

**§6506. Commercial halibut fishing license**

**1. License required.** Beginning January 1, 2023, a person may not engage in the activities authorized under this section without a current:

- A. Commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator; [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]
- B. Commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator and all crew members; [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]
- C. Commercial halibut fishing license for a nonresident operator and all crew members; or [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]
- D. Commercial halibut fishing license for an operator with a federal northeast multispecies groundfish permit authorizing halibut fishing for the operator and all crew members. [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]

[PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]

**2. Licensed activity; commercial license.** The holder of a commercial halibut fishing license issued under subsection 1 may fish for, take, possess, ship, transport or sell halibut that the holder has taken. Crew members aboard a license holder's vessel may fish for, take, possess, ship or transport halibut only if the license provides for crew members.

[PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]

**3. Eligibility.** A commercial halibut fishing license issued under subsection 1 may be issued only to an individual.

[PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]

**4. Fees.** Fees for commercial halibut fishing licenses issued under subsection 1 are as follows:

- A. For a commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator, \$48; [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]
- B. For a commercial halibut fishing license for a resident operator and all crew members, \$128; [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]
- C. For a commercial halibut fishing license for a nonresident operator and all crew members, \$481; and [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]
- D. For a commercial halibut fishing license for an operator with a federal northeast multispecies groundfish permit authorizing halibut fishing for the operator and all crew members, \$2. [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]

The commissioner shall deposit fees collected pursuant to this subsection in the Halibut Fund established under section 6039.

[PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]

**5. Halibut tags.** The holder of a commercial halibut fishing license issued under subsection 1 must annually purchase halibut tags to fish for or take halibut. A license holder may purchase an allotment of halibut tags only once per year. A vessel may have only one license holder's tags assigned to that vessel. The commissioner shall establish by rule the maximum number of halibut tags that may be issued to a license holder per year, and may establish up to 2 options for the number of tags a license holder may purchase. The commissioner may establish a fee, not to exceed \$4 per tag, for each purchase option. Unless otherwise specified in routine technical rules adopted by the commissioner pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, the following fees apply to halibut tags:

- A. For 10 halibut tags, \$10; and [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]
- B. For 25 halibut tags, \$100. [PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]

The commissioner shall deposit fees collected pursuant to this subsection in the Halibut Fund established under section 6039.

[PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW).]

**6. License exemption.** Notwithstanding subsection 1, a person may fish for, take, possess or transport a halibut without a license if the person has fished for or taken the halibut by tub trawl or by hook and line and if the halibut is only for personal use.

[PL 2023, c. 207, §14 (NEW).]

**7. Violation.** A person who violates this section commits a civil violation for which a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500 may be adjudged.

[PL 2023, c. 207, §15 (NEW).]

**8. Rules.** The commissioner shall adopt rules to implement this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

[PL 2023, c. 207, §16 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2021, c. 627, §5 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 207, §§14-16 (AMD).

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