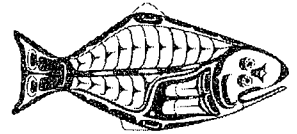


## Information Bulletin



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### COMMERCIAL HALIBUT REGULATIONS FOR 1986

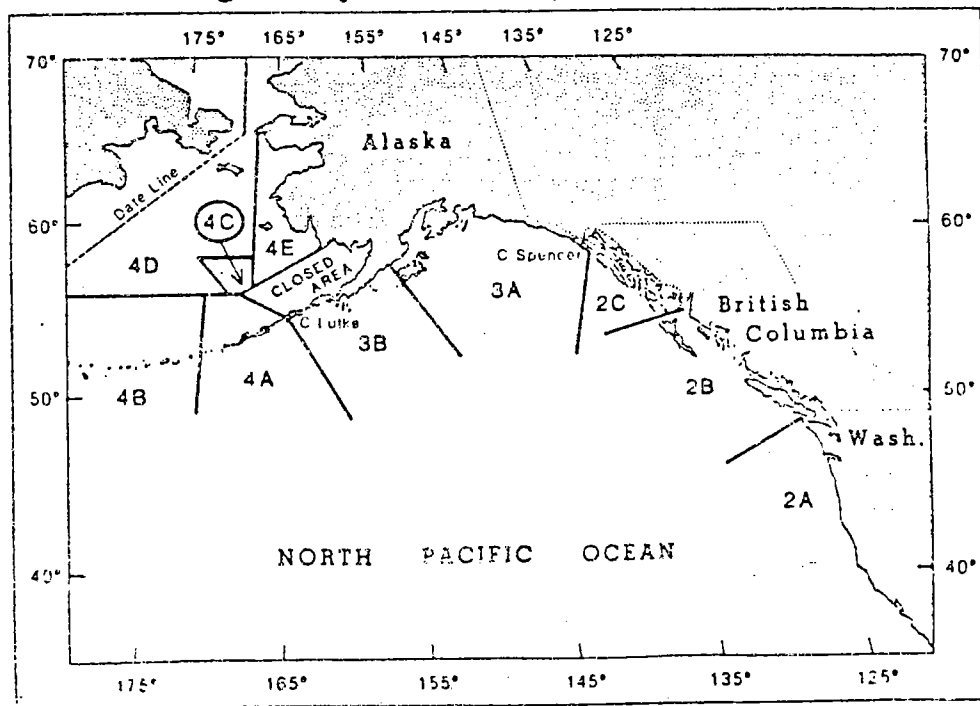
The International Pacific Halibut Commission is recommending to the governments of Canada and the United State the following regulations for the halibut fishery for 1986. These regulations must be approved by both governments before they become effective.

This bulletin is intended for information purposes only and is not a substitute for the detailed regulation pamphlet which will be printed and distributed as soon as the regulations have been approved by both governments.

#### Regulatory Areas

The Commission recommends regulatory boundaries as shown in the figure below. The only change from 1985 is the relocation of the boundary line between Areas 4C and 4D at 58°00'00" N., which moves the northwestern flats, including St. Matthew Island, from Area 4C to Area 4D.

Regulatory Areas Proposed for 1986



Catch Limits

The Commission recommends a catch limit (in millions of pounds) for each regulatory area as shown in the table below. The Commission regards these as upper limits of allowable catch. An area will reopen only if enough catch limit remains to allow a full fishing day. Further, the Commission does not regard Areas 3A and 3B, or Areas 4A and 4B, as separate areas. The Area 3A-3B and Area 4A-4B fishing seasons will be closed if the respective combined catch limits are taken.

Area	Catch Limit	Area	Catch Limit	Area	Catch Limit
2A	0.55	3A	28.1	4A	2.0
2B	11.2	3B	10.3	4B	1.7
2C	11.2			4C	0.6
				4D	0.7
				4E	0.05

Fishing Seasons

The Commission recommends commercial halibut fishing seasons consisting of a succession of open and closed periods as shown in the table below, or until the respective catch limits are taken. All fishing periods will open and close at 12 noon Pacific Standard Time.

2A	2B	2C-3A-3B	4A	4B	4D
6/16-6/28	5/03-5/11	4/30-5/02	4/30-5/02	5/29-6/01	6/30-7/03
7/15-7/27	6/07-6/15	5/29-5/31	5/29-5/31	6/30-7/03	7/29-8/08
8/12-8/24	8/30-9/07	8/25-8/27	6/30-7/03	7/29-8/05	9/23-*
9/10-9/22	9/27-10/5	9/23-*	7/29-8/05	8/25-8/27	
			8/25-8/27	9/23-*	
			9/23-*		
4C			4E		
6/01-6/02	7/09-7/10	8/16-8/17	6/01-6/03	7/22-7/24	9/11- 9/13
6/03-6/04	7/11-7/12	8/18-8/19	6/04-6/06	7/25-7/27	9/14- 9/16
6/05-6/06	7/13-7/14	8/20-8/21	6/07-6/09	7/28-7/30	9/17- 9/19
6/07-6/08	7/15-7/16	8/22-8/23	6/10-6/12	7/31-8/02	9/20- 9/22
6/09-6/10	7/17-7/18	8/24-8/25	6/13-6/15	8/03-8/05	9/23- 9/25
6/11-6/12	7/19-7/20	8/26-8/27	6/16-6/18	8/06-8/08	9/26- 9/28
6/13-6/14	7/21-7/22	8/28-8/29	6/19-6/21	8/09-8/11	9/29-10/01
6/15-6/16	7/23-7/24	8/30-8/31	6/22-6/24	8/12-8/14	10/02-10/04
6/17-6/18	7/25-7/26	9/01-9/02	6/25-6/27	8/15-8/17	10/05-10/07
6/19-6/20	7/27-7/28	9/03-9/04	6/28-6/30	8/18-8/20	10/08-10/10
6/21-6/22	7/29-7/30	9/05-9/06	7/01-7/03	8/21-8/23	10/11-10/13
6/23-6/24	7/31-8/01	9/07-9/08	7/04-7/06	8/24-8/26	10/14-10/16
6/25-6/26	8/02-8/03	9/09-9/10	7/07-7/09	8/27-8/29	10/17-10/19
6/27-6/28	8/04-8/05	9/11-9/12	7/10-7/12	8/30-9/01	10/20-10/22
6/29-6/30	8/06-8/07	9/13-9/14	7/13-7/15	9/02-9/04	10/23-10/25
7/01-7/02	8/08-8/09	9/15-9/16	7/16-7/18	9/05-9/07	10/26-10/28
7/03-7/04	8/10-8/11	9/17-9/18	7/19-7/21	9/08-9/10	10/29-10/31
7/05-7/06	8/12-8/13	9/19-9/20			
7/07-7/08	8/14-8/15	9/21-9/22			
		9/23-9/24			

\*Date to be announced by the Commission

### Clearances

The Commission recommends again in 1986 that vessels fishing in Area 4 be required to obtain a clearance and hold inspection at Dutch Harbor or AKutan, Alaska, no more than 5 days prior to the opening date for the area to be fished, and no more than 5 days after the area has closed. Clearances will be available from fishery officers or from designated commercial fish processors. The clearance requirement will not apply to fishermen who land their total annual halibut catch in Area 4 ports. Vessels obtaining a clearance to fish in Area 4C will not be given a clearance to fish in any other area on the same trip.

### Layup Period

Vessels intending to fish during a halibut fishing season in any area, except Areas 4C or 4E, may not have setline gear in the water during the 72-hour period immediately before the opening of that halibut fishing season.

### Halibut Licenses

All vessels that fish for halibut for commercial purposes in 1986 must have a valid halibut license issued by the Commission in 1986. This provision also applies to sport charter vessels. Halibut license applications have been mailed to all holders of 1985 commercial halibut licenses that landed halibut during the 1985 fishery. Halibut license applications are available from fishery officers and from the Commission. Completed applications must be mailed to the Commission, and a halibut license will be returned to the applicant by mail. Applications must be completed in full or they will be returned for missing information. There is no charge for halibut licenses. The IPHC halibut license number must appear on all fish tickets showing purchase and receipt of halibut.

### Log Records

Vessel log records must be retained on the vessel for five days after halibut are off-loaded.

### Fish Tickets

A new regulation makes it illegal to enter a Halibut Commission license number on a State or Provincial fish ticket for any vessel other than the vessel actually used in catching the halibut reported thereon.

### Other Regulations

Other regulations, such as the size limit, gear restrictions, and closed areas will be the same as in 1985.

## HALIBUT TAGS

The Commission has tagged halibut throughout the range of the fishery. Large numbers of fish were recently tagged off Kodiak Island, southeastern Alaska, and in Hecate Strait. These tags are made of orange, yellow, or pink plastic with wire inside and are twisted around a bone near the cheek on the dark side of the fish. The information obtained from the return of tags will allow IPHC to determine the migration and mortalities of halibut.

Fishermen and dock workers are urged to watch for tagged halibut and to report any that are found, including those smaller than the legal size limit. IPHC regulations permit the landing of any halibut bearing a tag, regardless of season, size of fish, or gear used in its capture, provided the fish, with tag in place, is made available for inspection.

When a tagged halibut is captured, we suggest that a ganging or piece of line be tied around the tail of the fish. Then, when the fish are unloaded, the tagged fish is easily located. During the fishing seasons, IPHC has employees in many of the ports where halibut are sold and they should be notified of the tagged fish whenever possible. If an IPHC employee is not available, contact an enforcement officer of the State, Provincial, or Federal government. When none of the above are available, the tag should be mailed directly to the IPHC office at the above address with as much recovery information as possible. Please report the location, date, depth, and gear of recovery as well as the length and sex of the fish.

The finder of a tag will receive a letter indicating when and where the fish was released. There is a standard reward of \$5.00 for each tag returned. In addition, persons returning the first 12 tags bearing preselected numbers will receive a premium reward of \$100.00.