

**INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION**

**Pacific  
Halibut Fishery  
Regulations  
1983**

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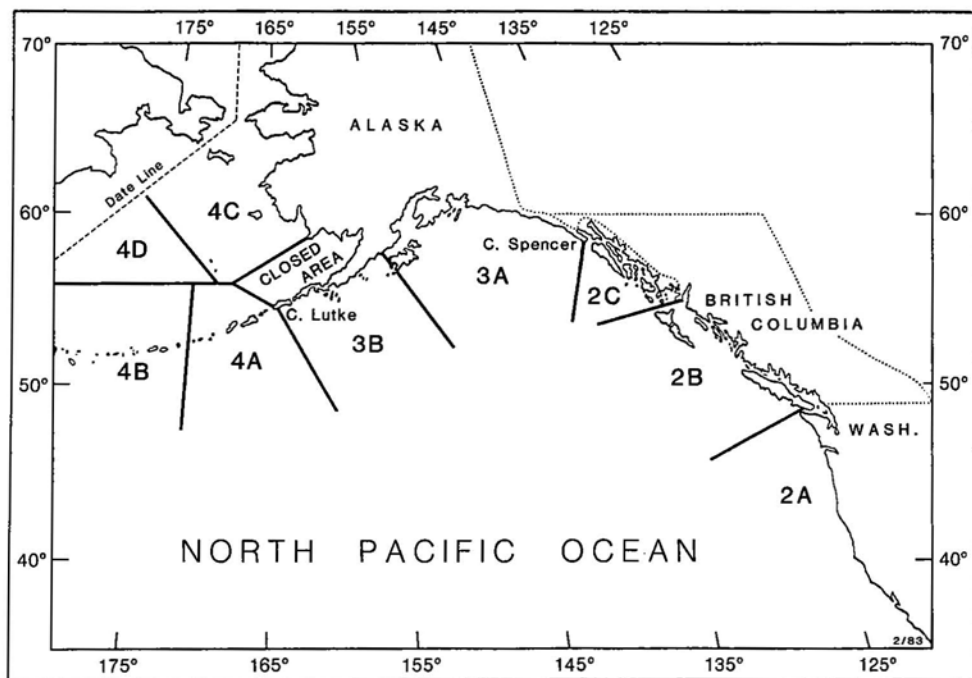
**INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION**

P.O. BOX 95009, UNIVERSITY STATION

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105

TELEPHONE

(206) 634-1838



Regulatory areas for the Pacific halibut fishery, 1983

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,  
AS AMENDED BY THE PROTOCOL OF MARCH 29, 1979

**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 2A includes all waters off the coasts of California, Oregon, and Washington in which the United States claims exclusive fisheries jurisdiction.

(c) Area 2B includes all waters off the coast of British Columbia in which Canada claims exclusive fisheries jurisdiction.

(d) Area 2C includes all waters off the coast of Alaska, in which the United States claims exclusive fisheries jurisdiction that are 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.

(e) Area 3A includes all waters between Area 2C and a line extending from the most northerly point on Cape 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 ( $121^\circ$ ).

(f) Area 3B includes all waters between Area 3A and a line extending southeast ( $135^\circ$ ) from Cape Lutke (latitude  $54^\circ 29' 00''$  N., longitude  $164^\circ 20' 00''$  W.).

(g) Area 4A includes all waters in the Bering Sea and all waters in the Gulf of Alaska west of Area 3B and west of the closed area defined in Section 5, east of the meridian of  $172^\circ$  W. and south of latitude  $56^\circ 20' 00''$  N.

(h) Area 4B includes all waters in the Bering Sea and the Gulf of Alaska west of Area 4A and south of latitude  $56^\circ 20' 00''$  N.

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(i) Area 4C includes all waters in the Bering Sea north of Area 4A and north of the closed area defined in Section 5 that are east of a line extending true northwest (315°) from a point at latitude 56° 20' 00" N., longitude 170° 00' 00" W.

(j) Area 4D includes all remaining waters in the Bering Sea north of Areas 4A and 4B, and west of Area 4C.

### 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 | Regulatory Area | Fishing Period | Opening Date | Closing Date |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 2A              | 1              | June 15      | June 28      | 4B              | 1              | June 16      | June 23      |
|                 | 2              | July 14      | July 27      |                 | 2              | July 15      | July 22      |
|                 | 3              | Aug 13       | Aug 26       |                 | 3              | Sept 13      | Sept 29      |
|                 | 4              | Sept 11      | Sept 24      |                 | 4              | Oct 9        | Oct 25       |
| 2B              | 1              | May 3        | May 15       | 4C              | 1              | June 16      | June 20      |
|                 | 2              | June 14      | June 26      |                 | 2              | June 21      | June 25      |
|                 | 3              | July 12      | July 24      |                 | 3              | June 26      | June 30      |
|                 | 4              | Aug 16       | Aug 28       |                 | 4              | July 1       | July 5       |
|                 | 5              | Sept 13      | Sept 25      |                 | 5              | July 6       | July 10      |
| 2C              | 1              | June 17      | June 22      |                 | 6              | July 11      | July 15      |
|                 | 2              | July 16      | July 21      | 7               | July 16        | July 20      |              |
|                 |                |              |              | 8               | July 21        | July 25      |              |
|                 |                |              |              | 9               | July 26        | July 30      |              |
| 3A              | 1              | June 16      | June 23      | 10              | July 31        | Aug 4        |              |
|                 | 2              | July 15      | July 22      | 11              | Aug 5          | Aug 9        |              |
|                 | 3              | Aug 14       | Aug 19       | 12              | Aug 10         | Aug 14       |              |
| 3B              |                |              |              | 13              | Aug 15         | Aug 19       |              |
|                 | 1              | June 16      | June 23      | 14              | Aug 20         | Aug 24       |              |
|                 | 2              | July 15      | July 22      | 15              | Aug 25         | Aug 29       |              |
|                 | 3              | Aug 27       | Sept 1       | 16              | Aug 30         | Sept 3       |              |
| 4A              | 4              | Sept 13      | Sept 18      | 17              | Sept 4         | Sept 8       |              |
|                 |                |              |              | 18              | Sept 9         | Sept 13      |              |
|                 |                |              |              | 19              | Sept 14        | Sept 15      |              |
|                 |                |              |              |                 |                |              |              |
| 4A              | 1              | June 16      | June 23      | 4D              | 1              | June 16      | June 23      |
|                 | 2              | July 15      | July 22      |                 | 2              | July 15      | July 22      |
|                 | 3              | Sept 13      | Sept 27      |                 | 3              | Sept 13      | Sept 29      |
|                 | 4              | Oct 9        | Oct 25       |                 | 4              | Oct 9        | Oct 25       |

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(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (a), if Area 3A is closed under the provisions of Section 6 prior to attaining the catch limit in Area 3B, Area 3B will close on the same date. Area 3B will reopen on August 27 and continue on the schedule of fishing periods specified in sub-section (a) or until the catch limit specified in Section 6 is attained.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (a), if Area 3A is closed under the provisions of Section 6 prior to attaining the catch limit in Area 4A, Area 4A will close on the same date. Area 4A will reopen 10 days later or on July 15, whichever is later, for a 12-day fishing period and then continue on the schedule of fishing seasons specified in sub-section (a) or until the catch limit specified in Section 6 is attained.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-section (a), if Area 3A is closed under the provisions of Section 6 prior to attaining the catch limits in Area 4B and/or Area 4D, Area 4B and/or Area 4D will close on the same date. The affected area(s) will reopen 10 days later for a 14-day fishing period and then continue on the schedule of fishing seasons specified in sub-section (a) or until the catch limits specified in Section 6 are attained.

(e) Each fishing period shall begin and terminate at 1200 hours on the designated dates. All hours of opening and closing shall be Pacific Standard Time (see table on page 8).

### 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 at latitude 56° 20' 00" N., longitude 168° 30' 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 during the halibut fishing periods specified in Section 3 shall be limited to the pounds or metric tons shown in the following table:

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| Regulatory Area | Catch Limits |             |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|
|                 | Pounds       | Metric Tons |
| 2A              | 200,000      | 91          |
| 2B              | 5,400,000    | 2,449       |
| 2C              | 3,400,000    | 1,542       |
| 3A              | 14,000,000   | 6,350       |
| 3B              | 5,000,000    | 2,268       |
| 4A              | 1,200,000    | 544         |
| 4B              | 800,000      | 363         |
| 4C              | 400,000      | 181         |
| 4D              | 200,000      | 91          |

(b) All weights in each limit shall be computed as with heads off and entrails removed.

(c) The Commission will determine and announce the date on which the catch limit 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 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 page 8).

(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 Areas 4A, 4B, and 4D must obtain a vessel clearance which must be validated

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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 custom officers, United States fishery officers, or by authorized representatives of the Commission. This regulation does not apply to fishermen who are resident in Area 4 and unload all of their catches at ports within Area 4.

(e) The captain or operator of any vessel that shall fish for halibut in Area 4C must obtain a vessel clearance which must be validated both prior to such fishing in each fishing period and prior to unloading any halibut. This vessel clearance and validation shall be obtained at Dutch Harbor, Alaska, from United States customs officers, United States fishery officers, or by authorized representatives of the Commission. This regulation does not apply to fishermen who are resident in Area 4C and unload all of their catches at ports within Area 4C.

(f) 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.

(g) 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.

(h) 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.

(i) 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 total weight of halibut taken daily in each such locality. This log shall be updated no later than 24 hours after midnight local time for each day fished and within 24 hours following the closure of the area in which the vessel is fishing. This log record shall be retained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection by fishery officers and authorized representatives of the Commission.

(j) 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.

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(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 except as provided in Section 11.

(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 uses longline fishing gear to fish for any species of fish during the 72 hours prior to the opening of a halibut fishing period shall catch, retain, or possess halibut in convention waters during that halibut fishing period.

(d) All longline or skate marker buoys carried aboard or used by any United States halibut vessel shall be marked with one of the following: the vessel name, the vessel's state license number, the vessel's registration number, or the letter X followed by the vessel's IPHC license number. These markings shall be in characters at least four inches in height and one-half inch in width in a contrasting color visible above the water, and shall be maintained in legible condition.

(e) All longline or skate marker buoys carried aboard or used by a Canadian halibut vessel shall be marked as required by the British Columbia fishing regulations.

### **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).

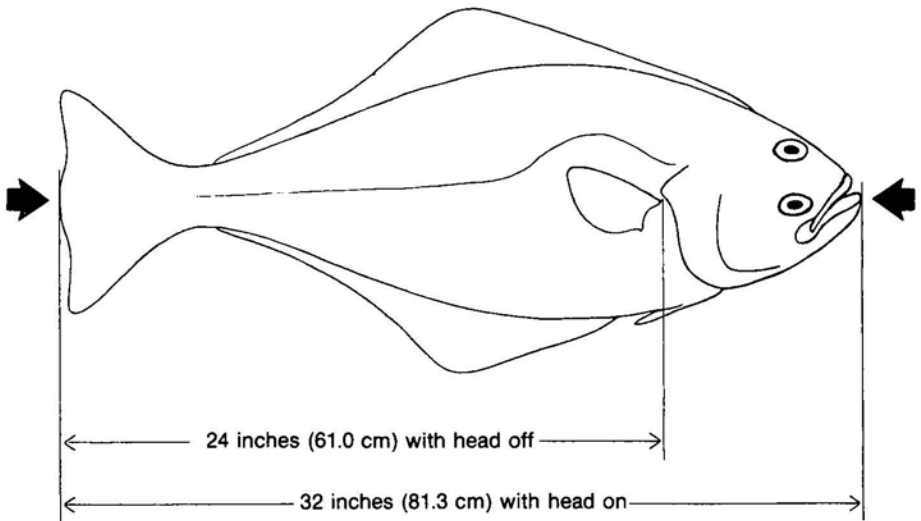
### **Section 14. Previous Regulations Superseded**

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

ROBERT W. McVEY, Chairman  
MICHAEL HUNTER, Vice Chairman  
SIGURD BRYNJOLFSON  
WILLIAM S. GILBERT  
GORDON JENSEN  
DONALD McLEOD

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.

| Hours | Time Zone |      |       |      |        |      |            |      |
|-------|-----------|------|-------|------|--------|------|------------|------|
|       | Pacific   |      | Yukon |      | Alaska |      | Bering Sea |      |
|       | PST       | PDT  | YST   | YDT  | AST    | ADT  | BST        | BDT  |
|       | 1200      | 1300 | 1100  | 1200 | 1000   | 1100 | 0900       | 1000 |



Minimum commercial size.