

permit resolution of environmental issues and issuance of a final decision. The Board expects that this 60-day period will usually be sufficient for these purposes unless preparation of an EIS is required. If, however, environmental issues remain unresolved upon expiration of this 60-day period, the Board, upon its own motion, or at the request of a party to the case, will extend the stay, as necessary to permit completion of environmental review and issuance of a final decision. The Board's order will specify the duration of each extension of the initial stay period. In cases requiring the preparation of an EIS, the Board will extend the stay for a period sufficient to permit compliance with the procedural guidelines established by the Board's environmental regulations.

(d) *Third-Party Consultants.* An environmental and historic report required under 49 CFR 1105.7 and 1105.8 will not be required where a petitioner engages a third-party consultant who is approved by SEA and acts under SEA's direction and supervision in preparing the EA or EIS. In such a case, the third-party consultant must act on behalf of the Board, working under SEA's direction to collect the environmental information that is needed and to compile it into a draft EA or EIS, which is prepared under SEA's direction and then submitted to SEA for its final review and approval. See 49 CFR 1105.10(d).

[FR Doc. 96-14902 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 301

[Docket No. 960111003-6068-03; I.D. 060796A]

Pacific Halibut Fisheries; 1996 Halibut Landing Report No. 3

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 these inseason actions 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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Southern Oregon Sport Halibut Season: 11:59 p.m., Pacific Daylight Time, June 1, 1996, until June 2, 1996.

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, and amended at 61 FR 11337, March 20,

1996). 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

1996 Halibut Landing Report No. 3

Southern Oregon Sport Halibut Season to Close June 1

The preliminary catch estimate for the 1996 sport halibut fishery between the Florence North Jetty (Siuslaw River, 44°01'08" N. lat.) and the California border (42°00'00 N. lat.) indicates the 5,999 lb (2.72 metric tons (mt)) catch limit will be reached on June 1. Therefore, the sport halibut fishery in this area will close at 11:59 p.m. on June 1.

Sport fishing for Pacific halibut will reopen on June 2 and remain open through August 1, 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 the Florence North Jetty (Siuslaw River) to the California border, or until 1,500 lb (.68 mt) are estimated to have been taken (except that any poundage remaining unharvested after the earlier season will be added to this season) and the season is closed by the IPHC, whichever occurs first. The daily bag limit remains two halibut per person, one with a minimum overall size limit of 32 inches (81.28 centimeters (cm)) and the second with a minimum overall size limit of 50 inches (127.0 cm).

Dated: June 7, 1996.

Richard H. Schaefer,
Director, Office of Fisheries Conservation and Management, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 96-15058 Filed 6-12-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F