



How to apply for an IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (WA-OR-CA) license

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LICENSES ISSUED BY IPHC

The IPHC issues four license types to harvest Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) in the waters off of Washington, Oregon, and California (IPHC Regulatory Area 2A). These licenses are issued to vessels, not individual harvesters. Vessels bearing a valid IPHC license must also possess all federal and state licenses required for the waters in which they intend to fish.

Only one IPHC license per vessel will be issued, with the exception of Incidental Commercial Pacific halibut during Longline Sablefish Fishery (IS) and Directed Commercial (DC) licenses; a separate application must be submitted for each. The license number assigned will be the same as the Documentation Official No. provided on the license application. The Pacific halibut license must be carried on the vessel and be available for inspection while the vessel is engaged in the Pacific halibut fishery.

- **Recreational Pacific Halibut Charter (S)**

Application deadline: none

IPHC Regulatory Area 2A is divided into seven subareas, each with its own allocation and season structure. Seasons dates are set to not conflict with other fisheries, and may be open for only one to three days per week in some subareas. Opening dates, local area closures, and bag limits are determined by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) and state fisheries departments.

Charter vessels retaining Pacific halibut in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A must be licensed by the IPHC. Federal and state licensing requirements may also apply. If a vessel has an IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (WA-OR-CA) commercial license, the vessel cannot be used to fish recreationally for Pacific halibut in that same IPHC Regulatory Area.

- **Incidental Commercial Pacific Halibut During Salmon Troll (T)**

Application deadline: 15 March

The incidental commercial fishery during the salmon troll fishery operates off Washington, Oregon, and California. In-season actions may be taken by management agencies such as landing restrictions and fishery dates. The season is typically open in May/June/July, or until the allocation has been attained (season opening date to be determined by Pacific Fishery Management Council in late April).

- **Incidental Commercial Pacific Halibut During Longline Sablefish Fishery (IS)**

Application deadline: 15 March

The incidental commercial fishery during the limited entry fixed gear sablefish primary fishery operates north of Pt. Chehalis (46° 53.18' N). In-season actions may be taken by management agencies such as landing restrictions and season dates. A NOAA Fisheries limited entry groundfish permit with a sablefish endorsement is required in this fishery.

- **Directed Commercial (DC)**

Application deadline: 30 April

The directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery operates south of Pt. Chehalis (46° 53.18' N) with opening dates announced in IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations each year. The fishery is restricted by specific vessel-length landing limits, called fishing period limits in IPHC Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations. Fishing

periods and fishing period limits are announced before each fishing period via IPHC News Releases. (sign up to receive IPHC News Releases at <https://iphc.int/form/news-letter>)

COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

IPHC uses one electronic application form for all IPHC Regulatory Area 2A licenses. Applications must be submitted at <https://iphc.int/form/license-application> no later than 2359 hours on the applicable license deadline date. **No emailed, faxed, or paper applications will be accepted.** Licenses are issued for the year of application.

1. Activity Code

Select only one box, if applying for (S), (T), (IS), or (DC) license only.

If applying for both the (IS) and (DC) licenses, select each box respectively. If participating in both, you will receive two separate licenses, one for each fishery.

2. Vessel

Vessel Name: Enter the vessel's full name.

Documentation Official No.: Enter the USCG Documentation or State Registration Number (Washington DMV, Oregon State Marine Board, or California DMV). *This is required.*

Overall Length: Enter the horizontal distance from the foremost part of the stem to the aftmost part of the stern (excluding bowsprits, rudders, outboard motor brackets, and similar fittings or attachments), as indicated on the USCG Documentation. *This is required.*

Gross Tons, Net Tons, and Year Built: Enter gross tonnes, net tonnes, and year built as shown on the USCG Documentation.

Home Port: Enter the vessel's primary marine port of operations.

Number in Crew: Enter the number of crew members, including the captain, usually on board while Pacific halibut fishing.

3. Vessel Owner(s)

Owner Name: Enter the vessel owner's first and last name. *This is required.*

Co-Owner Name: Enter the vessel co-owner's first and last name, if applicable.

Mailing address, City, State, Zip Code: Enter the vessel owner's mailing address. The license(s) will be mailed to this address. *This is required.*

Owner Telephone: Enter the vessel owner's telephone number, with area code. *This is required.*

Owner Cell: Enter the vessel owner's cell phone number, with area code.

Owner E-mail: Enter the vessel owner's E-mail address. *This is required.*

4. Vessel Captain(s)

Captain Name, Co-captain Name, Mailing Address, City, State, Zip Code, Captain Telephone, Captain Cell, Captain E-mail: Enter the name of the captain and co-captain, if applicable, if different from the Vessel Owner. Enter any contact information for the vessel captain.

5. Vessel Registration Numbers

Enter all state issued vessel registration numbers: *At least one registration number is required.*

6. Sign and date application

Enter vessel owner's initials in attestation of application: *This is required.*

Enter application date: Click on the small icon of a calendar and select the date the application is completed. *This is required.*

7. Submit

Click “Submit”: You will be directed to a page saying “*License Application- Form Submitted!*” if your application has been successfully submitted. If you do not see this page, check that all required fields (those marked with *) are completed; as your application has not been submitted.

LICENSE CHANGES

Vessels may change from an Incidental Commercial (T or IS) to Directed Commercial license until 30 April.

Vessels may change from a Directed Commercial (DC) to Incidental Commercial (T or IS) license if the application was received by 15 March.

The previously issued license must be returned by mail to IPHC; no new license will be issued prior to the IPHC receiving the previously issued license. No changes will be issued after 1 May.

WHERE TO SEEK MORE INFORMATION

- **Sign up to receive IPHC News Releases:** all IPHC news releases are distributed electronically
<https://iphc.int/form/news-letter>
- **IPHC licenses:** IPHC Licensing Department (206)634-1838 or licensing@iphc.int. Local WDFW or ODFW offices may also be able to assist with applications.
- **Incidental Pacific halibut catch during the salmon troll fishery:** (number of Pacific halibut allowed per salmon, other licenses, dates, etc.)
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife: (360) 902-2464 option 4
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: (541) 867-4741
California Department of Fish and Wildlife: (707) 445-6493
- **Incidental Pacific halibut catch during the longline sablefish fishery:** (amount of Pacific halibut per vessel, other licenses and endorsement, dates, etc)
NOAA Fisheries: (206) 526-4646