



**IPHC Fishery Regulation Proposal:**

**Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E (Sect. 29) – Onboard consumption**

**SUBMITTED BY: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (NOAA-FISHERIES) (25 OCTOBER 2022)**

Directed Commercial  Recreational  Subsistence  Non-directed commercial  All   
All Regulatory Areas  All Alaska Regulatory Areas  All U.S. Regulatory Areas   
2A  2B  2C  3A  3B  4A  4B  4C  4D  4E

**PURPOSE**

To propose adding flexibility to existing recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing regulations in Alaska Regulatory Areas and allow limited consumption of recreationally-caught Pacific halibut on board charter vessels and pleasure craft, while retaining existing regulations that provide effective enforcement of daily bag limits and possession limits.

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This proposal would add flexibility to existing recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing regulations in Convention waters in and off Alaska. It would allow limited consumption of recreationally-caught Pacific halibut on board charter vessels and pleasure craft, while also retaining existing regulations that provide effective enforcement of daily bag limits and possession limits.

In order to provide effective enforcement of daily bag limits and possession limits, current IPHC recreational (sport) fishing regulations at §29(1)(d) limit the extent to which Pacific halibut may be filleted on board charter vessels and pleasure craft. The regulations allow each halibut to be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, and leaving a patch of skin on each piece.

This proposal would amend §29(1)(d) to allow one (1) of either the dorsal or ventral pieces from one (1) halibut to be consumed by persons on board the charter or pleasure vessel.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Commission:

- 1) **NOTE** IPHC Fishery Regulation proposal IPHC-2022-IM098-PropB3, which adds flexibility to existing recreational (sport) Pacific halibut fishing regulations in Alaska Regulatory Areas and allow limited consumption of recreationally-caught Pacific halibut on board charter vessels and pleasure craft, while retaining existing regulations that provide effective enforcement of daily bag limits and possession limits.

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**APPENDICES****Appendix A**: Suggested Regulatory Language.**APPENDIX A****SUGGESTED REGULATORY LANGUAGE**

Amend §29(1)(d) (governing IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E) to allow limited consumption of recreational (sport) caught Pacific halibut on charter vessels and pleasure craft, as follows:

**29. Recreational (Sport) Fishing for Pacific Halibut—IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E**

(1) In Convention waters in and off Alaska: [...]

- (d) no person shall possess on board a vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure craft used for fishing, Pacific halibut that have been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner, except (i) on charter vessels and pleasure craft used for fishing, that each Pacific halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with a patch of skin on each piece, naturally attached; and (ii) either one dorsal piece or one ventral piece from one Pacific halibut on board may be consumed;