

Port of Port Angeles

Port Angeles, Washington

Commissioners' Resolution No. 17-1147

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RECREATIONAL FISHING INDUSTRY AS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE ECONOMIC HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF CLALLAM COUNTY

WHEREAS the Port of Port Angeles acknowledges that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife currently sets halibut seasons using poundage quotas set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission and approved by the Pacific Fishery Management Council; and

WHEREAS the halibut fishing season has dwindled from a 70 day season in 2006 to 12 days in 2014, 11 days in 2015, eight days in 2016 and now only three non-consecutive days in 2017; and

WHEREAS, we have substantiated dramatic economic losses to local businesses in the motel, food, fuel, tackle and other businesses as well as the impact of the cancellation of the annual halibut derby, which is a significant tourist draw; and

WHEREAS, a three day season is unsafe as lives and property have been and may be lost when someone makes a wrong decision to go out in bad weather because that is the only time they can legally fish during the year;


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Port of Port Angeles intends to seek restoration of business activity as well as increased safety for the recreational fishing community by requesting the following regulations starting with the 2018 recreational halibut fishing season:


- 1) Fixed annual bag/possession limit of six (6) fish per person per year
- 2) No poundage limit on an individual fish
- 3) Limit of one (1) fish per day and two (2) in possession
- 4) Season - second Saturday in March through the third Saturday in October (to track the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PPFMS) ocean bottom fish fishery dates)

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of the Port of Port Angeles at a regular meeting thereof held on the 21st day of February, 2017.

PORT OF PORT ANGELES
PORT COMMISSION


Colleen McAleer, President


Connie Beauvais, Vice President


Steven Burke, Secretary