

50 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 950106003; I.D. 062195E]

Pacific Halibut Fisheries; North Washington Sport Fishery

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Inseason action.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, on behalf of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), publishes notice of this inseason action pursuant to IPHC regulations approved by the U.S. Government to govern the Pacific halibut fishery. This action is intended to enhance the conservation of the Pacific halibut stock in order to help sustain it at an adequate level in the northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11:59 p.m. May 27, 1995, through December 31, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven Pennoyer, 907-586-7221; William W. Stelle, Jr., 206-526-6140; or Donald McCaughran, 206-634-1838.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The IPHC, under the Convention between the United States of America and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea (signed at Ottawa, Ontario, on March 2, 1953), as amended by a Protocol Amending the Convention (signed at Washington, DC, on March 29, 1979), has issued this inseason action pursuant to IPHC regulations governing the Pacific halibut fishery. The regulations have been approved by NMFS (60 FR 14651, March 20, 1995). On behalf of the IPHC, this inseason action is published in the **Federal Register** to provide additional notice of its effectiveness, and to inform persons subject to the inseason action of the restrictions and requirements established therein.

Inseason Action**1995 Halibut Landing Report Number 4**

North Washington Coast Sport Fishery to Close

The north Washington coast (waters west of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line and south to the Queets River) sport halibut harvest through May 21, 1995, is 43,041 lb (19.52 metric tons (mt)). Preliminary indications suggest that three factors will contribute to higher than average

catches in the week of May 22 through 28, 1995: (1) Larger fish recruiting to the fishery, (2) increased effort from a holiday weekend, and (3) continued good weather. Allowing additional fishing days after May 27 could result in exceeding the catch limit of 71,410 lb (32.39 mt). Therefore, the sport halibut fishery in this area will close at 11:59 p.m. on May 27, 1995. Sport fishing opportunities on the south Washington coast (waters south of the Queets River) and on the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound (waters east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line) are unaffected by this closure.

Fishing remains open in Canadian waters with a two-fish daily bag limit and no size restriction. Anglers desiring to fish in Canadian waters are urged to contact Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans at (604) 666-0383/0583 for sport fishing information concerning licensing and the nautical description of closed areas.

Dated: June 22, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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50 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 950106003-5070-02; I.D. 062195D]

Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Oregon Sport Season Closure

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Inseason action.

SUMMARY: The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, on behalf of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC), publishes this inseason action pursuant to IPHC regulations approved by the U.S. Government to govern the Pacific halibut fishery. This action is intended to enhance the conservation of the Pacific halibut stock in order to help sustain it at an adequate level in the northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11:59 p.m. May 27, 1995, through December 31, 1995.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Steven Pennoyer, 907-586-7221; William W. Stelle, Jr., 206-526-6140; or Donald McCaughran, 206-634-1838.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The IPHC, under the Convention between the United States of America and Canada for the Preservation of the Halibut Fishery of the Northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea (signed at Ottawa, Ontario, on March 2, 1953), as amended by a Protocol Amending the Convention (signed at Washington, DC, on March 29, 1979), has issued this inseason action pursuant to IPHC regulations governing the Pacific halibut fishery. The regulations have been approved by NMFS (60 FR 14651, March 20, 1995).

On behalf of the IPHC, this inseason action is published in the **Federal Register** to provide additional notice of its effectiveness, and to inform persons subject to the inseason action of the restrictions and requirements established therein.

Inseason Action**1995 Halibut Landing Report Number 3**

First Oregon Sport Season to Close May 27

The preliminary catch estimate for the 1995 sport halibut fishery between Cape Falcon (45°46'00" N. lat.) and the Florence North Jetty (Siuslaw River, 44°01'08" N. lat.) indicates the 67,706 lb (30.71 metric tons (mt)) catch limit will be reached on May 27, 1995. Therefore, the sport halibut fishery in this area will close at 11:59 p.m. on May 27.

Sport fishing for Pacific halibut will reopen on May 28, 1995, and remain open through August 2, 1995, 7 days a week, only in the area inside the 30-fathom curve nearest to the coastline as plotted on National Ocean Service charts numbered 18520, 18580, and 18600 from Cape Falcon to the Florence North Jetty (Siuslaw River), or until 3,314 lb (1.50 mt) are estimated to have been taken and the season is closed by the IPHC, whichever occurs first. Any poundage remaining unharvested after the earlier season will be added to this season. The daily bag limit remains two halibut per person, one with a minimum overall size limit of 32 inches (81.3 cm) and the second with a minimum overall size limit of 50 inches (127.0).

Dated: June 22, 1995.

Richard W. Surdi,

Acting Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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