

## *Information Bulletin*



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### 1974 HALIBUT REGULATIONS

The 1974 halibut regulations include several new features that commercial fishermen will need to know. The purpose of this bulletin is to draw attention to some of the more important changes. Fishermen are advised to refer to the regulation pamphlet for specific details. The new regulations are available from Customs and fishery offices and from the Halibut Commission.

#### Fishing Seasons

Opening and closing hours of halibut fishing seasons are based on Pacific Daylight Time except in the Bering Sea where Pacific Standard Time is used.

#### Size Limit

The new size limit for halibut of 32 inches with head-on or 24 inches with head-off will apply in all areas, including the Bering Sea.

#### Clearance and Statistical Returns

Improvements in our statistical system plus cooperation by government agencies and private companies have eliminated the need for vessel clearances and statistical returns. Vessels may now depart for the grounds at their own convenience on all trips with one exception: vessels that fish in the Bering Sea must clear through Sand Point before entering and upon leaving the Bering Sea. Dealers are still required to make records of halibut purchases available to Commission representatives.

#### Licenses

The Commission is considering a revised license scheme that would require all halibut vessels to be licensed regardless of size. This plan is still under study and for 1974, as in previous years, halibut licenses are required only for vessels 5 net tons or larger that fish with setline gear. Licenses are available free of charge from Customs officers and from the Halibut Commission.

#### Sealing of Fish Equipment

Vessels are no longer required to have their chutes or gurdies sealed when entering Area 3A with halibut aboard when Area 3A is closed.

Anyone wishing additional information on the 1974 halibut regulations should contact the Commission or Customs and fishery officers.

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