



---

**IPHC Fishery Regulation Proposal:  
Commercial Fishing Period (Sect. 9)**

**SUBMITTED BY: WILLIAM CONNOR, F/V CAPE RELIANT AND ROBERT HAUKNES, F/V MYSTIC ERA (23 DECEMBER 2020  
AND 15 JANUARY 2021)**

---

**PURPOSE**

To propose an extension of the directed commercial Pacific halibut season to year round.

**BACKGROUND**

William Connor has been fishing for 47 years.

Robert Hauknes has been fishing Pacific halibut for 23 years.

**DISCUSSION**

The Pacific halibut fishing season should have an extended season to year round. This will enable our fishermen to compete with the other fisheries (e.g. East Coast Pacific halibut) and farmed product that is driving our prices down and market exposure down. Additionally, as presented during the 8<sup>th</sup> Special Session of the IPHC (SS08) in paper [IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1](#), there is no biological or management reason for having a closed season. If one Contracting Party is not able or not willing to implement this, the request is to at least implement this change for the other Contracting Party.

**Benefits/Drawbacks:** The benefit is this will enable our fishermen to compete with the other fisheries and farmed product that is driving our prices down and market exposure down. Additionally, this would allow fishermen in Canada to retain Pacific halibut within other fisheries they are participating for which they are charged a discard mortality (quota to offset) during the closed period. This would also allow for dock sales year round. No known drawbacks.

**Sectors Affected:** This proposal affects the directed commercial sector of the Pacific halibut fishery in all IPHC Regulatory Areas.

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION / REFERENCES**

IPHC Secretariat. 2020. IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations: Commercial Fishing Periods (Sect. 9). [IPHC-2020-SS08-PropA1](#). 5 p.

---

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** fishery regulation proposal IPHC-2021-AM097-PropC1 Rev\_1, which provides for a year-round directed commercial fishery in all IPHC Regulatory Areas, *Commercial Fishing Periods* (Sect. 9), for consideration at AM097.

**APPENDICES**

[Appendix A](#): Suggested IPHC Fishery Regulation Language

**APPENDIX A****SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE****9. Commercial Fishing Periods**

- (1) The fishing periods for each IPHC Regulatory Area apply where the fishery limits specified in section 5 have not been taken.
- (2) Unless the Commission specifies otherwise, commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas may begin no earlier in the year than ~~120800~~ local time on ~~14 March~~ January.
- (3) All commercial fishing for Pacific halibut in all IPHC Regulatory Areas shall cease for the year at ~~12000~~ local time on ~~3145 November~~ December, with the exception of IPHC Regulatory Area 2B which shall cease at 1200 local time on 7 December 2020.
- (4) The first fishing period in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A non-tribal directed commercial fishery<sup>2</sup> shall begin at 0800 on the fourth Monday in June and terminate at 1800 local time on the subsequent Wednesday, unless the Commission specifies otherwise. If the Commission determines that the fishery limit specified for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A in Section 5 has not been exceeded, it may announce a second fishing period of up to three fishing days to begin on Monday two weeks after the first period, and, if necessary, a third fishing period of up to three fishing days to begin on Monday four weeks after the first period.
- (5) Notwithstanding paragraph (4), and paragraph (6) of section 12, an incidental catch fishery<sup>3</sup> is authorized during the sablefish seasons in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A in accordance with regulations promulgated by NOAA Fisheries. This fishery will occur between the dates and times listed in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section.
- (6) Notwithstanding paragraph (4), and paragraph (6) of section 12, an incidental catch fishery is authorized during salmon troll seasons in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A in accordance with regulations promulgated by NOAA Fisheries. This fishery will occur between the dates and times listed in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section.