



IPHC Fishery Regulations:

minor amendments

PREPARED BY: IPHC SECRETARIAT (27 DECEMBER 2024)

PURPOSE

To improve consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations.

BACKGROUND

This proposal makes minor clarifying amendments to the existing IPHC Fishery Regulations.

DISCUSSION

Periodically, the IPHC Fishery Regulations are reviewed to ensure they remain clear, concise, consistent, and up-to-date. The proposed revisions, outlined in detail below, result from a review conducted by the Secretariat in collaboration with domestic agencies.

Proposed amendments to the 2025 IPHC Fishery Regulations:

1. Consistent use of the term *commercial fishing period* to refer to the timeframe during which the commercial fishery is accessible to fishers, as defined in Section 9 of the IPHC Fishery Regulations. The term *fishing season* has previously been used more broadly and applied to other fisheries, including the recreational (sport) fishery.

Note: The Secretariat intends to offer an extended version of this proposal for discussion (as IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA3 Rev_1) in January 2025 providing additional edits that would apply consistent use of fishing period to all fishing sectors. These changes will be subject to review conducted in collaboration with domestic agencies.

Benefits/Drawbacks: The benefit of this proposal is to create clearer, more consistent regulations that are easier to understand and apply. No known drawbacks have been identified.

Sectors Affected: This proposal updates the language pertaining to the commercial Pacific halibut fishery sector but does not directly impact fishery management practices.

[Appendix A](#) provides details on the suggested regulatory language.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** regulatory proposal IPHC-2025-AM101-PropA3, which improves consistency in the IPHC Fishery Regulations.

APPENDICES**Appendix A**: Suggested regulatory language.**APPENDIX A
SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE****6. In-Season Actions**

- (1) The Commission is authorized to establish or modify regulations during the **fishing season or commercial fishing period** after determining that such action:
- (a) will not result in exceeding the fishery limit established pre-season for each IPHC Regulatory Area;
 - (b) is consistent with the Convention between Canada and the United States of America for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, and applicable domestic law of either Canada or the United States of America; and
 - (c) is consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with any domestic catch sharing plans or other domestic allocation programs developed by the governments of Canada or the United States of America.

9. Commercial Fishing Periods

- (1) The **commercial** fishing periods for each IPHC Regulatory Area apply where the fishery limits specified in Section 5 have not been taken.

17. Fishing Gear

[...]

- (9) No person on board a vessel used to fish for any species of fish anywhere in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, or 4E during the 72-hour period immediately before the opening of the Pacific halibut ~~fishing season~~ **commercial fishing period** shall catch or possess Pacific halibut anywhere in those areas until the vessel has removed all of its gear from the water and has either:
- (a) made a landing and completely offloaded its entire catch of other fish; or
 - (b) submitted to a hold inspection by an authorized officer.
- (10) No vessel used to fish for any species of fish anywhere in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2B, 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, or 4E during the 72-hour period immediately before the opening of the Pacific halibut ~~fishing season~~ **commercial fishing period** may be used to catch or possess Pacific halibut anywhere in those areas until the vessel has removed all of its gear from the water and has either:
- (a) made a landing and completely offloaded its entire catch of other fish; or
 - (b) submitted to a hold inspection by an authorized officer.

19. Logs

[..]

- (5) The logbooks referred to in paragraphs (2) and (3) shall be:
- (a) maintained on board the vessel;
 - (b) updated not later than 24 hours after 0000 (midnight) local time for each day fished and prior to the offloading or sale of Pacific halibut taken during that fishing trip;
 - (c) retained for a period of two years by the owner or operator of the vessel;
 - (d) open to inspection by an authorized officer or an authorized representative of the Commission upon demand;
 - (e) kept on board the vessel when engaged in Pacific halibut fishing, during transits to port of landing, and until the offloading of all Pacific halibut is completed; and

- (f) submitted to the Commission within 30 days of the ~~season~~-commercial fishing period closing date if not previously collected by an authorized representative of the Commission or otherwise made available to the Commission.

26. Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Area 2A

[...]

- (2) When the Commission has determined that a subquota under paragraph (8) of this Section is estimated to have been taken, and has announced a date on which the fishing season will close, no person shall recreational (sport) fish for Pacific halibut in that area after that date for the rest of the year, unless a reopening of that area for recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing is scheduled in accordance with the Catch Sharing Plan for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, or announced by the Commission.