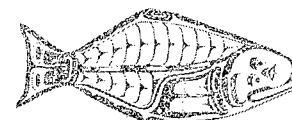


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COMMERCIAL HALIBUT REGULATIONS FOR 1980

The following changes in the Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations will be in effect this year, and should be noted by all persons intending to fish commercially for halibut.

AREAS AND CATCH LIMITS

The boundary between Regulatory Areas 3 and 4 has been relocated at 170° West longitude. All Pacific waters between Cape Spencer and 170° West are designated Area 3, which has a catch limit of 10 million pounds. All Pacific waters west of 170° West, and all waters in the Bering Sea are combined into a single area designated Area 4, which has a catch limit of 1 million pounds. No boundary changes were made in Area 2 which has catch limits of 6.1 million pounds in Canadian territorial waters and 3.2 million pounds in United States territorial waters.

FISHING PERIODS

Halibut fishermen should note that the opening and closing dates in the U.S. and Canadian parts of Area 2 and in Area 3 are not always the same. The fishing periods for the various regulatory areas are shown in the following table, and shall apply unless the catch limits have been reached.

Period	Regulatory Area	Opening date	Closing date
I	2 (U.S. waters)	May 20	May 30
	2 (Canadian waters)	May 20	June 3
	3	May 19	June 4
II	2 (All waters)	July 15	July 29
	3	July 15	July 31
III	2 and 3	August 12	August 26
IV	2 and 3	September 9	September 23
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I	4	April 10	April 30
II	4	20 days after last closure of Area 3	November 15

RESTRICTION ON HALIBUT RETENTION

A new regulation prohibits any person or vessel engaged in longline fishing during the 72 hours immediately preceding the opening of any halibut fishing period from catching, retaining or possessing halibut during the ensuing halibut fishing period. The person or vessel may fish for halibut in any succeeding halibut fishing period, but again is subject to the 72 hour fishing restriction.