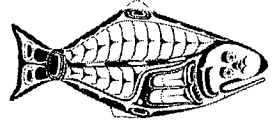


Information Bulletin



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FISHING PERIOD LIMITS

Fishing period limits are needed for "clean-up" openings in which the large U.S. fleet can catch more fish in a twenty-four hour opening than remains in the area catch limit. In 1987, a single overall fishing period limit was imposed for some clean-up openings. Legal counsel has advised the IPHC that such limits might be unfairly restrictive to the larger vessels while leaving smaller vessels unaffected.

At the Commission's Annual Meeting in Sitka, a fishermen's group was formed which met the following week to create a fishing period limit plan for clean-up openings. The group consisted of representatives from organizations along the entire coast, and after much work, a plan was devised which placed vessels into eight classes based on overall vessel length. Overall length is defined as follows:

"overall length" means the horizontal distance between the foremost part of the stem and the aftermost part of the stern (excluding bowsprits, rudders, outboard motor brackets, and similar fittings or attachments).

The fishermen's group further recommended that fishing period limits for each vessel class be based on the average performance of that class during the first two fishing periods in Area 3A during 1987, disregarding all deliveries under 200 pounds. The following table is the 1987 vessel license information and fish ticket data for the first two openings in Area 3A.

<u>Vessel Length (ft)</u>	<u>Vessel Class</u>	<u>Average Catch</u>	<u>Relative Vessel Share</u>
1 - 25	A	1,274	1.0
26 - 30	B	2,264	1.8
31 - 35	C	4,349	3.4
36 - 40	D	6,665	5.2
41 - 45	E	8,827	6.9
46 - 50	F	18,702	14.7
51 - 55	G	21,398	16.8
over 56	H	31,924	25.0

The Commissioners have adopted the plan as recommended by the fishermen's group. Licenses for 1988 are printed with the letter identifying the vessel class. Decals, which are to be displayed on the vessel while involved in a clean-up fishery, were included with the license. Although the exact fishing period limit for any vessel will be determined by the catch limit remaining and the number of vessels in each class, a vessel in any particular class will always receive the same relative share of the overall catch limit. The relative shares in the above table shows how the limit for each class compares to the others. For example, if a fishing period limit of 800 pounds is placed on a 22 foot vessel (Class A), then the limit for a 58 foot vessel (Class H) would be 20,000 pounds, i.e. 25.0 X 800. In actual practice, once the class quotas are determined, they will be rounded upwards to the next one hundred pounds. As soon as the vessel length class limits for a clean-up opening are determined, a news release will be issued.

JUVENILE HALIBUT ARE THE FUTURE OF THE FISHERY...



HANDLE WITH CARE!

Each year, 600,000 sublegal halibut are caught on longline gear and if not handled carefully, will die. If allowed to reach commercial size, these young fish would account for 7,000,000 pounds.

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR INCOME!

