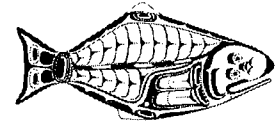


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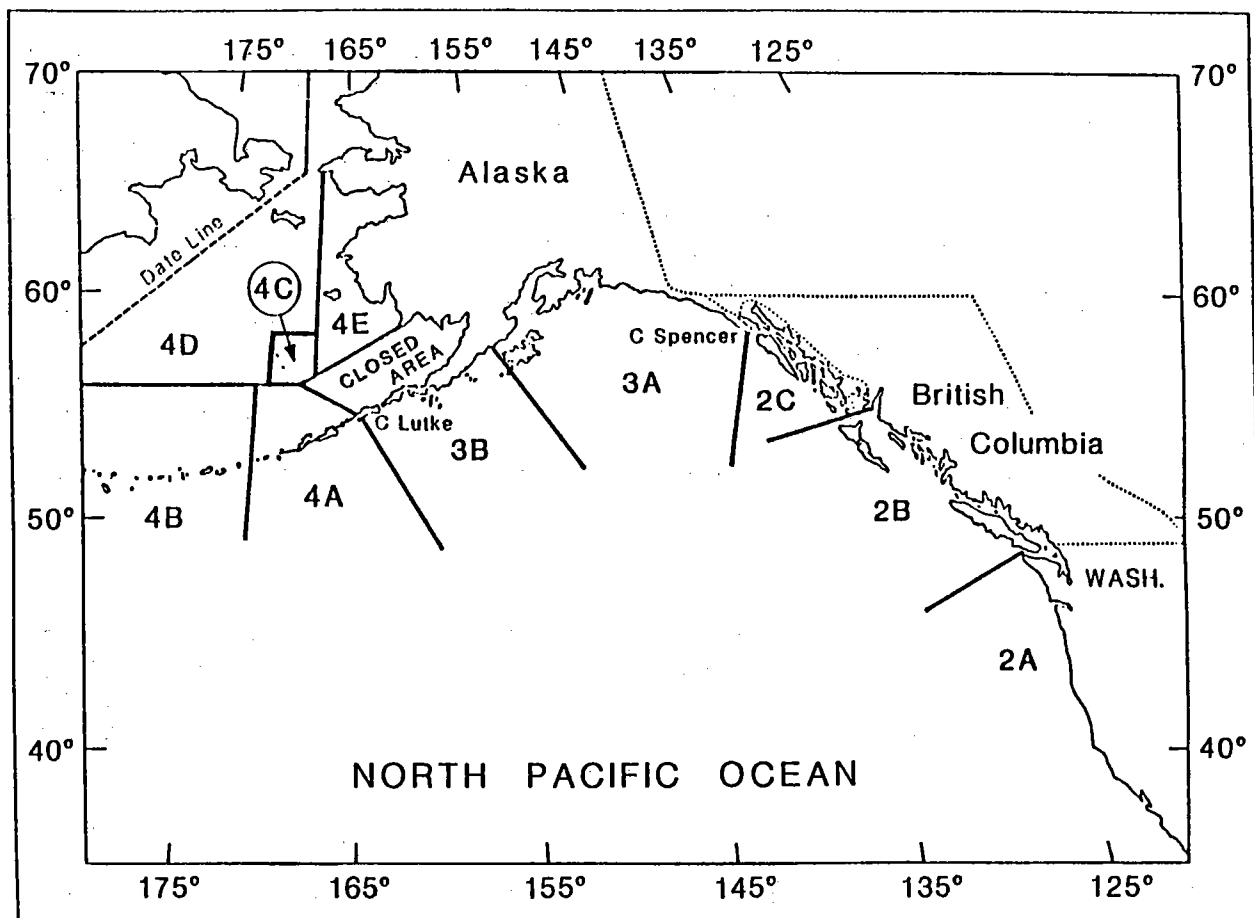
HALIBUT REGULATIONS FOR 1988

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has recommended the following regulations for the halibut fishery for 1988 to the governments of Canada and the United States.

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

Regulatory Areas for the 1988 fishery are shown in the figure below and are unchanged from 1987.



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 and except in Area 2A, the limits apply only to the commercial fishery. 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	0.75*	3A	36.0	4A	1.9
2B	12.5	3B	8.0	4B	2.0
2C	11.5			4C	0.7
				4D	0.7
				4E	0.1

*Allocated between treaty Indians and non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries.

Allocation Regulations

The Commission adopted catch sharing plans developed for Area 2A by the Pacific Fishery Management Council and for Areas 4C and 4E by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). Area 2A will be managed to provide a maximum total allowable catch for all user groups of 750,000 pounds. It is projected that the treaty Indian commercial fishery will catch 100,000 pounds, the non-Indian commercial fishery will catch 330,000 pounds and the non-Indian sport fishery will catch 270,000 pounds. An additional 50,000 pounds will be held in reserve and could be made available to the treaty Indian fishery which has a fixed season from March 1 to October 31. Area 4C will have a fishing period limit (trip limit) of 10,000 pounds until 50% of the catch limit is taken, after which the limit will increase to 20,000 pounds. A fishing period limit of 6,000 pounds will apply in Area 4E throughout the season, and vessels needing a clearance at Dutch Harbor or Akutan will not be allowed into Area 4E until 80% of the catch limit is taken.

Fishing Seasons

The Commission recommends commercial halibut fishing seasons consisting of a succession of open and closed periods as shown in the following table, or until the respective catch limits are taken. Fishing periods in Area 2A and 2B will open and close at 12 noon Pacific Daylight Time. All other Areas will open and close at 12 noon Alaska Daylight Time.

The Commission adopted a policy of flexibility in establishing and modifying fishing periods within season and, specifically, the June fishing period in Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, and 4B may be eliminated to ensure fishing in August or September.

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

* Date to be announced by the Commission.

Clearances

The Commission recommends again in 1988 that commercial vessels fishing in Area 4 be required to obtain a clearance and hold inspection at Dutch Harbor or Akutan, Alaska, not more than 5 days prior to the opening date for the area to be fished, and not more than 5 days after the area has closed. Clearances will be available between 0600 and 1800 hours local time. Vessels obtaining a clearance to fish in Area 4C or 4E will not be given a clearance to fish in any other area on the same trip.

Fishing Period Limits

The Commission decided to establish fishing period limits in 1988 only when necessary to prevent exceeding the catch limit in a regulatory area, and in Areas 4C and 4E where allocation regulations were approved by the NPFMC. During any season when fishing period limits are imposed, boats that fish will not be allowed to also serve as a tender. Any fishing period limit may vary with overall vessel length.

Layup Period

Vessels intending to fish during a halibut fishing season in any area, except Area 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 commercial and sport charter boats must have 1988 licenses issued by IPHC on board at all times. Those 1987 license holders that reported halibut landings will receive license renewal forms. All others intending to fish in 1988 must submit a license application to the Commission in Seattle. Application forms are available at local government fisheries offices. Applications will not be accepted over the telephone in 1988, and application forms not completely filled out will be returned for any missing information.

Processor Requirements

No person shall buy or receive halibut from a vessel that does not have an IPHC halibut license on board.

Fish Tickets

The IPHC license number must appear on all fish tickets showing purchase and receipt of halibut. It is illegal to enter an IPHC license number on a State or Provincial fish ticket for any vessel other than the vessel actually used in catching the halibut being reported.

Log Records

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

Crucifiers

Acting on a recommendation from the fishing industry, the commissioners have decided that automated hook extractors, commonly known as "crucifiers", will continue to be banned from use in halibut fishing in 1988. This apparatus may not be on board vessels while engaged in fishing for halibut. The Commission's decision was based on concern for the treatment of halibut below the legal size limit. The Commission recognizes, however, that poor treatment of sublegal halibut is not restricted to vessels using automated hook extractors and encourages all fishermen to use care when releasing small fish.

Other Commercial Regulations

Other regulations, such as the size limit, gear restrictions and closed areas will be the same as in 1987.

Management Problems

There are at least two major problems within the halibut industry. The first is the deteriorating quality of scientific data. Some vessels no longer keep detailed records of their fishing activities and in some cases, may falsify their records when engaging in illegal or unethical activities. A second problem is increased wastage within the longline fishery as a result of (1) prospecting prior to the fishing season (2) lost or abandoned gear and (3) poor handling of sublegal fish. Both problems are serious and may force the Commission to reduce catch limits below potential harvest levels to ensure against over-exploitation of the resource. The Commission requests cooperation and assistance from the industry in solving these problems.

The Commission noted that illegal fishing off the United States was of particular conservation concern. The Commission recommends severe penalties for vessels fishing for halibut either before or after designated fishing periods. These penalties include suspension or forfeiture of halibut fishing licenses.

Sport Regulations

The Commission recommends that the possession limit in the recreational fishery in Alaska be increased to two daily bag limits to accommodate multiple-day fishing trips. The recreational fishery in British Columbia and Alaska will open on February 1 and close on December 31. There will be no size limit in the recreational fishery in any area during 1988. To accomplish the catch sharing plan for Area 2A, the following recreational seasons and bag limits were recommended:

Area	Season	Daily Bag Limit
North Washington Coast ¹	May 1 - June 30	2 Fish
Puget Sound ²	March 1 - June 15	1 Fish
South Washington Coast	April 1 - Sept. 30	2 Fish
Oregon Coast	April 1 - Sept. 30	2 Fish

¹ Dividing line between coastal areas is the Queets River.

² Dividing line between north coast and Puget Sound is the Bonilla-Tatoosh line.