

## **Fishery Notice**

### **Category(s):**

RECREATIONAL - Fin Fish (Other than Salmon)

### **Subject:**

FN0198-Recreational - Fin Fish (Other than Salmon) - Halibut - 2026 Halibut Opening and Conditions of Licence starting April 1, 2026

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For 2026, the recreational Halibut fishery total allowable catch is 633,750 pounds. The recreational Halibut fishery is actively managed to stay within the sector's allocation and fishers should watch for subsequent Fishery Notices to announce potential in-season changes.

Effective at 00:01 hours April 1, 2026, recreational fishing for Halibut will open coast-wide until December 31, 2026 as follows:

The daily limit will be one (1) halibut per day.

The possession limit is equal to the daily limit.

No person shall retain a Halibut greater than 112 cm head-on length (85 cm pectoral length (head-off)).

Pectoral length (head-off) measurements are made from the base of the pectoral fin at its most forward point to the extreme end of the middle of the tail.

### **Annual Limit:**

No person shall catch and retain more than ten (10) halibut in the aggregate from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027.

All halibut retained shall be immediately recorded on the 2026/2027 Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licence, or, if mobile access is immediately available, the licence holder may record catch in the National Recreational Licensing System or on an approved third-party app. The area from which each halibut is caught and its head-on length shall immediately be recorded.

### **Reminders:**

Anglers are reminded of the mandatory condition of licence for the release of rockfish; all anglers in vessels shall immediately return all rockfish that are not being retained to the water and to a similar depth from which they were caught by use of an inverted weighted barbless hook or other purpose-built descender device.

### **Licensing:**

The 2026/2027 Tidal Waters Sport Fishing Licences and Conditions of Licence will be in effect from April 1, 2026 until March 31, 2027.

The exceptions to these openings are: Areas 121: No person shall fish for or retain halibut, rockfish and lingcod in Area 121 outside the 12 nautical mile limit seaward of a line that begins at 48 degrees 34.000 minutes and 125 degrees 17.386 minutes W and continues south easterly at a bearing of 116 degrees True to a point at 48 degrees 28.327 minutes and 125 degrees 01.687 minutes W.

Areas 121: Closed to all finfish, year round in the waters of Swiftsure Bank. Those portions of Subareas 121-1 and 121-2 inside a line that begins at 48 degrees 34.000 minutes N and 125 degrees 06.000 minutes W, then true east to 48 degrees 34.000 minutes N and 124 degrees 54.200 minutes W, then southeasterly to the International Boundary, outer perimeter at 48 degrees 29.618 minutes N and 124 degrees 43.553 minutes W, then westerly following the International Boundary perimeter to 48 degrees 29.605 minutes N and 124 degrees 56.190 minutes W, then northwesterly to the beginning point.

Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and Glass Sponge Reef (GSR) closures remain in effect - refer to the following web pages for descriptions:

1)RCAs- <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/restricted-restreint-eng.html#rca>

2)GSRs- <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/rec/restricted-restreint-eng.html#sponge>

Variation Orders: 2026-RCT-056 (Close Time) and 2026-RFQ-057(Quota) are in effect.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact the nearest Fisheries and Oceans Canada office or visit our website at <http://www.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

Fisheries & Oceans Operations Center - FN0198

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