



**IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations:
Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A,
4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29)**

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (18 MAY 2020)

Explanatory Memorandum

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

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

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) recommended the following management measures for charter Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A for application for the remainder of 2020, in order to achieve the charter Pacific halibut allocation under the NPFMC Halibut Catch Sharing Plan in light of the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic:

Area 2C

In IPHC Regulatory Area 2C, maintain the one Pacific halibut daily bag limit and implement a reverse slot limit with an upper limit of 80 inches and a lower limit of 45 inches (U45O80) for recreational charter anglers for the remainder of the 2020 season.

Area 3A

In IPHC Regulatory Area 3A, maintain a daily bag limit of 2 Pacific halibut, one of any size and a second fish equal to or less than 32"; No annual limit and no daily closures. Maintain the limit of 1 trip per Pacific halibut charter vessel per day and 1 trip per charter Pacific halibut permit per day, for the remainder of the 2020 season.

Suggested Regulatory Language

29. Recreational (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.
- (2) For guided recreational (sport) fishing (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C:
- (a) No person on board a charter vessel (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) shall catch and retain more than one Pacific halibut per calendar day.
 - (b) No person on board a charter vessel (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) shall catch and retain any Pacific halibut that with head on is greater than 4045 inches (101.6114.3 cm) and less than 80 inches (203.2 cm) as measured in a straight line, passing over the pectoral fin from the tip of the lower jaw with mouth closed, to the extreme end of the middle of the tail.
- (3) For guided recreational (sport) fishing (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A:
- (a) No person on board a charter vessel (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.65) shall catch and retain more than two Pacific halibut per calendar day.
 - (b) At least one of the retained Pacific halibut must have a head-on length of no more than 2632 inches (66.081.3 cm) as measured in a straight line, passing over the pectoral fin from the tip of the lower jaw with mouth closed, to the extreme end of the middle of the tail. If a person recreational (sport) fishing on a charter vessel in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A retains only one Pacific halibut in a calendar day, that Pacific halibut may be of any length.
 - (c) A “charter halibut permit” (as referred to in 50 CFR 300.67) may only be used for one charter vessel fishing trip in which Pacific halibut are caught and retained per calendar day. A charter vessel fishing trip is defined at 50 CFR 300.61 as the time period between the first deployment of fishing gear into the water by a charter vessel angler (as defined at 50 CFR 300.61) and the offloading of one or more charter vessel anglers or any Pacific halibut from that vessel. For purposes of this trip limit, a charter vessel fishing trip ends at 2359 (Alaska local time) on the same calendar day that the fishing trip began, or when any anglers or Pacific halibut are offloaded, whichever comes first.
 - (d) A charter vessel on which one or more anglers catch and retain Pacific halibut may only make one charter vessel fishing trip per calendar day. A charter vessel fishing trip is defined at 50 CFR 300.61 as the time period between the first deployment of fishing gear into the water by a charter vessel angler (as defined at 50 CFR 300.61) and the offloading of one or more charter vessel anglers or any Pacific halibut from that vessel. For purposes of this trip limit, a charter vessel fishing trip ends at 2359 (Alaska local time) on the same calendar day that the fishing trip began, or when any anglers or Pacific halibut are offloaded, whichever comes first.
 - ~~(e) No person on board a charter vessel may catch and retain Pacific halibut on any Tuesday or Wednesday.~~
 - ~~(f) Charter vessel anglers may catch and retain no more than four (4) Pacific halibut per calendar year on board charter vessels in IPHC Regulatory Area 3A. Pacific halibut that are retained as GAF, retained while on a charter vessel fishing trip in other Commission regulatory areas, or retained while fishing without the services of a guide do not accrue toward the 4 fish annual limit. For purposes of enforcing the annual limit, each 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 back of the angler's State of Alaska recreational (sport) fishing license or on a Sport Fishing Harvest Record Card obtained, without charge, from ADF&G offices, the ADF&G website, or fishing license vendors; and~~
- ~~(2) immediately upon retaining a Pacific halibut for which an annual limit has been established, record the date, location (IPHC Regulatory Area 3A), and species of the catch (Pacific halibut), in ink, on the harvest record; and~~
- ~~(3) record the information required by paragraph 3(g)(2) on any duplicate or additional recreational (sport) fishing license issued to the angler 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; and~~
- ~~(4) carry the harvest record on his or her person while fishing for Pacific halibut.~~

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.