

Regulatory Language

Section 28.20, Title 14, CCR, is amended to read:

§ 28.20. Halibut, Pacific.

(a) Season:

- (1) Pacific halibut may be taken only from ~~May 1~~ April 1 through November 15, or until the quota is reached, whichever is earlier. Pacific halibut take is regulated by a quota that is closely monitored each year in alignment with federal regulations.
- (2) The Pacific halibut quota is published in the Federal Register ~~88 FR 21503, April 11, 2023~~ at 91 FR 14464, March 25, 2026. The department shall inform the commission, and the public via a press release, prior to any implementation of restrictions triggered by achieving or expecting to exceed the quota. Anglers and divers are advised to check the current rules before fishing. The latest fishing rules may be found on the department's website at: wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean, or by calling the Recreational Groundfish Fishing Regulations Hotline (831) 649-2801 or the National Marine Fisheries Service Area 2A Halibut Hotline (800) 662-9825 for recorded information, or by contacting a department office.

(b) Limit: One.

(c) Minimum size: None.

(d) Methods of Take:

- (1) When angling, no more than one line with two hooks attached may be used.
- (2) A harpoon, gaff, or net may be used to assist in taking a Pacific halibut that has been legally caught by angling. See Section 28.95 of these regulations for additional restrictions on the use of harpoons.
- (3) Take by spearfishing is allowed pursuant to Section 28.90 of these regulations.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 200, 205, 219, 265, 316, 399 and 7110, Fish and Game Code. Reference: Sections 200, 203.1, 205, 219, 255, 265, 270, 316 and 7110, Fish and Game Code; 50 CFR Part 300, Subpart E; and 50 CFR 300.66.