER, Vice Chairman
NEILS M. EVENS
WILLIAM S. GILBERT
DONALD McLEOD
PETER C. WALLIN

Legal Opening and Closing Hours for Halibut Fishing for Standard Time (ST) and Daylight Saving Time (DT) in Different Time Zones of the Northeastern Pacific Ocean.

	Time Zone							
	Pacific		Yukon		Alaska		Bering Sea	
	PST	PDT	YST	YDT	AST	ADT	BST	BDT
Opening Hours	1500	1600	1400	1500	1300	1400	1200	1300
Closing Hours	0600	0700	0500	0600	0400	0500	0300	0400



Minimum commercial size. See Section 7.

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