



# ELWHA FISHERIES OFFICE

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March 8, 2023

## LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE Commercial Halibut Regulations #F23-003

The following regulations are promulgated by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and shall govern the conduct of the commercial harvest of halibut from March 10th, 2023 through December 7th, 2023, by members of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. Provisions for the harvest of other bottomfish remain in effect under separate LEKT regulations.

### 1. AREAS

Catch reporting areas: 20B, 22A, 23A, 23B, 23C, 23D, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, 25E, 27A, 27B and 29.

### 2. FISHERIES

#### A. Season - March 10, 2023 through December 7, 2023

- a) Prior to the international opening date, there is a 14-day moratorium on pre-season longline fishing, including C&S halibut fishing, starting on February 24, 2023 and ending on March 10, 2023. No longline fishing of any kind, including ceremonial or subsistence (“C&S”) halibut fishing is permitted during the 14-day period immediately prior to the IPHC season opening date.” (Management Measures 6B, 2011).

#### B. Days and Times

- a) Unrestricted Landings Fishery: Opened by in-season emergency regulation(s) on or after 12:00 noon Friday, March 10, 2023. In this fishery, halibut may be taken without lbs./landing restrictions. However, all landings must be completed within 12 hours of the fishery’s closing.
- b) Converted Unrestricted Fishery: Opened by in-season emergency regulation(s) on or after 12:00 noon Friday, March 10, 2023. Openings shall be conducted with a 500 lbs. daily landing limit. All landings must be completed within 12 hours of the fishery’s closing.
- c) Restricted Landings Fishery: Opened by in-season emergency regulation(s) on or after noon Friday, March 10, 2023 and shall close for the season when the commercial target for the restricted landing fishery has been reached. In this fishery, halibut taken in halibut-directed fisheries, or incidentally during other fisheries, may be sold commercially. However, no more than 500 lbs. of halibut, per vessel, may be sold in any 24 hour period. Take home catch is limited to 4 halibut per vessel per 24 hour time period. No

more than 500 lbs. of commercially sold halibut and 4 take home halibut may be retained on boat.

**Mop-up Fishery:** Tribal managers shall determine the parameters of this fishery in-season, in order to harvest the remaining tribal commercial quota and if remaining TAC is available will be opened by in-season emergency regulation.

**C. Size Limits:** All commercial halibut measuring less than 32 inches (head and tail on) must be returned to the water unharmed.

**D. Lawful Gear** - Lawful gear under these regulations shall consist of:

- a) Set lines: Maximum 500 hooks per skate, maximum 3,000 hooks per vessel.
- b) Bottomfish troll gear: Maximum 12 hooks per line; maximum 4 lines per vessel.
- c) Hand lines/jigs: Maximum 2 hook per line; maximum 2 lines per fisherman.
- d) Power Jigs: Maximum 2 hooks per line: maximum 8 lines per vessel.

**E. Licensing and Catch Reporting**

- a) Fishers must at all times comply with licensing and vessel registration requirements under the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe Fishing Ordinance Third Edition. Fishers wishing to participate in the halibut fishery must register with the fisheries office. Expected effort is 10-13 vessels.
- b) All halibut sales and take-home catch must be recorded on Treaty Indian Fish Receiving Tickets.
- c) All catches must be recorded and reported to the fisheries office within 24 hours of landing.
- d) All halibut sales, throughout the season, must be made by the owner/operator of each fishing vessel using the Treaty Indian Fishing Card.
- e) All halibut must be landed with heads on.
- f) All fishermen utilizing set line gear must maintain a log book, provided by the Fisheries Office. Log books must be returned to the Fisheries Office at the end of the fishery.

**F. Emergency Regulations**

The above regulations may be modified at any time based on in-season management considerations. Fishers are notified that closures may occur on short notice. Prior to fishing, fishers are advised to check with the Fisheries Office.

### 3. AUTHORITY

This regulation is promulgated by the Lower Elwha Klallam Harvest Manager under authority specified by the Lower Elwha Klallam Fishing Ordinance Third Edition.



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Samantha Rae  
Harvest Manager  
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe