

Recreational Halibut Catch Record Card – Briefing on Proposed Rules



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Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting – September 14, 2018

Purpose of Proposed Rule Changes

- **WAC 220-310-020 – new section (4)**
 - Implements SB 6127, Which Authorizes a Halibut CRC Fee
 - Sets the CRC Fee at \$5.00 (\$5.50 Out-the-Door Price)
- **WACs 220-220-020, 220-220-200, and 220-310-010**
 - Corrections to Descriptions of Licenses and CRCs for Consistency
- **WAC 220-310-020(3)(b)**
 - Prohibits Anglers from Purchasing Additional CRCs to Comply with Annual Bag Limit
 - If CRC is Lost, Anglers are Allowed to Purchase a *Replacement* CRC
- **WAC 220-310-020 – new section (7)(a)**
 - Allows for Expansion of Online Reporting for CRC Species

Summary of Rule Process to Date

- **Filed CR-101 on May 2, 2018**
- **Filed CR-105 for Expedited Rule on July 17, 2018**
 - **Received Public Comment on July 25, 2018 with 3 Suggested Edits**
- **Filed CR-102 on August 1, 2018**
 - **Changed from Expedited to Full Rulemaking Process to Provide Additional Opportunity for Public Comment**
 - **Incorporated 2 of the 3 Suggested Edits from Constituent**
 - **Provided for Expansion of Online Reporting for CRC Species**
- **Filed Supplemental CR-102 on August 22, 2018**
 - **Added Specific Fee of \$5.00**

Summary of Public Comment Received

Require Anglers to Submit the Halibut Portion of the CRC Back to WDFW Within 30 Days Following the Close of the Halibut Season (Rather than April 30th When the Entire CRC is to be Returned)

Staff Response

- **Halibut Are Managed by Federal Quotas that Require Inseason Monitoring, so Having the CRC Returned Earlier is Not Useful for Management**
- **Because the Season is Quota-Driven, the End Date is a Moving Target, so Anglers Would Need to Continually Check the WDFW Website for Updates**
- **Unlike the PS Recreational Crab Fishery, the Halibut CRC Legislation Did Not Include a Penalty for Non-Submittal, so Enforcement Would be Difficult**
- **Additional Work is Needed by WDFW Staff to Produce a CRC Catch Estimate, and Requiring Early Submittal Would Increase the Uncertainty**

Proposed Rule Adoption Process

- **Supplemental CR-102 Filed: August 22, 2018**
- **Commission Briefing with Public Comment Opportunity: September 14, 2018**
- **Proposed Rule Adoption Hearing: October 5, 2018 Commission Conference Call**
- **Target Effective Date: December 1, 2018 (for 2019 license year)**

Questions or Comments?