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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED BY A CONVENTION BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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EL2024021
20 March 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

This Permit is issued to the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Alaska Fishery Science Center (AFSC) to enable the incidental catch of Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) during the NOAA eastern Bering Sea (EBS) trawl surveys. Permission is extended for fishing activities as follows:

- 1) **Activity:** NOAA standardized bottom trawl surveys to assess the living fauna of the EBS to monitor ecosystem health and provide assessments of living resources for stock assessment and fisheries management in Alaskan waters;
- 2) **Location:** Eastern Bering Sea, Alaska, USA
- 3) **Total number of Pacific halibut permitted:** estimated 3,000 encounters (EBS project total)
- 4) **Permissible fishing gear:** trawl
- 5) **Permissible time period:** 1 May 2024 – 30 September 2024;
- 6) **Principal investigator:** Gerald R. Hoff (NOAA)
- 7) **Vessel:** Northwest Explorer (docno: 609384)

Pacific halibut obtained under this permit may not be retained for purposes other than scientific research described herein.

- 1) Up to 800 Pacific halibut (total for the Bering Sea survey) may be sacrificed for otolith collection, sex determination, weight measurement, and stomach collection.
- 2) Pacific halibut not sacrificed may be measured for length and released overboard as soon as possible after the trawl net is dumped.

Pacific halibut captured but not used in the study specified in this permit must be returned to the sea with a minimum of delay and injury. Numbers and estimated weight of Pacific halibut caught and released shall be reported to the IPHC.

David T. Wilson

20-03-2024

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Date



INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC
HALIBUT COMMISSION

IPHC PERMIT TYPE [RESEARCH] PERMIT NUMBER [IPHC-2024002-RP]

In conformity with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Fishery Regulations (2023) the Vessel [**NORTHWEST EXPLORER**] Official Number [**609384**] of the USCG Registry is hereby permitted to conduct Pacific halibut research in [**IPHC REG AREA 4/CLOSED**] subject to any laws or regulations of Canada and/or the United States of America.

Valid [1 MAY – 30 SEP 2024] Date of Issue [20 MAR 2024]