

IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: Prohibit the use of electric or hydraulic reels when sport fishing for halibut

Year Proposed For: 2008 and beyond

Submission Information (Please print or type)

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

To prohibit the use of electronic or hydraulic reels for retrieving halibut while sport fishing. Salmon downriggers that are used for setting gear are not illegal but may not be used for retrieving gear (line must detach once fish is hooked at depth). Recently some charter operations have been using mechanical jigging machines to allow their clients to fish in deep water and catch large quantities of fish previously unavailable to sport fishermen. The clients are not engaged in the act of fishing but rather passively watching as the machine fishes and retrieves fish automatically.

Proposal: Sport fishing means the taking of or attempting to take halibut by hook and line held in the hand, or by hook and line with the line attached to a pole or rod which is held in the hand; the line must be manually retrieved, if a reel is used the reel must be manually retrieved by hand power and not be electronically or hydraulically retrieved.

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 will benefit as it is unnecessary to use electronic or hydraulic fishing equipment when recreationally fishing for halibut and the use of this type of gear allows exploitation of the resource at greater depths than normally accessed through sport fishing. Handling and discard mortality may be greater than when fishing using traditional gear in shallower depths. The sport fisher will also benefit as they will actually experience the catching of their own fish – in other words engaging in the sport of fishing, rather than having a machine catch fish intended for recreation.

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

Some charter operations that are using this gear to catch salmon, halibut and blackcod. However, prohibiting this gear is not a hardship as they can use traditional sport poles and reels to catch these same fish, while providing a recreational opportunity.

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

No other solutions were considered. This proposal attempts to define sport fishing gear to prevent the use of commercial gear in sport fisheries.

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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.***

