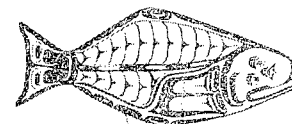


# Information Bulletin



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## 1978 HALIBUT REGULATIONS

The Halibut Commission (IPHC) has recommended the following regulations for the 1978 halibut fishery. Approval of these recommendations by the governments of Canada and the United States is expected by early April and regulation pamphlets will be distributed at that time.

The catch quotas are 9 million pounds for Area 2 and 11 million pounds for Area 3. The fishing periods in these areas will be May 15 to May 31, June 19 to July 6, July 25 to August 10, and August 26 to September 11. The seasons will close when the respective catch limits are reached. The opening and closing times will be 1500 and 0600 hours Pacific Standard Time, respectively. The Commission will announce the closure dates 5 days before the beginning of the last fishing period.

West of 175° W. longitude (Areas 3 and 4-West), the season will open April 8 and close November 15. In Area 4-East (the Bering Sea east of 175° W. longitude), the season will open on April 8 and close on April 28 and then reopen 12 days after the final closure of Area 3 for 19 days. The halibut nursery area in the eastern Bering Sea will be closed to halibut fishing at all times. Opening and closing times in Area 4 will be 1500 and 0600 hours Pacific Standard Time, respectively. The Commission's license requirements, which will be the same as last year, do not obviate the licensing requirements of state or federal governments. IPHC licenses need not be renewed except that a new license is required for a vessel which is sold, transferred, renamed, or redocumented.

The 32-inch size limit will apply only when the head is on the fish and the 24-inch measurement will apply only when the head is removed.

The retention and landing of halibut caught during a closed period is prohibited and it is unlawful for a vessel to have halibut aboard while fishing for other species during a closed period. Halibut caught on gear set during a closed period are regarded as having been caught during the closed period.

Vessels fishing in Area 3C or Area 4 must notify the United States Customs officer at Unalaska, Alaska, the Commission representative at Sand Point, Alaska, or the Commission headquarters in Seattle at least 48 hours before entering these areas and at least 48 hours before unloading the catch at any port outside the areas. Clearance can be made in person, or by wire, telephone, or radio.

IPHC has increased the reward for halibut tags from \$2.00 to \$5.00. A \$100.00 premium reward will be paid for special preselected tags.