

IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: Alaska halibut season opening date

Year Proposed For: 2008-2011

Submission Information (Please print or type)

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Signature: _____

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

The definition is to establish the first Saturday in March as the opening date for the Alaska halibut season for the next three years. The objective is to provide more stability to the industry by providing a three year planning horizon on the opening date; reduce the time spent debating an opening date by two thirds (i.e., once every three years); open the season as early as possibly while still protecting the spawning stock; provide fishermen the opportunity to land halibut early to mid-week after the opening and processors the opportunity to get fish to markets before the weekend.

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 industry will benefit from the opportunity to plan ahead for three years, including fishermen, processors, wholesalers, retailers and the public. All who participate in the IPHC meeting will also benefit from less time spent debating the opening date.

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

Industry members who see some advantage to changing the date on an annual basis.

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

A different opening date for the season could be set for three years other than the first Saturday in March, however, any date later than that shortens the season, with well understood marketing losses; earlier start dates (e.g., April) are thought to compromise the spawning stock while other days of the week would be less advantageous for marketing.

Please attach any other supporting materials. All items submitted by **November 15, 2007** will be considered at the IPHC Annual Meeting. **Remember to include contact information and signature.**