



REGULATORY PROPOSAL 2018
Preserving Catch on Private Live-Aboard Vessels

SUBMITTED BY:
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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

For IPHC Regulatory Area(s): 2C

Current regulations assume that sport fishing vessels return to port each day for processing of their catch. Live-aboard vessels are often operating and fishing in remote areas or where limited port facilities offer no options for proper preservation or shipment of their catch.

The result of these requirements is that any surplus fish caught and not immediately consumed must be wasted and not kept on board to satisfy the regulations. The current regulations (specifically the Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations 2017 section 28d) do not allow for proper processing and preservation of the catch. This applies even if the halibut in question is caught as by-catch while fishing for other species.

It is understood that the current requirements for keeping fish intact or in whole fillets is to aid in verification and enforcement of catch limits. This need could be easily met through proper record keeping to include logging of fish caught with location information, measurements, and photographs prior to processing.

SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE

Amend the current 2017 regulations to allow proper preservation of the catch on private live-aboard vessels as follows in Section 28 with a new paragraph.

For private sport fishing vessels that do not utilize port facilities daily it is acceptable to properly preserve halibut caught on-board provided additional records are kept. This is to include logging each catch with location caught, measuring each fish (length or weight), state issued license information of the angler, and photographing of each fish prior to processing. Once processing has begun on-board all fishing activity for halibut must cease for the remainder of the calendar day.