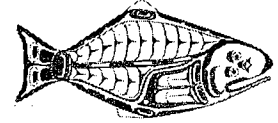


## Information Bulletin

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### HALIBUT REGULATIONS FOR 1991

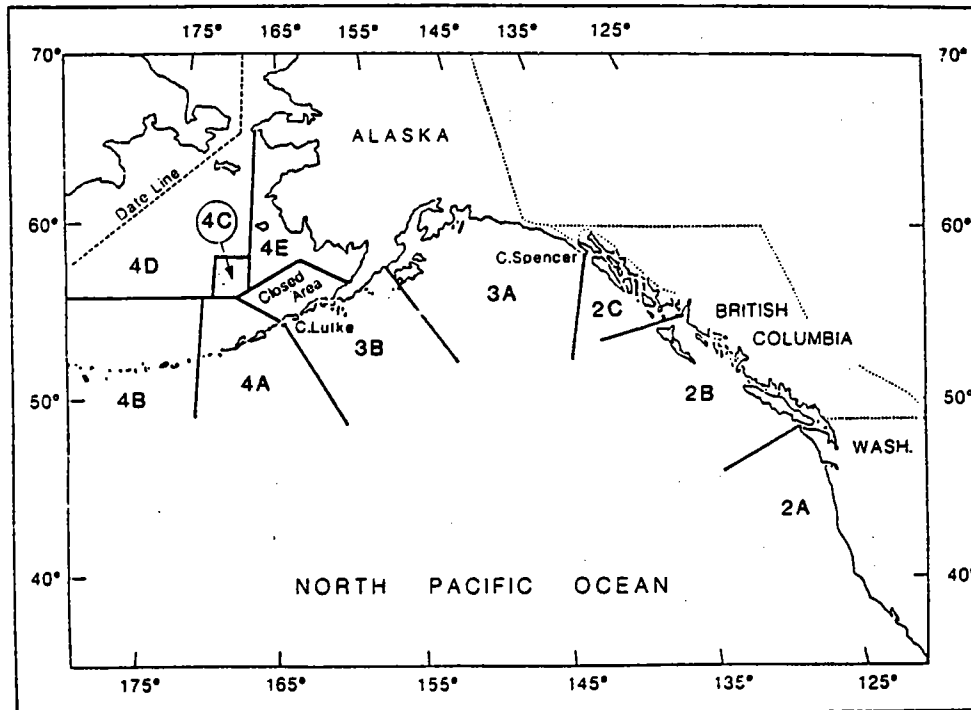
The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has recommended the following regulations for the halibut fishery for 1991 to the governments of Canada and the United States.

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 1991 fishery are shown in the figure below and are unchanged from 1990.



## Catch Limits

The Commission recommends a catch limit 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	168,750	3A	26,600,000	4A	1,700,000
2B	7,400,000	3B	8,800,000	4B	1,700,000
2C	7,400,000			4C	600,000
				4D	600,000
				4E	100,000

## 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. However, in Area 2B, if the Government of Canada adopts an Individual Vessel Quota (IVQ) system for 1991, the fishing period could begin as early as April 1 and run continuously until December 31.

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

\* Date to be announced by the Commission.

Fishing periods in Area 2A will be 10-hours in length and open at 0800 hours and close at 1800 hours local time. Fishing periods in Area 4B between 6/8 and 8/10 inclusive will be 12-hours in length and open at 0800 hours and close at 2000 hours local time. Fishing periods in Area 2B will open and close at 1200 hours PDT or PST as applicable. Fishing periods in all other areas will open and close at 1200 hours ADT or AST, as applicable.

The Commission continued a policy of flexibility in establishing and modifying fishing periods within season. Specifically, some of the Area 4B fishing periods may be eliminated to reserve one-half of the catch limit for the 8/19-8/22 fishing period. Area 4E will be managed so that 30,000 of the 100,000 pound catch limit will be taken southeast of Cape Newenham in the Bristol Bay portion of the area (4E-SE), and 70,000 pounds northwest of Cape Newenham in the Nelson Island-Nunivak Island portion (4E-NW). Also, after August 1, 50 percent of any poundage remaining in the 4E-NW allocation can be made available for harvesting in 4E-SE.

#### Clearances

The Commission recommends again in 1991 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 1991 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 period in any area, except Area 4C or 4E, may not have setline gear in the water during the 72-hours immediately before the opening of that halibut fishing period.

## Halibut Licenses

All commercial and sport charter boats must have 1991 licenses issued by IPHC on board at all times. All persons intending to fish in 1991 that did not receive a vessel license renewal form must submit a license application to the Commission in Seattle. Application forms are available at local government fisheries offices. License application forms must be completed and signed by the vessel owner, and be accurate in all respects. 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 fish ticket or Federal catch report for any vessel other than the vessel actually used in catching the halibut being reported.

## Log Records

Vessel log records in 1991 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 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.

## Gear Prohibitions

No person shall possess halibut while on board a vessel carrying any trawl nets or pot gear capable of catching halibut.

## Unlawful to Head Halibut at Sea in Area 2A

No person on board a vessel fishing for, or tendering, halibut caught in Area 2A shall possess any halibut that has had its head removed.

## Other Commercial Regulations

Other regulations, such as the size limit, gear restrictions, closed areas, and the ban on "crucifiers" will be the same as in 1990.

## TREATY TRIBE REGULATIONS

The Commission adopted regulations recommended by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), with the advice of the Halibut Managers Group, that provides a catch limit of 112,500 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 following new regulations applying to the sport fishery were approved: (1) No operator or crew member of a charter vessel fishing in Area 3A may possess or retain halibut on board while carrying passengers for hire. (2) The operator of any charter vessel shall be liable for any violations of halibut sport fishing regulations committed by a passenger. (3) Any halibut brought aboard a U.S. sport fishing vessel that is not immediately returned to the sea with a minimum of injury will be included in the daily bag limit of the person catching the halibut.

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 Oregon south of Cape Falcon.

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

1991 2A Sport Fishing Regulations

Area	Area Catch Projection (lbs)	Fishing Seasons		Daily Bag & Possession Limit
		Dates	Days/Week	
Puget Sound <sup>a</sup>	34,021	5/04-6/16	6 (Wed.-Mon.)	2
		6/22-6/30	2 (Sat.-Sun.)	2
Northwest WA <sup>b</sup>	64,590	5/01-*	7	1
		7/05-*	2 (Fri.-Sat.)	1
		8/30-**	7	1
South WA/North OR <sup>c</sup>	4,327	5/01-9/30	7	1
North Central OR <sup>d</sup>	1,000	5/01-**	7	1 <sup>f</sup>
Southern OR	63,112	4/03-*	4 (Wed.-Sat.)	2 <sup>g</sup>
		7/15-*	7 <sup>e</sup>	2 <sup>g</sup>
		8/27-**	7	2 <sup>g</sup>
California	1,700	5/15-9/15	7	1 <sup>f</sup>

a)East of Bonilla-Tatoosh line

b)Bonilla-Tatoosh line to Queets River

c)Queets River to Cape Falcon

d)Cape Falcon to Nestucca Bay

e)Fishing restricted to waters inside the 30-fathom curve

f)32 inch minimum size

g)1st halibut-32 inch minimum size; 2nd halibut-50 inch minimum size

\* Date to be announced by the Commission

\*\*Date to be announced by the Commission or September 30