

04/06/2017



Staff Recommended 2017 PACIFIC HALIBUT SPORT REGULATIONS

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission will finalize the 2017 sport halibut season on April 21

Inseason changes can be found on the NMFS Hotline (1-800-662-9825; #5; #1), at www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/, and by text/e-mail subscription. Changes from last year (other than quotas) are underlined.

COLUMBIA RIVER SUBAREA (Leadbetter Pt., WA, to Cape Falcon)

Nearshore Season Quota = 500 lbs.
Open Mondays-Wednesdays inside the 40-fathom line off of Oregon beginning May 8, 2017, through the earlier of quota or Sept. 30.

All-Depth Season Quota = 12,299 lbs.
Open May 4, 2017, Thursday- Sunday, every week through the earlier of quota or Sept. 30.

CENTRAL COAST SUBAREA (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.)

Nearshore Season Quota = 28,897 lbs.
Open June 1, seven days a week, inside the 40-fathom line, through the earlier of the quota or Oct. 31.

All-Depth Seasons Combined Quota = 211,194 lbs.

	Quota (lbs)	Open Dates					Back-Up Dates (if quota)		
Spring	151,712	May 11-13	May 18-20	June 1-3	June 8-10	June 15-17	June 29 - July 1	July 13-15	July 27-29
Summer	60,203	Aug 4-5					Every other Fri-Sat		

The Stonewall Bank YRCA (about 15 miles west of Newport) is closed to Pacific halibut fishing. Anglers on vessels possessing Pacific halibut are prohibited from fishing in the Stonewall Bank YRCA, even when targeting legal species

SOUTHERN OREGON SUBAREA (Humbug Mt. to OR/CA border)

Quota = 10,039 lbs. Open May 1, seven days per week, through the earlier of quota, or Oct. 31.

STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

- It is **mandatory to have a descending device** onboard the vessel when fishing for Pacific halibut, and to use when releasing any rockfish species when fishing outside of 30 fathoms.
- Daily bag limit: 1 Pacific halibut. Annual limit: 6. No length limit.
- Pacific halibut possession limit: 1 daily limit at sea, 3 daily limits on land.
- Fathom lines and conservation areas are defined by waypoints.
- Pacific halibut seasons are managed and enforced based on port of landing. Halibut may only be landed at ports located within areas currently open to halibut retention, regardless of area of catch.
- North of Humbug Mt.: During days open to all-depth halibut fishing, only salmon (as regulations allow), sablefish, Pacific cod, flatfish species (soles, flounders, sanddabs & turbot), tuna and most other offshore pelagic species may be retained or in possession when Pacific halibut are onboard the vessel. During days closed to all-depth halibut fishing, retention of groundfish (as regulations allow; including other species of flatfish outside of the seasonal depth restriction) is permitted when Pacific halibut are onboard.
- South of Humbug Mt.: When angling for Pacific halibut outside of the 30-fm curve, only salmon (as regulations allow), sablefish, Pacific cod, flatfish species (soles, flounders, sanddabs & turbot), tuna and most other offshore pelagic species may be retained or in possession when Pacific halibut are onboard the vessel.
- It is unlawful to fish for or take and retain any species while possessing onboard any species not allowed to be taken in that area at the time.
- Anglers are advised to consult the 2017 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for General (statewide), Zone, and Special Regulations prior to fishing.

