



FISHERY REGULATORY PROPOSAL 2022

TITLE: RECREATIONAL (SPORT) FISHING FOR PACIFIC HALIBUT—IPHC REGULATORY AREA 2B (SECT. 28) – DAILY BAG LIMIT

SUBMITTED BY:
CANADA

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

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

Canada is proposing changes to Section 28 of the IPHC Fisheries Regulations (Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B) to allow daily bag limit of three fish per person.

Justification provided:

Canada is proposing changes to section 28 (Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations to allow a maximum daily bag limit of three (3) fish per day, per person. The purpose of the proposed change is to align IPHC fishery regulations with Canada’s domestic sportfishing regulations, to simplify unnecessary regulatory complexity, and to retain Canada’s ability and autonomy to manage its domestic fishery.

The Commission previously supported and approved an increase in the Canadian daily bag limit from two (2) per day, to three (3) per day, on a one-year basis from 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 only. When mid-season catch monitoring showed that the recreational sector was unlikely to reach its allocated TAC, Canada used this conditional flexibility and implemented an increase to the daily bag limit from two (2) fish per day to three (3) fish day in August of 2021. This flexibility increased Canadian domestic benefits, whilst ensuring that the recreational sector fished well within its Total Allowable Catch (TAC).

The default IPHC daily bag limit of two (2) fish per day constrains Canada’s flexibility to make critical in-season changes to the fishing plan to support meeting TAC goals and Canadian domestic fishery objectives.

Canadian Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) has a long history of collaborating with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) in Canada’s endeavors to achieve IPHC objectives, while maximizing Canadian domestic objectives. DFO and SFAB meet monthly in-season to review timely and robust recreational catch estimates to consider and evaluate appropriate fishery management measures. Increased regulatory

flexibility would augment the existing successful management tool kit to achieve improved fishery performance.

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

APPENDIX I

*Suggested Regulatory Language***28. Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2B**

- (1) In all waters off British Columbia: ^{6, 7}
 - (a) the recreational (sport) fishing season will open on 1 February unless more restrictive regulations are in place;
 - (b) the recreational (sport) fishing season will close when the recreational (sport) fishery limit allocated by DFO is taken, or 31 December, whichever is earlier; and
 - ~~(c) the daily bag limit is two (2) Pacific halibut of any size per day, per person, except that between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022 only, DFO may implement a daily bag limit of three (3) Pacific halibut per day, per person.~~
(c) the daily bag limit is three (3) Pacific Halibut of any size per day, per person ^{6,7}.
- (2) In British Columbia, no person shall fillet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a Pacific halibut in any manner that prevents the determination of minimum size or the number of fish caught, possessed, or landed.
- (3) The possession limit for Pacific halibut in the waters off the coast of British Columbia is three Pacific halibut ^{6,7}.

⁶ DFO could implement more restrictive regulations for the recreational (sport) fishery, therefore anglers are advised to check the current Federal or Provincial regulations prior to fishing.

⁷ For regulations on the experimental recreational fishery implemented by DFO check the current Federal or Provincial regulations.