

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

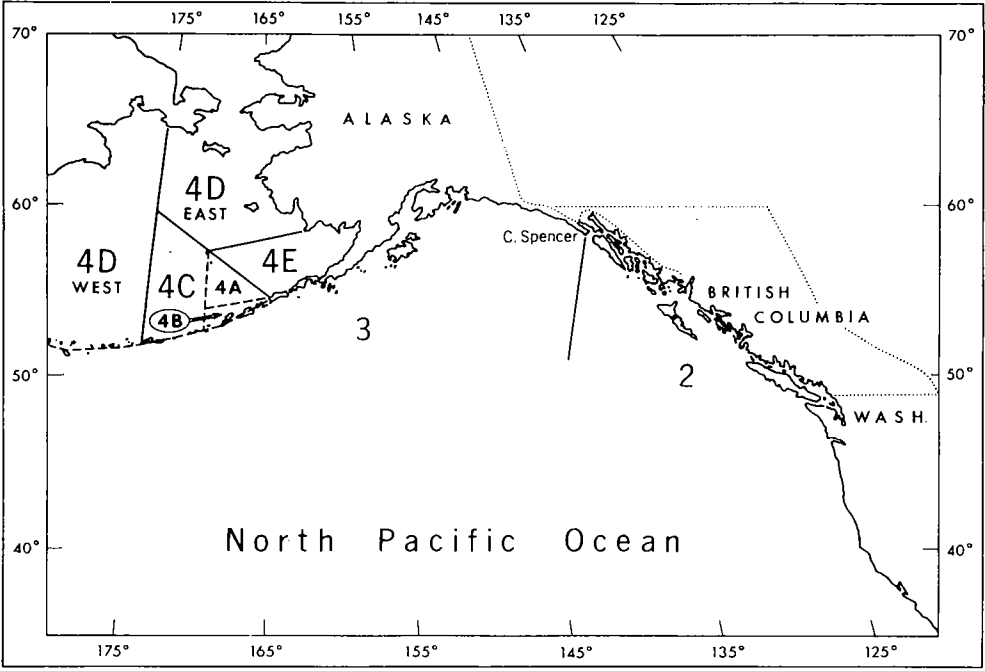
Pacific  
Halibut Fishery  
Regulations  
1975

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INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 5009, UNIVERSITY STATION

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105



Regulatory areas for the Pacific halibut fishery, 1975.

REGULATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC  
HALIBUT COMMISSION ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THE  
PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERY CONVENTION BETWEEN  
CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,  
SIGNED MARCH 2, 1953

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**Section 1. Regulatory Areas**

(a) The "convention waters" include the territorial waters and the high seas off the western coasts of Canada and the United States of America and are divided into the following areas. All bearings are magnetic and all positions are determined by the most recent charts issued by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey or National Ocean Survey.

(b) Area 2 includes all convention waters east of a line running northwest one-quarter west (309°) from Cape Spencer Light (latitude 58° 11' 57" N., longitude 136° 38' 18" W.), and south and east of a line running south one-quarter east (177°) from said light.

(c) Area 3 includes all convention waters north and west of Area 2, excluding the Bering Sea.

(d) Area 4 includes all convention waters in the Bering Sea. Areas 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D-East and 4E include all waters in the Bering Sea east of 175° W. Area 4D-West includes all waters in the Bering Sea west of 175° W.

(e) The boundary between Area 3 and Area 4 is from Cape Kabuch Light (latitude 54° 49' 00" N., longitude 163° 21' 36" W.) to Cape Sarichef Light (latitude 54° 36' 00" N., longitude 164° 55' 42" W.); then to a point in Pumicestone Bay on Unalaska Island (latitude 53° 31' 45" N., longitude 166° 58' 15" W.); then to Ananiuliak Island Light (latitude 52° 59' 48" N., longitude 168° 55' 06" W.); then to Seguam Island Light (latitude 52° 23' 16" N., longitude 172° 26' 15" W.); then to Cape Amagalik (latitude 51° 40' 40" N., longitude 178° 07' 00" W.); then to Aleut Point (latitude 51° 38' 20" N., longitude 178° 37' 20" E.); then to Cape Wrangell, the westernmost extremity of Attu Island (latitude 52° 55' 20" N., longitude 172° 26' 50" E.); then west northwest.

(f) Area 4E includes all convention waters in the Bering Sea that are east of a line from Cape Sarichef Light (latitude 54° 36' 00" N., longitude 164° 55' 42" W.); to a point northeast of St. Paul Island (latitude 57° 15' 00" N., longitude 170° 00' 00" W.); and south of a line from the latter point to Cape Newenham (latitude 58° 39' 00" N., longitude 162° 10' 25" W.).

**Section 2. Commercial Fishing for Halibut**

The regulations and requirements in Sections 3 to 11 pertain only to commercial fishing. The regulations for sport fishing are listed in Section 12.

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## **Section 3. Fishing Seasons**

(a) In Areas 2 and 3 the halibut fishing season shall commence at 1500 hours on May 1 and terminate at 0600 hours on a date to be determined and announced under paragraph (b) of Section 5 of these regulations, or at 0600 hours on September 6, whichever is earlier.

(b) In Areas 4A, 4B, 4C and 4D-East the first halibut fishing season shall commence at 1800 hours on April 1 and terminate at 0600 hours on April 19; the second halibut fishing season shall commence at 1800 hours on September 15 and terminate at 0600 hours on September 30.

(c) In Area 4D-West the halibut fishing season shall commence at 1800 hours on April 1 and terminate at 0600 hours on November 15.

(d) Area 4E in southeastern Bering Sea is closed to halibut fishing, and no person shall fish for halibut therein, or shall have halibut in his possession therein except in the course of a continuous transit across the area.

(e) All hours of opening and closing shall be Pacific Standard Time.

## **Section 4. Closed Seasons**

(a) All convention waters shall be closed to commercial halibut fishing except as provided in Section 3 of these regulations, and the retention and landing of any halibut caught during any closed period shall be prohibited.

(b) These regulations shall not prohibit the fishing for species of fish other than halibut during the closed halibut seasons, provided that it shall be unlawful for a vessel to have halibut aboard, or for any person to have halibut in his possession while so engaged. Nor shall these regulations prohibit the International Pacific Halibut Commission, hereafter referred to as "the Commission", from conducting or authorizing fishing operations for research purposes.

## **Section 5. Catch Limits**

(a) The quantities of halibut to be taken during the halibut fishing season shall be limited to 13,000,000 pounds in Area 2 and to 12,000,000 pounds in Area 3.

(b) The Commission will determine and announce the dates on which the catch limits will be attained in each area. Fishing for halibut in the area will be prohibited after that date.

## **Section 6. Size Limits**

No person, firm or corporation shall take any halibut that with head on is less than 32 inches as measured in a straight line, passing over the pectoral fin, from the tip of the lower jaw with mouth closed, to the extreme end of the middle of the tail, or with head off is less than 24

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inches as measured from the base of the pectoral fin, at its most anterior point, to the extreme end of the middle of the tail (see illustration on back page).

### **Section 7. Licensing of Vessels**

(a) All vessels of any tonnage which shall fish for halibut in any manner or hold halibut in possession in any area, or which shall transport halibut otherwise than as a common carrier documented by the Government of Canada or of the United States for the carriage of freight, must be licensed by the Commission, provided that vessels of less than five net tons or vessels which use hook and line gear other than setlines need not be licensed.

(b) The halibut license must be carried on the vessel at all times and shall be subject to inspection by customs and fishery officers of the Governments of Canada or the United States (hereafter called the Governments) or by representatives of the Commission.

(c) The halibut license shall be issued without fee by the customs officers of the Governments of Canada or the United States, by representatives of the Commission or by fishery officers of the Governments of Canada or the United States, at places where there are neither customs officers nor representatives of the Commission.

(d) The halibut license of any vessel fishing for halibut in Area 4 must be validated at Sand Point, Alaska, both prior to such fishing and prior to unloading any halibut at any port other than Sand Point, Alaska. This validation shall be by United States customs or fishery officers or by a representative of the Commission.

(e) A halibut license shall not be valid for halibut fishing nor for possession of halibut in any area closed to halibut fishing except while in transit to an area open to halibut fishing, or to or within a port of sale. The license shall be invalid for the possession of halibut if the licensed vessel is fishing or attempting to fish for any species of fish in any area closed to halibut fishing.

(f) Any vessel which is not required to be licensed for halibut fishing under paragraph (a) of this section of these regulations shall not possess any halibut of any origin in any area closed to halibut fishing except while in actual transit to or within a port of sale.

(g) No person on any vessel shall fish for halibut or have halibut in his possession, unless said vessel has a valid license issued in conformity with the provisions of this section.

(h) The captain or operator of any vessel holding a license under these regulations shall keep an accurate log of all fishing operations including date, locality, amount of gear used and amount of halibut taken daily in

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each such locality. This log record shall be retained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection by authorized representatives of the Commission.

(i) The captain, operator or any other person engaged on shares in the operation of any vessel licensed under these regulations may be required by the Commission or by any officer of the Governments to certify to the correctness of such log record to the best of his information and belief and to support the certificate by a sworn statement.

### **Section 8. Statistical Return by Dealers**

(a) All persons, firms or corporations that buy halibut or receive halibut from fishing or transporting vessels or other carrier shall keep records of each purchase or receipt of halibut, showing date, locality (statistical area), name of vessel, person, firm or corporation purchased or received from and the amount in pounds according to trade categories of the halibut.

(b) These records shall be retained for a period of two years and shall be open to inspection by enforcement officers of the Governments or by any authorized representative of the Commission. Such persons, firms or corporations may be required to certify to the correctness of such records and to support the certificate by a sworn statement.

(c) The possession of halibut known to have been taken by a vessel without a valid halibut license is prohibited.

### **Section 9. Fishing Gear**

(a) Halibut are permitted to be taken only with hook and line gear. The retention or possession of halibut taken with any other gear, such as nets or pots, is prohibited.

(b) The retention or possession of halibut is prohibited when any commercial fishing gear other than hook and line gear or nets used solely for the capture of bait are on board.

### **Section 10. Retention of Tagged Halibut**

Nothing contained in these regulations shall prohibit any vessel at any time from retaining and landing a halibut which bears a Commission tag at the time of capture, provided that the halibut with the tag still attached is reported at the time of landing and made available for examination by representatives of the Commission or by enforcement officers of the State, Provincial or Federal Governments.

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### **Section 11. Supervision of Unloading and Weighing**

The unloading and weighing of halibut may be subject to the supervision of customs or other authorized officers to assure the fulfillment of the provisions of these regulations.

### **Section 12. Sport Fishing for Halibut**

(a) Sport fishing is permitted from March 1 to October 31 in all convention waters. The daily catch limit by any person is two (2) halibut of any size, caught with a hook attached to a handline or rod, or by spear. After two halibut have been taken by any person, those halibut shall be landed before that person takes more halibut on any succeeding day.

(b) It is illegal for any person to possess sport-caught halibut aboard a vessel when other fish or shellfish aboard said vessel are destined for commercial use (sale, trade or barter).

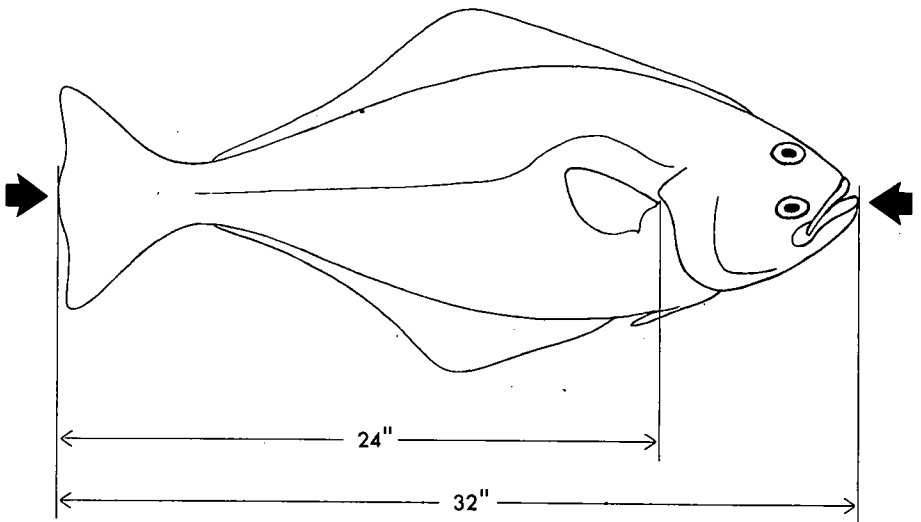
### **Section 13. Previous Regulations Superseded**

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

ROBERT W. SCHONING, Chairman  
CLIFFORD R. LEVELTON, Vice Chairman  
NELLS M. EVENS  
WILLIAM S. GILBERT  
FRANCIS W. MILLERD  
JACK T. PRINCE

Approved by THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA,  
by Order-in-Council, April 27, 1975.

Approved by THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA, April 16, 1975.



Minimum commercial size. See Section 6.

Published by the International Pacific Halibut Commission