



ELWHA FISHERIES OFFICE

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March 23, 2026

LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE Commercial Halibut Regulations #F26-003

The following regulations are promulgated by the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and shall govern the conduct of the commercial harvest of halibut from March 26th, 2026 through December 7th, 2026, 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 26, 2026 through December 7, 20256

- 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 March 12, 2026 and ending on March 26, 2026. 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) at 6:00am Thursday, March 26, 2026. In this fishery, halibut landings may not exceed 5,000lbs per vessel per 24-hour period. However, there is no predetermined trip length. Fishery will close when 46.5% of the TAC has been obtained.
- b) Restricted Landings Fishery: Opened by in-season emergency regulation(s) at 6:00am Thursday, March 26, 2026, and shall close for the season when the commercial target of 19% of the TAC has been obtained or the commercial target for the unrestricted landing fishery has been reached. If the restricted landing fishery TAC is obtained before the restricted, then all halibut landings will be applied to the unrestricted landing fishery. In this fishery, halibut taken in halibut-directed fisheries, or incidentally during other fisheries, may be sold commercially. Any landings totaling 500lbs or less will be applied to this fishery. Take home catch is limited to 4 halibut per vessel per 24-hour period.

- C. **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.
- D. **Size Limits:** All commercial halibut measuring less than 32 inches (head and tail on) must be returned to the water unharmed.
- E. **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.
- F. **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 logbook, provided by the Fisheries Office. Log books must be returned to the Fisheries Office at the end of the fishery.
- G. **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 Fisheries Manager under authority specified by the Lower Elwha Klallam Fishing Ordinance Third Edition.


 Lane Jackson
 Fisheries Management Biologist
 Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe