



FISHERY REGULATORY PROPOSAL 2022

**TITLE: RECREATIONAL (SPORT) FISHING FOR PACIFIC HALIBUT—IPHC REGULATORY
AREAS 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (SECT. 29) - RECORDKEEPING FOR CHARTER PACIFIC
HALIBUT ANNUAL LIMITS**

SUBMITTED BY:

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NOAA-FISHERIES

AFFILIATION: NMFS, ALASKA REGION

USA

All Regulatory Areas All Alaska Regulatory Areas All U.S. Regulatory Areas

2A 2B 2C 3A 3B 4A 4B 4C 4D 4E

Fishery Sectors

Directed Commercial Recreational Subsistence Non-directed Commercial All

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) proposes a change to Section 29 of the IPHC Fisheries Regulations related to recordkeeping for charter halibut annual limits.

Justification provided:

This proposal establishes recordkeeping requirements needed to enforce Pacific halibut annual limits for recreational (sport) fishing for halibut in Convention waters in and off Alaska. Two primary elements are included.

1. It consolidates the recordkeeping requirements needed to enforce annual limits (when implemented) for recreational halibut fishing into the general provisions of Section 29. This eliminates the requirement to annually add or remove these regulatory provisions for each area. Under this proposal, in a year when halibut annual limits are implemented, these regulations would be in effect without requiring additional modifications to IPHC regulations.
2. It authorizes the use of ADF&G approved electronic harvest records to satisfy this harvest record requirement. Currently, ADF&G authorizes the use of electronic harvest records in State managed recreational fisheries. This proposal would allow anglers to use ADF&G approved electronic harvest records to legibly record recreational halibut catch off Alaska to satisfy the annual limit record keeping requirement when in place. Existing approved physical harvest records would also continue to be accepted. This creates regulatory consistency for anglers that may concurrently retain halibut as well as State managed species for which there is an annual limit.

The suggested modifications to the IPHC Fishery Regulations are provided in red text, at [Appendix I](#).

APPENDIX I

*Suggested Regulatory Language***29. Sport Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E**

- (1) In Convention waters in and off Alaska: ^{8,9}
- (a) The recreational (sport) fishing season is from 1 February to 31 December.
 - (b) The daily bag limit is two Pacific halibut of any size per day per person unless a more restrictive bag limit applies in Commission regulations or Federal regulations at 50 CFR 300.65.
 - (c) No person may possess more than two daily bag limits.
 - (d) No person shall possess on board a vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure craft used for fishing, Pacific halibut that have been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner, except that each Pacific halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with a patch of skin on each piece, naturally attached;
 - (e) Pacific halibut in excess of the possession limit in paragraph (1)(c) of this section may be possessed on a vessel that does not contain recreational (sport) fishing gear, fishing rods, hand lines, or gaffs.
 - (f) Pacific halibut harvested on a charter vessel fishing trip in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C or 3A must be retained on board the charter vessel on which the Pacific halibut was caught until the end of the charter vessel fishing trip as defined at 50 CFR 300.61.
 - (g) Guided angler fish (GAF), as described at 50 CFR 300.65, may be used to allow a charter vessel angler to harvest additional Pacific halibut up to the limits in place for unguided anglers, and are exempt from the requirements in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section; and
 - (h) if there is an annual limit on the number of Pacific halibut that may be retained by a charter vessel angler as defined at 50 CFR 300.61, for purposes of enforcing the annual limit, each charter vessel angler must:
 - (1) maintain a nontransferable harvest record in the angler's possession if retaining a Pacific halibut for which an annual limit has been established. Such harvest record must be maintained either on the angler's State of Alaska recreational (sport) fishing license, an ADF&G approved electronic harvest record, or on a Sport Fishing Harvest Record Card obtained, without charge, from ADF&G offices, the ADF&G website, or fishing license vendors;
 - (2) immediately upon retaining a Pacific halibut for which an annual limit has been established, permanently and legibly record the date, location (IPHC Regulatory Area), and species of the catch (Pacific halibut) on the harvest record;
 - (3) record the information required by paragraph 1(h)(2) on any duplicate or additional recreational (sport) fishing license issued to the angler, duplicate electronic harvest record, or any duplicate or additional Sport Fishing Harvest Record Card obtained by the angler for all Pacific halibut previously retained during that year that were subject to the harvest record reporting requirements of this section.

⁸ NOAA Fisheries could implement more restrictive regulations for the recreational (sport) fishery or components of it, therefore, anglers are advised to check the current Federal or State regulations prior to fishing.

⁹ Charter vessels are prohibited from harvesting Pacific halibut in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A during one charter vessel fishing trip under regulations promulgated by NOAA Fisheries at 50 CFR 300.66.