



FISHERY REGULATORY PROPOSAL 2022

TITLE: FISHING GEAR (SECT. 18) – TRAP GEAR USE IN IPHC REGULATORY AREA 2B

SUBMITTED BY:

CANADA

FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA

All Regulatory Areas All Alaska Regulatory Areas All U.S. Regulatory Areas

2A 2B 2C 3A 3B 4A 4B 4C 4D 4E

Fishery Sectors

Directed Commercial Recreational Subsistence Non-directed Commercial All

Canada is proposing changes to Section 18 of the IPHC Fisheries Regulations (Fishing Gear) to allow trap gear use on directed commercial trips in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B.

Justification provided:

Canada is proposing changes to Section 18 (Fishing Gear) of the IPHC Fishery Regulations. The purpose of the proposed change is for consistency and parity between the two contracting parties with respect to the retention of Pacific halibut caught using pot/trap gear. While referring to the same gear type, “pot” is the term used in the United States and “trap” is the term used in Canada.

Section 18 of the IPHC Regulations state Pacific halibut taken with longline or single pot gear may be retained if authorized by NOAA regulations. This IPHC Regulatory Proposal proposes similar wording be adopted for Canada, specifically that Pacific halibut taken with longline or single trap gear may be retained if authorized by Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) regulations and conditions of licence.

Ensuring parity between Canada and the United States with respect to fishing gear is important as IPHC will be bringing researchers, fishers, fishery managers and academics together in February 2022 to discuss novel approaches to protecting fish caught on commercial fishing gear from marine mammal depredation (1st International Workshop on Protecting Fishery Catches from Whale Depredation). The stated goal of this workshop being to collectively share information on tools and approaches and to brainstorm new or modified ideas and concepts for field testing.

The suggested modifications to the IPHC Fishery Regulations are provided in red text, at [Appendix I](#).

APPENDIX I***Suggested Regulatory Language*****18. Fishing Gear**

- (1) No person shall fish for Pacific halibut using any gear other than hook and line gear,
- ~~(a) except that vessels licensed to catch sablefish in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B using sablefish trap gear as defined in the Condition of Licence can retain Pacific halibut caught as bycatch under regulations promulgated by DFO; or~~
 - (a) except that a person may retain Pacific halibut taken with longline or single trap gear if such retention is authorized by DFO as defined by Pacific Fishery Regulations and Conditions of Licence.
 - (b) except that a person may retain Pacific halibut taken with longline or single pot gear if such retention is authorized by NOAA Fisheries regulations published at 50 CFR Part 679.
- (2) No person shall possess Pacific halibut taken with any gear other than hook and line gear,
- ~~(a) except that vessels licensed to catch sablefish in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B using sablefish trap gear as defined by the Condition of Licence can retain Pacific halibut caught as bycatch under regulations promulgated by DFO; or~~
 - (a) except that a person may possess Pacific halibut taken with longline or single trap gear if such retention is authorized by DFO as defined by Pacific Fishery Regulations and Conditions of Licence.
 - (b) except that a person may possess Pacific halibut taken with longline or single pot gear if such possession is authorized by NOAA Fisheries regulations published at 50 CFR Part 679.

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