

# IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: Prohibit Filleting Of Sport Caught Halibut At Sea in Area 2C

Year Proposed For: 2007

**Submission Information (Please print or type)**

Name: Walter Pasternak

Affiliation: 31 year 2-C Halibut fisherman

Address: PO Box 830

City: Sitka State/Prov: AK Postal/ZIP Code: 99835

Telephone: 907-747-5943

Fax:

Email:

mwpstnk@PTI

Signature:

Walter C Pasternak

Alaska.net

**1. What is the definition and objective of the proposal?**

In Alaska, the dockside creel census program is used to determine the average weight of sport caught halibut. This average weight is then applied to the number of fish reported in log books and in the State Wide Harvest Survey to determine the actual catch of the sport sector. The accuracy of the creel census weights has conservation implications for the resource as well as allocation implications for other halibut users.

Filleting small halibut on the way in is a common practice of many charter operations in 2C. This selective filleting is significantly affecting the accuracy of the creel census weights. Average weights for sport caught halibut in Area 2C have increased in recent years in spite of presence of many small fish from incoming strong year classes.

This proposal seeks to amend Section 25 (6) of IPHC Sport Fishing Regulations by removing the word "minimum" in the existing regulation for Area 2C. The new regulation for area 2C would read as follows:

(6) 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.

This change would end the practice of selective filleting small fish and make all fish caught that day available for size sampling in the creel census.

**2. Impacts: Describe who you think this proposed change might affect (include fishers, processors, agencies, and the public).**

**2a. Who might benefit from the proposed change?**

The resource through better accounting for sport caught removals. Other user groups like commercial fishermen who are affected when the estimates sport catch is deducted off the top of their quota.

**2b. Who might suffer hardships or be worse off?**

Some charter businesses would need to spend more time at the dock filleting the halibut. But as a similar prohibition on filleting at sea exists for king salmon in SE, this type of requirement is not new and would not pose any new or unknown problems.

**3. Are there other solutions to the problem described above? If so, why were they rejected?**

Requiring observers or cameras on charter boats: rejected because of cost.

**Please attach any other supporting materials. All items submitted by October 31, 2006 will be considered at the IPHC Annual Meeting. Remember to include contact information and signature.**

See ADF&G average weights for sport caught halibut table submitted by ADF&G to the NPFMC's halibut stakeholder committee meeting in October 2006.

See also SE AK Sport Fishing King Salmon Management Plan for requirement on filleting king salmon at sea.