

IPHC Regulations Proposal Submission Form

Proposal Title: Eliminate the legal size limit for Halibut

Year Proposed For: 2009

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Submission Information (Please print or type)

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Signature: _____

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

To eliminate the legal size limit for halibut in the hook and line fishery. Any halibut caught with hook and line would be considered of legal size and must be retained. The objective is to eliminate any mortality in undersize discards of halibut in the hook and line fishery.

2. Impacts: Describe who you think this proposed change might affect (include fishers, processors, agencies, and the public). Fishing time would be shortened and therefore be more efficient. This could help the resource by reducing the bycatch of other species and cut fishing costs. Undersized males that never reach 32" in their lifetime would also be harvested.

2a. Who might benefit from the proposed change? The resource, by avoiding any mortality on released halibut in the hook and line fishery. This proposal would allow some small halibut into the market. It would benefit fishermen who sell off the dock directly to the public and the live fish markets. It would also reduce enforcement effort by not having to check for undersize halibut.

2b. Who might suffer hardships or be worse off? The markets will have to adjust to some smaller fish so fishermen may experience a lower price on the smaller fish. The incentive for fishermen would be to avoid catching the small fish.

3. Are there other solutions to the problem described above? If so, why were they rejected? Last year a proposal was put forward to reduce the size limit of halibut by 2 inches for the hook and line fishery. It was rejected as the science was unsure as to how this would affect the resource. The proposal last year would still allow legal discards. This new proposal would not allow any discards of halibut in the hook and line fishery.

Please attach any other supporting materials. All items submitted by **October 31, 2008** will be considered at the IPHC Annual Meeting. *Remember to include contact information and signature.*