



REGULATORY PROPOSAL 2018
Allow Shellfish Pots on Commercial Halibut Vessels

SUBMITTED BY:
ALASKA LONGLINE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
ALFA
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
22 OCTOBER 2017

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

For IPHC Regulatory Area(s): All AK Regulatory Areas

Commercial Halibut Vessels in Alaska should be allowed to have aboard and deploy shellfish pots during the commercial Halibut Season as long as those pots have rigid perimeter openings that do not exceed 36 inches (91.45cm). This proposal does not alter or supersede any other shellfish regulations in place for the area the pots are deployed. Note: The 36-inch rigid perimeter limit is the legal definition used in the State of Alaska and NMFS Pacific Cod Pot regulations to disallow halibut capture in those pots.

This proposal would require a change to IPHC Regulation 19(3), Fishing Gear, which prohibits possession of halibut on board a vessel carrying fishing pots capable of catching halibut.

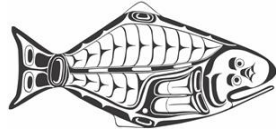
SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE

19. Fishing Gear

(3) No person shall possess halibut while on board a vessel carrying any trawl nets or fishing pots capable of catching halibut,

(a) except that in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, or 4E, halibut heads, skin, entrails, bones or fins for use as bait may be possessed on board a vessel carrying pots capable of catching halibut, provided that a receipt documenting purchase or transfer of these halibut parts is on board the vessel; or

(b) except that in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, or 4E, halibut may be possessed on board a vessel carrying pots capable of catching halibut, provided such possession is authorized by NMFS regulations published at 50 CFR Part 679 as referenced in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section; or



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(c) except that in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, or 4E, halibut may be possessed on board a vessel carrying shellfish pots capable of catching halibut, provided the pots have a rigid perimeter opening that does not exceed 36 inches (91.45cm) and are consistent with State of Alaska and NMFS Pacific cod pot regulations published at 50 CFR Part 679; or

(cd) except that in Area 2B, halibut may be possessed on board a vessel carrying sablefish trap gear, provided such possession is authorized by the Condition of License regulations promulgated by DFO as referenced in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this section.