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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DAVID T. WILSON

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EL2025021
15 April 2025

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 Gulf of Alaska (GOA) trawl survey. Permission is extended for fishing activities as follows:

- 1) **Activity:** NOAA standardized bottom trawl survey to assess the living fauna of the GOA to monitor ecosystem health and provide assessments of living resources for stock assessment and fisheries management in Alaskan waters;
- 2) **Location:** Gulf of Alaska, Alaska, USA
- 3) **Total number of Pacific halibut permitted:** estimated 5,285 encounters (GOA project total)
- 4) **Permissible fishing gear:** trawl
- 5) **Permissible time period:** 15 May 2025 – 30 September 2025;
- 6) **Principal investigator:** Gerald R. Hoff (NOAA)
- 7) **Vessel:** Ocean Explorer (docno: 678236)

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

- 1) Up to 1,000 Pacific halibut (total for the Gulf of Alaska 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 must be 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

David T. Wilson, Ph.D.
Executive Director

15 / 04 / 2025

Date



**INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC
HALIBUT COMMISSION**

IPHC PERMIT TYPE [RESEARCH] PERMIT NUMBER [IPHC-2025004-RP]

In conformity with the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Fishery Regulations (2025) the Vessel [**OCEAN EXPLORER**] Official Number [**678236**] of the USCG Registry is hereby permitted to conduct Pacific halibut research in [**IPHC REG AREAS 2C/3A/3B/4A**] subject to any laws or regulations of Canada and/or the United States of America.

Valid [15 MAY – 30 SEP 2025] Date of Issue [15 APR 2025]