

## Special Notice

# PROPOSED SUBSISTENCE HALIBUT REGULATIONS

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July 2004

This will inform you that, on July 9, 2004, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued proposed regulatory changes to the Subsistence Halibut Fishery. A copy of the proposal is enclosed with this letter. You also can obtain the proposed regulations on line at [www.fakr.noaa.gov/prules/default.htm](http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/prules/default.htm).

You may comment on these proposals as explained below, but be aware that the comment period ends on August 9, 2004.

If adopted, the new regulations would make the following changes in the subsistence halibut fishery::

### Gear Restrictions

- **Area 2C (Southeast Alaska)** – Reduces allowable number of hooks fished from a vessel to 30 (corrected 8/5/04). Prohibits use of set line gear in an area around Low Island in Sitka Sound during summer.
- **Areas 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B (Gulf of Alaska)** – Reduces allowable number of hooks fished from a vessel to three times the maximum number allowed per subsistence user, as long as sufficient numbers of subsistence users are on board the vessel.
- **Area 4C, 4D, 4E (Bering Sea)** – Allows unlimited number of hooks per subsistence user.

### Retention Limits

- **Area 2C** – Reduces the daily retention limit to 20 (corrected 8/5/04) halibut per vessel per day.
- **Areas 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B** – No change.
- **Areas 4C, 4D, 4E** – Allows unlimited number of halibut to be retained per day. Allows CDQ fishermen to retain legal size halibut for subsistence use without deducting from CDQ allocation.
- **Areas 4D, 4E** – Allows CDQ fishermen to retain undersized halibut for subsistence use without deducting from CDQ allocation.

### Closed Areas

- **Area 3A** – Enlarges the Anchorage/Matsu/Kenai non-subsistence area by moving the closure line south to 59°30.40' N. lat.

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Restricted Access Management  
Alaska Region, National Marine Fisheries Service  
P.O. Box 21668 • Juneau, Alaska 99802  
1-800-304-4846 • [RAM.Alaska@noaa.gov](mailto:RAM.Alaska@noaa.gov)



## Community Harvest Permit

- **Area 2C** – Provides communities or Alaska Native tribes with the ability to obtain Community Harvest Permits (CHPs) to relieve some of the gear and harvest restrictions imposed by the proposed regulations.

## Ceremonial Permits and Educational Permits

- **Areas 2C, 3A** – Provides Alaska Native tribes with the ability to obtain Ceremonial Permits and Educational Permits.

## Appeals

- **All Areas** – Provides for an appeals process for denied applications for a CHP, Ceremonial Permit, Educational Permit, or subsistence halibut registration certificate.

## Comments

You may comment on these proposals in four ways: a) by mail; b) by fax; c) by e-mail; or, d) by hand-delivery. No matter which way you choose to comment remember that, to be considered, the comments must be received by **no later than August 9, 2004**.

**Mail** Your Comments to: Ms. Sue Salveson  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Alaska Region, NMFS  
Attn: Lori Durall  
P.O. Box 21668  
Juneau, AK 99802

**Fax** Your Comments to: 907-586-7557

**E-Mail** Your Comments to: SUBH-0648-AR88@noaa.gov

**Hand Deliver** Your Comments to: Federal Building, Room 420A  
709 West Eighth Street  
Juneau, Alaska