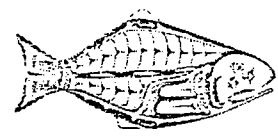


# Information Bulletin



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## HALIBUT REGULATIONS FOR 1989

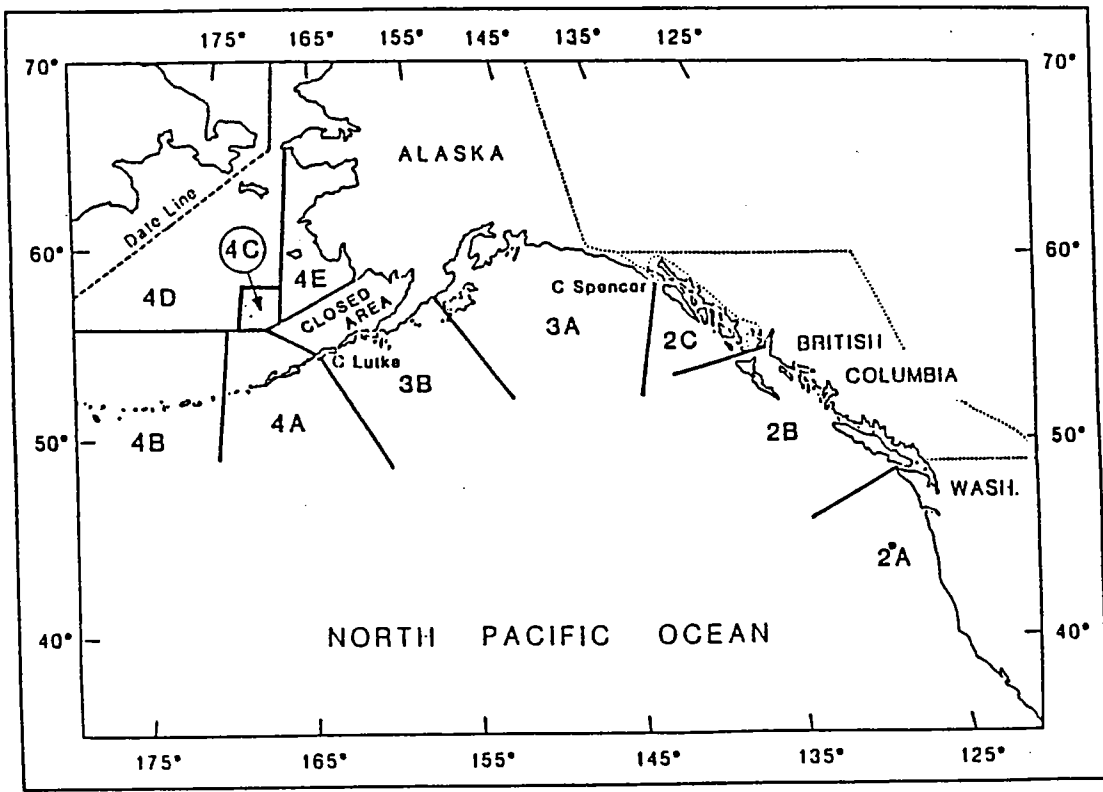
The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has recommended the following regulations for the halibut fishery for 1989 to the governments of Canada and the United States.

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.

### COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS

#### Regulatory Areas

Regulatory Areas for the 1989 fishery are shown in the figure below and are unchanged from 1988.



Catch Limits

The Commission recommends a catch limit (in thousands of pounds) for each regulatory area as shown in the table below. The Commission regards these as upper limits of allowable catch. 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	274	3A	31,000	4A	1,800
2B	10,000	3B	8,500	4B	1,900
2C	9,500			4C	600
				4D	600
				4E	100

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 continued a policy of flexibility in establishing and modifying fishing periods within season and, specifically, the June fishing period in Area 2B may be eliminated to ensure fishing in September.

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

\* Date to be announced by the Commission.

### Clearances

The Commission recommends again in 1989 that commercial vessels fishing in Area 4 be required to obtain a clearance 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 during normal business hours. 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

Fishing period limits in 1989 shall only be used 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 North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). During any season when fishing period limits are imposed, boats that fish will not be allowed to also serve as a tender until their catch has been landed and sold. 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 1989 licenses issued by IPHC on board at all times. All persons intending to fish in 1989 that did not receive a license renewal form 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 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 in 1989 must be kept separately from other records maintained aboard the vessel. The log must be updated not later than 24 hours after midnight local time for each day fished and (new for 1989) prior to the offloading or sale of halibut taken during that fishing period. 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 1989. 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 1988.

## Management Problems

The Commission noted that the most urgent problem facing the halibut fishery was the need for more effective management of non-halibut fisheries to reduce halibut bycatch. The incidental catch (bycatch) of halibut is believed to have increased significantly during 1988, and is expected to further increase in future years as domestic trawl, and non-halibut longline fisheries continue to expand in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea. Bycatch mainly consists of juvenile halibut, and if uncontrolled, could adversely affect recruitment in future years, and result in a decrease in the total biomass of the halibut resource.

The Commission has no direct authority over non-halibut fisheries, but has expressed its deep concern of the seriousness of the problem directly to the NPFMC in Anchorage. The Commission is committed to working with NPFMC and U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service to develop a comprehensive program to minimize halibut bycatch and voted to contribute extra funds in 1989 to help in developing a meaningful observer program.

## TREATY TRIBE REGULATIONS

The Commission adopted regulations recommended by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) that provides a catch limit of 152,000 pounds for treaty Indian tribes in the State of Washington. Subject to the catch limit, ceremonial and subsistence fishing will be permitted year round and Indian commercial fishing will be permitted from March 1 through October 31. During periods when the Indian commercial season is closed, the maximum catch during ceremonial and subsistence fishing shall be limited to two halibut per day per person.

## SPORT REGULATIONS

The Commission recommends that the possession limit in the recreational fishery in Alaska remain at 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. Size limits in the recreational fishery are only recommended for California and southern Oregon.

The Commission adopted a series of regulations recommended by PFMC designed to achieve projected catch limits for various parts of Area 2A as shown in the following table:

1989 2A Sport Fishing Regulations

Area	Area Catch Projection (lbs.)	Fishing Seasons		Daily Bag & Possession Limit
		Dates	Days/Week	
Puget Sound <sup>a</sup>	78,000	4/08-6/15	7	2
		6/16-8/11	1 (Fri. only)	2
Northwest WA <sup>b</sup>	87,000	5/06-6/27	5 (Tue.-Sat.)	2
		6/30-7/29	2 (Fri.-Sat.)	2
		9/01-9/10	7	2
South WA/North OR <sup>c</sup>	2,000	4/01-9/30	7	1
South Oregon	57,000	4/01-6/28	4 (Wed.-Sat.)	2 <sup>d</sup>
California		8/01-9/30	7	2 <sup>e</sup>
		4/01-9/30	7	1 <sup>d</sup>

- a) East of Bonilla-Tatoosh line
- b) Bonilla-Tatoosh line to Queets River
- c) Queets River to Cape Falcon
- d) 32 inch minimum size
- e) 1st halibut-32 inch minimum size; 2nd halibut-50 inch minimum size

If the Commission determines that a portion of the tribal or non-indian commercial catch limits will not be utilized by those user groups, additional pounds may be added to the Area 2A recreational fishery, but only under the condition that the total Area 2A catch for all three user groups combined would not exceed 650,000 pounds.

It will be illegal to be in possession of halibut on a vessel while fishing in a closed area.

The International Pacific Halibut Commission announces the release of a video documentary entitled:

## *"Looking to the Future... 100 Years of Halibut Fishing"*

The Pacific halibut is one of the premier food-fishes of the north Pacific, reaching weights in excess of 500 pounds. Celebrating the 100th year anniversary of the Pacific halibut fleet, this documentary uses a combination of old and new footage to weave a story that is both entertaining and informative. Share the mystery of a native Indian dance and song dating back generations, inviting the halibut to join the village feast. Come along aboard a halibut boat in the north Pacific for a test of endurance between men and the sea to harvest this valuable resource. Produced by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, this dramatic film follows the Pacific halibut on its enigmatic journey from spawning in the ocean depths to harvest in the cold waters of the north Pacific.

running time: 28 minutes

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Send \_\_\_\_\_ video tapes at \$19.95 each, plus \$3 per order to cover

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