

23. Customary and Traditional Fishing in Alaska

- (1) Customary and traditional fishing for halibut in Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E shall be governed pursuant to regulations promulgated by NMFS and published in 50 CFR Part 300.
- (2) Customary and traditional fishing is authorized from January 1 through December 31.

24. Aboriginal Groups Fishing for Food, Social and Ceremonial Purposes in British Columbia

- (1) Fishing for halibut for food, social and ceremonial purposes by Aboriginal groups in Regulatory Area 2B shall be governed by the *Fisheries Act* of Canada and regulations as amended from time to time.

25. Sport Fishing for Halibut—General

- (1) No person shall engage in sport fishing for halibut using gear other than a single line with no more than two hooks attached; or a spear.
- (2) Any minimum overall size limit promulgated under IPHC or NMFS regulations shall be measured in a straight line passing over the pectoral fin from the tip of the lower jaw with the mouth closed, to the extreme end of the middle of the tail.
- (3) Any halibut brought aboard a vessel and not immediately returned to the sea with a minimum of injury will be included in the daily bag limit of the person catching the halibut.
- (4) No person may possess halibut on a vessel while fishing in a closed area.
- (5) No halibut caught by sport fishing shall be offered for sale, sold, traded, or bartered.
- (6) No halibut caught in sport fishing shall be possessed onboard a vessel when other fish or shellfish aboard said vessel are destined for commercial use, sale, trade, or barter.
- (7) The operator of a charter vessel shall be liable for any violations of these regulations committed by a passenger aboard said vessel.

26. Sport Fishing for Halibut—Area 2A

- (1) The total allowable catch of halibut shall be limited to
 - (a) 214,110 pounds (97.1 metric tons) net weight in waters off Washington and
 - (b) 195,748 pounds (88.8 metric tons) net weight in waters off California and Oregon;
- (2) The Commission shall determine and announce closing dates to the public for any area in which the catch limits promulgated by NMFS are estimated to have been taken.
- (3) 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 season will close, no person shall sport fish for halibut in that area after that date for the rest of the year, unless a reopening of that area for sport halibut fishing is scheduled in accordance with the Catch Sharing Plan for Area 2A, or announced by the Commission.

- (4) In California, Oregon, or Washington, no person shall fillet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a halibut in any manner that prevents the determination of minimum size or the number of fish caught, possessed, or landed.
- (5) The possession limit on a vessel for halibut in the waters off the coast of Washington is the same as the daily bag limit. The possession limit on land in Washington for halibut caught in U.S. waters off the coast of Washington is two halibut.
- (6) The possession limit on a vessel for halibut caught in the waters off the coast of Oregon is the same as the daily bag limit. The possession limit for halibut on land in Oregon is three daily bag limits.
- (7) The possession limit on a vessel for halibut caught in the waters off the coast of California is one halibut. The possession limit for halibut on land in California is one halibut.
- (8) Specific regulations describing fishing periods, catch limits, fishing dates, and daily bag limits are promulgated by NMFS and published in the Federal Register.

27. Sport Fishing for Halibut—Area 2B

- (1) In all waters off British Columbia⁸
 - (a) The sport fishing season is from February 1 to December 31;
 - (b) The daily bag limit is two halibut of any size per day per person.
- (2) In British Columbia, no person shall fillet, mutilate, or otherwise disfigure a halibut in any manner that prevents the determination of minimum size or the number of fish caught, possessed, or landed.
- (3) The possession limit for halibut in the waters off the coast of British Columbia is three halibut.

⁸ DFO could implement more restrictive regulations for the sport fishery, therefore anglers are advised to check the current federal or provincial regulations prior to fishing.

28. Sport Fishing for Halibut—Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, 4E

- (1) In waters in and off Alaska⁹
 - (a) The sport fishing season is from February 1 to December 31;
 - (b) The daily bag limit is two halibut of any size per day per person unless a more restrictive bag limit applies in federal regulations at 50CFR 300.65; and
 - (c) No person may possess more than two daily bag limits.
- (2) In Convention waters in and off Alaska, no person shall possess on board a vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure craft used for fishing, halibut that has been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner, except that
 - (a) Each halibut may be cut into no more than 2 ventral pieces, 2 dorsal pieces, and 2 cheek pieces, with skin on all pieces; and

(b) halibut in excess of the possession limit in paragraph (1)(c) of this section may be possessed on a vessel that does not contain sport fishing gear, fishing rods, hand lines, or gaffs.

⁹ NMFS could implement more restrictive regulations for the sport fishery or components of it, therefore, anglers are advised to check the current federal or state regulations prior to fishing.

29. Previous Regulations Superseded

These regulations shall supersede all previous regulations of the Commission, and these regulations shall be effective each succeeding year until superseded.

JAMES BALSIGER, Chair
LAURA RICHARDS, Vice-Chair
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Appendix

Synopsis of U.S. Sport Halibut Regulations for California, Oregon, and Washington

	Area	Area Catch Projection (lb)	Dates	Fishing Seasons		
				Days/Week	Daily Bag	Minimum Size
Puget Sound	East of Low Point West of Low Point & East of Sekiu River	57,393	4/23-6/5 5/21-7/3	5 (Thur - Mon)	1	None
North Coast WA	Sekiu River mouth to Queets River (closed area SW of Cape Flattery)	108,030	5/14 - ** 6/4 - ** **2	2 (Thur & Sat)	1	None
South Coast WA	Queets River to Leadbetter Point (two closed areas W of Westport)	40,230 2,000	5/3 - 5/24 ¹ 5/24 - 9/30 ¹ 5/3 - 9/30 ¹ **	2 (Sun & Tues), 1 (Sun) 3 (Thurs - Sat) ² 4 (Thurs - Sun) ²	1	None
Columbia River ⁵	Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon	11,014 4,720	5/1 - 7/18 ¹ 8/7 - 9/27 ¹	3 (Thur-Sat) 3 (Fri - Sun)	1	None
Central OR Nearshore ^{3,5}	Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.	14,407	5/1 - 10/31 ¹	7	1 ⁶	None
Central OR All-depth ⁵	Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. (closed area over Stonewall Bank)	124,261	5/14 - 5/16 5/21 - 5/23 5/28 - 5/30 6/4 - 6/6 After June 6 ^{**4}	3 (Thur - Sat)	1	None
South of Humbug Mt./CA	South of Humbug Mt., OR/CA waters	41,420 5,872	8/7 - ** ⁴ 5/1 - 10/31	3 (Fri - Sun) 7	1 ⁶ 1	None

** Date to be announced by IPHC and NMFS.

1 Season open until ending date shown or until the quota is attained, whichever occurs first.

2 May be restricted to nearshore waters defined in NMFS regulation.

3 Restricted to waters inside the 40-fathom boundary line.

4 Reopenings will be announced on the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825) if unharvested quota remains.

5 Restrictions on groundfish retention apply.

6 Bag limit may change to 2 fish after the Labor Day weekend if announced by IPHC and NMFS.

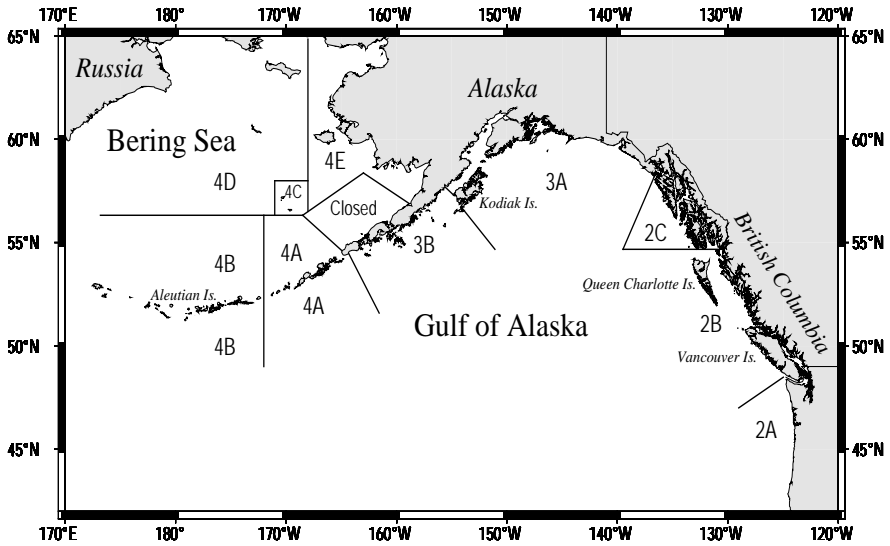


Figure 1. Regulatory areas for the Pacific halibut fishery.

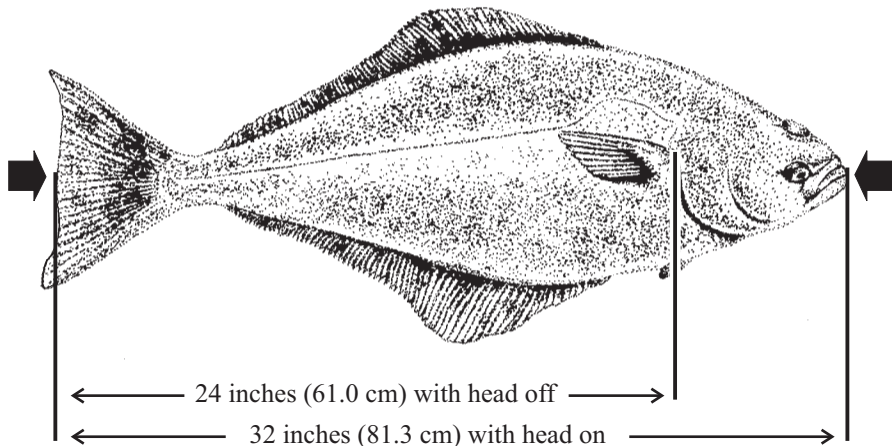


Figure 2. Minimum commercial size.