Fisheries Data Overview (2025): preliminary

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PURPOSE

To provide a preliminary overview of the 2025 Pacific halibut removals, including the status of mortality reported against mortality and fishery limits adopted by the Commission and outlined in the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2025). Data provided in this paper include current data and end-of-year projections as of 5 November 2025.

BACKGROUND

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) estimates all Pacific halibut (*Hippoglossus stenolepis*) removals taken in the IPHC Convention Area and uses this information in its yearly stock assessment (see IPHC-2025-IM101-10) and other analyses. The data are compiled by the IPHC Secretariat and include data from federal and state agencies of each Contracting Party. All 2025 data are in net weight (head-off, dressed, ice and slime deducted) and considered preliminary at this time. The IPHC Regulatory Areas are provided in Figure 1.

The report provides a preliminary summary of removals in Tables 1 and 2. Table 2 provides estimates of mortality reported against the fishery limits (FCEY) resulting from the IPHC-adopted distributed mortality (TCEY) limits and the existing Contracting Party catch sharing arrangements, as well as non-FCEY mortality projections, by IPHC Regulatory Area. Figure 2 provides cumulative percentages of the directed commercial Pacific halibut limit landed by week.

Historical data for all sectors are available on the IPHC website.

DEFINITIONS

Directed commercial fisheries include commercial landings and discard mortality. Directed commercial discard mortality includes estimates of sub-legal Pacific halibut (under 81.3 cm or 32 inches, also called U32), fish that die on lost or abandoned fishing gear, and fish discarded for regulatory compliance reasons.

Recreational fisheries include recreational landings (including landings from commercial leasing) and discard mortality.

Subsistence fisheries are non-commercial, customary, and traditional use of Pacific halibut for direct personal, family, or community consumption or sharing as food, or customary trade. Subsistence fisheries include:

i) ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) removals in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A treaty Indian fishery,
ii) the sanctioned First Nations Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) fishery conducted in British Columbia,
iii) federal subsistence fishery in Alaska that uses Alaska Subsistence [Pacific] Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC), and
iv) U32 Pacific halibut retained for personal use by the Community Development Quota (CDQ) fishery in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4D and 4E.

Non-directed commercial discard mortality includes incidentally caught Pacific halibut by fisheries targeting other species and that cannot legally be retained, e.g. by the trawl fleet. This category refers only to those Pacific halibut that subsequently die due to capture.

IPHC FISS and research includes Pacific halibut landings and removals as a result of the IPHC Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) and other IPHC research.

Table 1. 2025 mortality reported against mortality limits (TCEYs) by IPHC Regulatory Area and U26 non-directed discards (end-of year projections as of 5 November 2025).

IPHC Regulatory Area	Mortality limits (TCEY) (net weight)		Mortality to date (net weight)		Percent attained
	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	(%)
IPHC Regulatory Area 2A	748	1,650,000	682	1,503,310	91.1
IPHC Regulatory Area 2B	2,472	5,450,000	2,348	5,175,522	95.0
IPHC Regulatory Area 2C	2,368	5,220,000	2,468	5,441,978	104.3
IPHC Regulatory Area 3A	4,119	9,080,000	3,865	8,519,954	93.8
IPHC Regulatory Area 3B	1,297	2,860,000	1,173	2,586,540	90.4
IPHC Regulatory Area 4A	608	1,340,000	465	1,025,172	76.5
IPHC Regulatory Area 4B	472	1,040,000	148	325,380	31.3
IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE and Closed Area	1,397	3,080,000	1,099	2,422,289	78.6
Subtotal (TCEY)	**13,481**	**29,720,000**	**12,247**	**27,000,145**	**90.8**
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	862	1,900,000	845	1,862,000	98.0
Total	**14,343**	**31,620,000**	**13,092**	**28,862,145**	**91.3**

Table 2. 2025 estimates of mortality reported against fishery limits (FCEY) and mortality projections (non-FCEY components of TCEY) by IPHC Regulatory Area (end-of-year projections as of 5 November 2025).

IPHC Regulatory Area	Fishery limit / projection[1] (net weight)		Mortality to date[1] (net weight)		Pct (%) attained
	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	(%)
Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington)	**748**	**1,650,000**	***682***	***1,503,310***	91.1
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Non-treaty directed commercial fishery	118	259,515	*120*	264,004	101.7
Non-treaty incidental catch in salmon troll fishery	21	45,797	11	23,995	52.4
Non-treaty incidental catch in sablefish fishery[2]	32	70,000	*32*	*70,000*	100.0
Treaty Indian commercial fishery	236	520,700	*236*	*520,700*	100.0
Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence (year-round)	7	14,800	*7*	*14,800*	100.0
Recreational – Washington	129	284,042	*129*	*285,091*	100.4
Recreational – Oregon	134	295,367	*80*	*176,193*	59.7
Recreational – California	18	39,780	*9*	*19,500*	49.0
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	27	60,000	*29*	*63,000*	105.0
Recreational discard mortality	--	--	*2*	*4,005*	--
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	27	60,000	*23*	*51,000*	85.0
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	5	11,022	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	5	10,000	*2*	*5,000*	50.0
Area 2B (British Columbia)	**2,472**	**5,450,000**	***2,348***	***5,175,522***	**95.0**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	1,755	3,870,000	*1,728*	*3,810,483*	98.5
Recreational fishery	308	680,000	*240*	*528,280*	77.7
Recreational fishery (XRQ - Experimental Quota)[5]	--	--	*0*	*0*	--
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	68	150,000	*78*	*173,000*	115.3
Recreational discard mortality	14	30,000	*10*	*21,203*	70.7
Subsistence	186	410,000	*184*	*405,000*	98.8
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	141	310,000	*68*	*151,000*	48.7
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	39	86,556	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	18	40,000	*24*	*52,000*	130.0

IPHC Regulatory Area	Fishery limit / projection[1] (net weight)		Mortality to date[1] (net weight)		Pct (%) attained
	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	
Area 2C (southeastern Alaska)	**2,368**	**5,220,000**	***2,468***	***5,441,978***	**104.3**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	1,393	3,070,000	*1,176*	*2,592,204*	84.4
Directed commercial discard mortality	54	120,000	*44*	*97,000*	80.8
Metlakatla (Annette Island Reserve)	--	--	22	49,316	--
Guided recreational fishery	327	720,000	*333*	*734,336*	102.0
Guided recreational fishery (GAF)[5]	--	--	*106*	*233,000*	--
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Unguided recreational fishery	458	1,010,000	*618*	*1,363,223*	135.0
Subsistence	113	250,000	*115*	*252,492*	101.0
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	23	50,000	*24*	*52,000*	104.0
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	31	68,407	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	0	0	*0*	*0*	--
Area 3A (central Gulf of Alaska)	**4,119**	**9,080,000**	***3,865***	***8,519,954***	**93.8**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	2,672	5,890,000	*2,445*	*5,391,377*	91.5
Directed commercial discard mortality	204	450,000	*151*	*333,000*	74.0
Guided recreational fishery	671	1,480,000	*633*	*1,396,302*	94.3
Guided recreational fishery (GAF)[5]	--	--	*22*	*48,000*	--
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Unguided recreational fishery	399	880,000	*407*	*897,075*	101.9
Subsistence	54	120,000	*55*	*121,642*	101.4
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	118	260,000	*121*	*266,000*	102.3
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	30	66,558	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	113	250,000	*90*	*199,000*	79.6
Area 3B (western Gulf of Alaska)	**1,297**	**2,860,000**	***1,173***	***2,586,540***	**90.4**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	1,120	2,470,000	*986*	*2,172,883*	88.0
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	91	200,000	*86*	*190,000*	95.0
Recreational fishery	0	0	*1*	*3,022*	--
Subsistence	5	10,000	*5*	*10,475*	104.8
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	77	170,000	*73*	*161,000*	94.7
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	22	49,160	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	50	110,000	*59*	*129,000*	117.3
Area 4A (eastern Aleutians)	**608**	**1,340,000**	***465***	***1,025,172***	**76.5**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	454	1,000,000	*302*	*666,846*	66.7
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	18	40,000	*16*	*36,000*	90.0
Recreational fishery	5	10,000	*4*	*9,499*	95.0
Subsistence	0	0	*2*	*4,164*	--
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	132	290,000	*133*	*294,000*	101.4
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	7	14,663	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	59	130,000	*87*	*192,000*	147.7

IPHC Regulatory Area	Fishery limit / projection[1] (net weight)		Mortality to date[1] (net weight)		Pct (%) attained
	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	Tonnes (t)	Pounds (lb)	
Area 4B (central and western Aleutians)	**472**	**1,040,000**	***148***	***325,380***	**31.3**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	408	900,000	*89*	*197,122*	21.9
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	5	10,000	*0*	*1,000*	10.0
Recreational fishery	0	0	*0*	*0*	--
Subsistence	0	0	*0*	*218*	--
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	59	130,000	*54*	*118,000*	90.8
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	4	9,040	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	5	10,000	*9*	*19,000*	190.0
Areas 4CDE and Closed Area	**1,397**	**3,080,000**	***1,099***	***2,422,289***	**78.6**
Domestic mortality limits (FCEY)					
Directed commercial fishery landings	730	1,610,000	*315*	*695,214*	43.2
Projections (non-FCEY)[3]					
Directed commercial discard mortality	18	40,000	*11*	*25,000*	62.5
Recreational fishery	0	0	*0*	*0*	--
Subsistence[6]	5	10,000	*6*	*14,075*	140.8
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	640	1,410,000	*766*	*1,688,000*	119.7
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	0	0	--
Non-TCEY mortality					
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	612	1,350,000	*574*	*1,266,000*	93.8
Total	**13,481**	**29,720,000**	***12,247***	***27,000,145***	**90.8**
Directed commercial fishery landings	9,424	20,776,012	*7,880*	*17,372,144*	83.6
Recreational fishery	2,463	5,429,189	*2,594*	*5,718,729*	105.3
Subsistence	370	814,800	*373*	*822,866*	101.0
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (O26)	1,216	2,680,000	1,261	2,781,000	103.8
IPHC fishery-independent setline survey and research[4]	--	--	139	305,406	--
Non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26)	**862**	**1,900,000**	**845**	**1,862,000**	**98.0**

Values shown in italics represent year-end projections.

[1] Totals by IPHC Regulatory area include all TCEY components, i.e. exclude non-directed commercial discard mortality (U26).
[2] North of Pt. Chehalis; non-treaty incidental to sablefish fishery limit allocated from Washington sport allocation in accordance with the Pacific halibut Catch Sharing Plan for IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.
[3] Fishery projection is value used in setting the TCEY for each IPHC Regulatory Area (i.e., non-FCEY components of TCEY).
[4] Includes U32 Pacific halibut landed during FISS.
[5] XRQ and GAF leased from commercial quota.
[6] Includes U32 CDQ landings retained for personal consumption and not accounted as commercial CDQ landings in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4D and 4E.

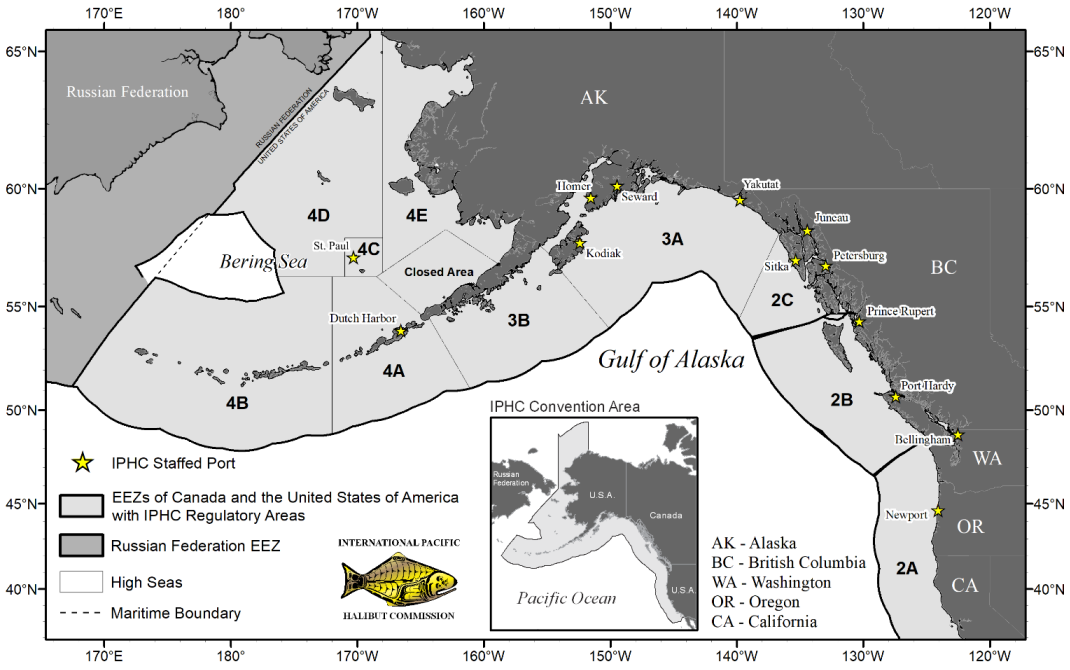


Figure 1. IPHC Convention Area and associated IPHC Regulatory Areas.

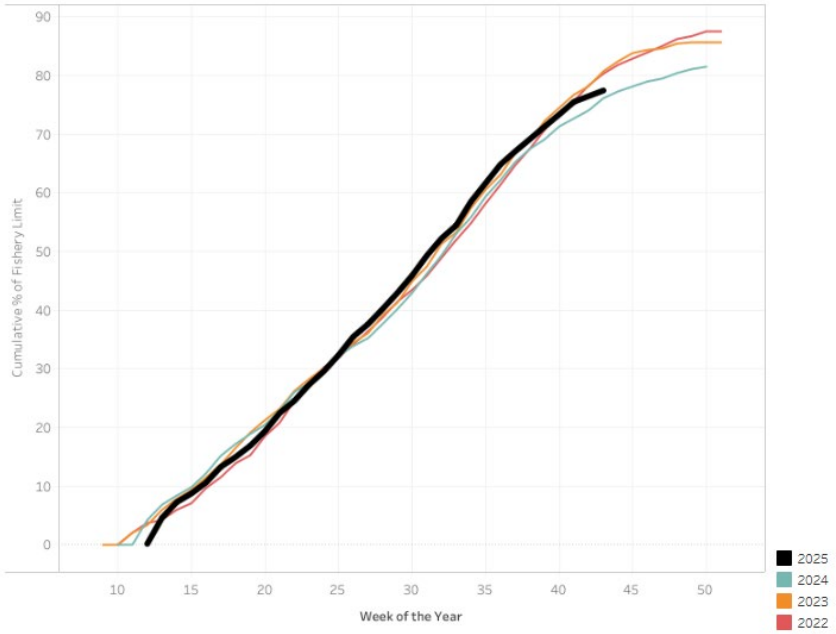


Figure 2. Cumulative percentage of directed commercial Pacific halibut limit landed by week.

DIRECTED COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

The IPHC's directed commercial fisheries span from northern California through to northern and western Alaska in USA and Canadian waters of the northeastern Pacific Ocean. The IPHC sets annual limits for the retention of Pacific halibut in each IPHC Regulatory Area. Participants in these commercial fisheries use longline and pot gear to catch Pacific halibut for sale. The directed commercial Pacific halibut fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A consisted of the directed commercial fishery with fishing period limits, the incidental Pacific halibut catch during the salmon troll and limited-entry sablefish

(*Anoplopoma fimbria*) fisheries, and the treaty Indian fisheries. Farther north, the directed commercial fisheries consisted of the Individual Vessel Quota (IVQ) fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B in British Columbia, Canada; the Metlakatla fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2C; the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) system in Alaska, USA; and the CDQ fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 4B and 4CDE.

Commercial fishing periods

The Canadian IVQ fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B and the USA IFQ and CDQ fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E commenced at 6:00 local time on 20 March and will close at 23:59 local time on 7 December (Table 3). The IPHC Regulatory Area 2A directed commercial fisheries, including the treaty Indian commercial fisheries, occurred during the same period. In IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, the non-treaty directed commercial fishery operated under 58-hour fishing periods beginning on the fourth Tuesday in June. Each fishing period began on the Tuesday at 08:00 and ended on the following Thursday at 18:00 local time and was further restricted by fishing period limits. The fishery closed for the remainder of the year after the third opening, which ended on 24 July when the IPHC Regulatory Area 2A directed commercial non-treaty fishery allocation was estimated to have been reached.

Table 3. Fishing periods for directed commercial Pacific halibut fisheries by IPHC Regulatory Area, 2019-2025 (d = days; h = hours).

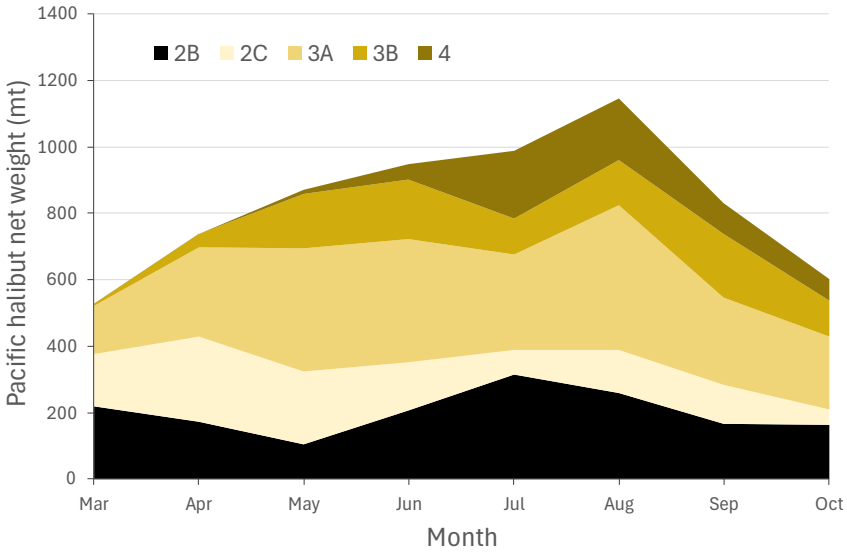
IPHC Regulatory Area	Year						
	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Canada: 2B	20 Mar-7 Dec (262 d)	15 Mar-7 Dec (267 d)	10 Mar -7 Dec (272 d)	6 Mar-7 Dec (276 d)	6 Mar-7 Dec (276 d)	14 Mar-7 Dec (268 d)	15 Mar-14 Nov (244 d)
USA: 2A Treaty Indian	20 Mar-19 Jun (24 h) (Unrestricted) 20 Mar-19 Jun (122 h) (Restricted) 23 Jun-31 Jul (81.5 h) (Restricted) 23 Jun-31 Jul (48 h) (Unrestricted) 11 Aug-7 Dec (Restricted)	15 Mar-19 Jun (24 h) (Unrestricted) 15 Mar-19 Jun (93.5 h) (Restricted) 24 Jun-31 Jul (2x 41 h) (Restricted) 24 Jun-31 Jul (24 h) (Unrestricted) 9 Aug-30 Sep (6x24 h) (Restricted)	10 Mar-10 Jun (55 h) (Unrestricted) 10 Mar-31 May (122 h) (Restricted) 1 Jun-31 Jul (2x 24 h) (Restricted) 17 Jun-31 Jul (20 h) (Unrestricted) 1 Sep-15 Oct (2x24 h) (Restricted)	6 Mar-31 May (55 h) (Unrestricted) 6 Mar-31 May (122 h) (Restricted) 3 Jun-30 Sep (48 h and 72 h) (Restricted)	6 Mar-16 May (55 h) (Unrestricted) 6 Mar-16 May (102 h) (Restricted) 16 May-20 Jun (24 h)	14 Mar-30 Sep (55 h) (Unrestricted) 14 Mar-30 Sep (222 h) (Restricted) 5 Oct-18 Oct (13 d)	15 Mar-15 May (55 h) (Unrestricted) 15 Mar-15 May (84 h) 20 May-15 Jun (72 h) (Restricted) 11 Jun-24 Jul (35 d)
USA: 2A Commercial Directed	24-26 Jun 8-10 Jul 22-24 Jul (58 h each)	25-27 Jun 9-11 Jul 6-8 Aug 27-29 Aug 24-26 Sep (58 h each)	27-29 Jun 11-13 Jul 1-3 Aug (58 h each)	28-30 Jun 12-14 Jul 26-28 Jul (58 h each)	22-24 Jun 6-8 Jul 20-22 Jul (58 h each)	22-24 Jun 6-8 Jul 20-22 Jul 3-5 Aug 17-19 Aug (58 h each)	26 Jun 10 Jul 24 Jul (10 h each)

USA: 2A Commercial Incidental	Salmon 1 Apr- 31 Oct (213 d) Sablefish 1 Apr-7 Dec (250 d)	Salmon 1 Apr- 31 Oct (213 d) Sablefish 1 Apr-7 Dec (250 d)	Salmon 1 Apr-31 Oct (213 d) Sablefish 1 Apr-7 Dec (250 d)	Salmon 1 Apr-31 Oct (213 d) Sablefish 1 Apr-31 Oct (213 d)	Salmon 1 Apr-7 Dec (250 d) Sablefish 1 Apr-7 Dec (250 d)	Salmon WA: 15 Apr-30 Sep (168 d) OR: 15 Apr-31 Oct (199 d) CA: 1 Aug-30 Sep (60 d) Sablefish 1 Apr- 15 Nov (228 d)	Salmon WA, CA: 20 Apr- 30 Sep (163 d) OR: 20 Apr- 31 Oct (194 d) Sablefish 1 Apr-31 Oct (213 d)
USA: Alaska (2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4CDE)	20 Mar-7 Dec (262 d)	15 Mar-7 Dec (267 d)	10 Mar-7 Dec (272 d)	6 Mar-7 Dec (276 d)	6 Mar-7 Dec (276 d)	14 Mar-15 Nov (246 d)	15 Mar-14 Nov (244 d)

Directed commercial landings

Directed commercial fishery limits and landings by IPHC Regulatory Area for the 2025 fishing season are shown in Table 2. The directed commercial fishery limit, as referred to here, is the IPHC commercial fishery limit set by the Contracting Parties following the IPHC Annual Meeting and is equivalent to the Fishery Constant Exploitation Yield (FCEY). The fishery limits with adjustments from the underage and overage programs from the previous year's quota share programs are not shown. The *Use of Fish* allocation in IPHC Regulatory Area 2B, as defined in the Pacific Region Integrated Fisheries Management Plan – Groundfish are also not presented.

The 2025 directed commercial fishery landings were spread over ten months (March – December) of the year in Canada and the USA (Figure 2). On a month-to-month comparison, July took the lead as the busiest month for total poundage (20%) landed from IPHC Regulatory Area 2B. On a month-to-month comparison, August was the busiest month for total poundage (18%) from Alaska, USA. A year-to-date visualization is also available on the IPHC website.



Regulatory Area 2B landings from DFO Fishery Operations System (FOS).
Regulatory Areas 2C, 3, and 4 landings from NOAA Fisheries Restricted Access Management (RAM) Program.

Figure 3. 2025 directed commercial landings (tonnes, net weight, preliminary) of Pacific halibut for individual quota fisheries by IPHC Regulatory Area and month.

USA – IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Washington, Oregon, California)

The 2025 IPHC Regulatory Area 2A fisheries and respective fishery limits are listed in Table 2. The total IPHC Regulatory Area 2A commercial landings (directed and incidental to salmon troll, sablefish, and Treaty Indian) of 399 tonnes (878,699 pounds) was 2% below the fishery limit. The total non-treaty directed commercial landings of 120 tonnes (264,004 pounds) was 2% over of the fishery limit of 118 tonnes (259,515 pounds) after three 58-hour openers. The fishing period limits by vessel size class for each opening in 2025 are listed in Table 4.

The salmon troll fishery season was open from 1 April to 31 October in Oregon and Washington (CA closed) with an allowable incidental landing ratio of one Pacific halibut per two Chinook (*Onchorhynchus tshawytscha*), plus an additional Pacific halibut per landing, and a vessel trip limit of 35 fish. Total landings of 11 tonnes (23,995 pounds) were 48% under the fishery limit of 21 tonnes (45,797 pounds).

Incidental Pacific halibut retention during the limited-entry sablefish fishery is open from 1 April to 7 December. The allowable landing ratio was se at 0.03 tonnes (75 pounds) of Pacific halibut to 0.45 tonnes (1,000 pounds) of sablefish, with an allowance for up to two additional Pacific halibut in excess of the ratio limit. The estimated removals of 32 tonnes (70,000 pounds) are at 100% of the fishery limit.

In IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, north of Point Chehalis (46°53.30′ N. latitude), the treaty Indian tribes manage the directed commercial landings for three fisheries under a Memorandum of Understanding among the 13 tribes. These consist of an unrestricted fishery, a restricted fishery with trip limits, and a late season fishery.

These fisheries are subject to in-season management:

- The unrestricted fishery occurred between 20 March and 19 June.
- The restricted fishery occurred between 20 March to 19 June.
- There were two late-season openers: one from 23 June to 31 July and another from 11 August to 7 December.

Estimated overall total landings of 236 tonnes (520,700 pounds) are at 100% of the fishery limit.

Table 4. The fishing periods and limits (tonnes, dressed, head-on with ice/slime) by vessel class used in the 2025 directed commercial fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A.

Vessel Class		Commercial fishing periods (dates) & limits (t)		
Letter	**Feet**	**24-26 Jun**	**8-10 Jul**	**22-24 Jul**
A, B and C	1-35	0.9	0.9	2.3
D and E	36-45	1.5	1.5	2.3
F and G	46-55	2.0	2.0	2.3
H	56+	2.3	2.3	2.3

Canada – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (British Columbia)

Under the IVQ fishery in British Columbia, Canada, the number of active Pacific halibut licences (L licences) and First Nations communal commercial licences (FL licences) was 126 in 2025. In addition, Pacific halibut can be landed as incidental catch in other licensed groundfish fisheries. In 2025, this occurred from a total of 32 licences from other fisheries. The 2025 projected directed commercial landings represent 1,728 tonnes (3,810,483 pounds) of Pacific halibut. The Experimental Recreational Halibut (XRQ) Program was postponed until further notice (FN0262) .

Directed commercial trips from IPHC Regulatory Area 2B were delivered into 12 different ports in 2025. The ports of Port Hardy (including Coal Harbour and Port McNeill) and Prince Rupert/Port Edward were the major landing locations, receiving 93% of the commercial landings. Port Hardy received 40% and Prince Rupert received 53% of the directed commercial landings. In 2025, a total of 26 Canadian vessels landed frozen, head-off Pacific halibut for a total of 36 tonnes (79,607 pounds) over 57 landings. Live landings resulted in a total landed weight of <1 tonne (525 pounds).

USA – IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3, and 4 (Alaska)

In Alaska, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries) Restricted Access Management (RAM) Program allocated Pacific halibut quota share (QS) to recipients by IPHC Regulatory Area. Quota share transfers were permitted with restrictions on the amount of QS a person could hold and the amount that could be fished per vessel. In 2025, RAM reported that 2,206 persons/entities held QS.

The total 2025 landings from the IFQ/CDQ Pacific halibut fishery for the waters off Alaska projected through 7 December was 5,314 tonnes (11,715,646 pounds), 22% under the directed commercial fishery landings limit. By IPHC Regulatory Area, the directed commercial landings are projected under the fishery limit by 16% for Area 2C, 8% for Area 3A, 12% for Area 3B, 33% for Area 4A, 78% for Area 4B (IFQ/CDQ), and 57% for 4CDE (IFQ/CDQ).

Homer received approximately 24% (1,254 tonnes or 2,765,482 pounds) of the Alaskan directed commercial landings, making it the port that received the greatest landed volume in 2025. Kodiak received the second largest landing volume at 14% (734 tonnes or 1,619,044 pounds) of the Alaskan commercial landings. In Southeast Alaska, the two largest landing volumes were received in Petersburg and Sitka, with their combined landings representing 15% of the directed commercial Alaskan landings (798 tonnes or 1,758,762 pounds). The Alaskan QS catch that was landed in Bellingham, WA was less than 2%.

Directed commercial sector mortality was 16% under the commercial sector FCEY limit (includes directed commercial discard mortality in IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C and 3A, Metlakatla and GAF).

In Alaska, 10 tonnes (22,500 pounds) of Pacific halibut were caught with pot gear and landed within the directed commercial fishery, representing 0.2% of the total Alaska landings.

The Metlakatla Indian Community (within IPHC Regulatory Area 2C) was authorized by the United States government to conduct a commercial Pacific halibut fishery within the Annette Islands Reserve.

There were 14 two-day openings between 4 April and 12 October for total landings of 22 tonnes (49,316 pounds). The fishery closed on 12 October.

Directed commercial discard mortality

Incidental mortality of Pacific halibut in the directed commercial Pacific halibut fishery is the mortality of all Pacific halibut that do not become part of the landed catch. The three main sources of discard mortality include: 1) fish that are captured and discarded because they are below the legal-size limit of 81.3 cm (32 inches); 2) fish that are estimated to die on lost or abandoned fishing gear; and 3) fish that are discarded for regulatory reasons (e.g., the vessel's trip limit has been exceeded). The methods that are applied to produce each of these estimates differ due to the amount and quality of information available. Information on lost gear and regulatory discards is collected through logbook interviews and fishing logs received by mail. The ratio of U32 to O32 Pacific halibut (>81.3 cm or 32 inches in length) is determined from the IPHC FISS in most areas and by direct observation in the IPHC Regulatory Area 2B fishery. Different mortality rates are applied to each category: released Pacific halibut have an estimated 16% mortality rate and Pacific halibut mortality from lost gear is assumed to be 100%.

Pacific halibut discard mortality estimates from the commercial Pacific halibut fishery are summarized by IPHC Regulatory Area in Table 2.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

The 2025 recreational removals of Pacific halibut, including discard mortality, was estimated at 2,594 tonnes (5,718,729 pounds). Changes in harvests varied across areas, in some cases, in response to changes in size restrictions. Recreational fishery limits and landings are detailed by IPHC Regulatory Area in Table 2.

Recreational landings

USA – IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Washington, Oregon, California)

The 2025 IPHC Regulatory Area 2A recreational allocation was 281 tonnes (619,189 pounds) net weight and based on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Catch Sharing Plan formula, which divides the overall fishery limit among all sectors. The recreational allocation was further subdivided to seven subareas, after 32 tonnes (70,000 pounds) were allocated to the incidental Pacific halibut catch in the commercial sablefish fishery in Washington. This subdivision resulted in 129 tonnes (284,042 pounds) being allocated to Washington subareas, 134 tonnes (295,367 pounds) to Oregon subareas, and 18 tonnes (39,780 pounds) to California.[1] The IPHC Regulatory Area 2A recreational harvest totaled 218 tonnes (WA, OR and CA; 480,784 pounds), 22% under the recreational fishery limit. Recreational fishery harvest seasons by subareas varied and were managed in season with fisheries open in Washington from 3 April to 30 September, in Oregon from 1 May to 31 October, and in California from 1 May to 15 November.

Canada – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (British Columbia)

IPHC Regulatory Area 2B operated under a 126 cm (49.6 inch) maximum size limit. Anglers had a retention limit choice of one Pacific halibut between 90 and 126 cm (35.4 - 49.6 inches) or two under 90 cm (35.4 inch), with an annual limit of ten per licence holder. Effective 1 April, the daily retention limit was changed to one fish no greater than 102 cm (40.2 inches) (FN0194). The IPHC Regulatory Area 2B recreational harvest was at 78% of the recreational fishery limit.

[1] Since 2024, in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A, the USA (NOAA Fisheries) may take in-season action to reallocate the recreational fishery limits between Washington, Oregon, and California after determining that such action will not result in exceeding the overall IPHC Regulatory Area 2A recreational fishery limit and that such action is consistent with any domestic catch sharing plan.

Recreational landings in British Columbia are also allowed under the Pacific Region Experimental Recreational [Pacific] Halibut Program (XRQ), though the program was deferred in 2025 (FN0262).

USA - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3, and 4 (Alaska)

In IPHC Regulatory Area 2C, charter anglers were permitted to retain one Pacific halibut per day. From 1 February to 31 December, retained Pacific halibut must be less than or equal to 37 inches or greater than or equal to 80 inches. Pacific halibut retention was not allowed on Tuesdays.

In IPHC Regulatory Area 3A, charter anglers were allowed to retain two Pacific halibut per day, with only one fish exceeding 27 inches. If only one Pacific halibut was retained, it could be any size. Charter vessels were limited to one fishing trip per day when retaining Pacific halibut, and Pacific halibut retention was prohibited on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

In addition, a Guided Angler Fish (GAF) program allows recreational harvesters to land fish that is leased from commercial fishery quota shareholders for the current season.

Recreational discard mortality

Pacific halibut discarded for any reason experience some level of mortality and impacts more of the stock with the increasing use of size restrictions, such as reverse slot limits. Current year estimates from USA agencies of recreational discard mortality have been received and are provided in Table 2. Canada has not provided recreational discard mortality estimates; therefore, the discard mortality rate from IPHC Regulatory Area 2C is applied to the estimated landings from IPHC Regulatory Area 2B.

SUBSISTENCE FISHERIES

Pacific halibut is taken throughout its range as subsistence harvest by several fisheries. Subsistence fisheries are non-commercial, customary, and traditional use of Pacific halibut for direct personal, family, or community consumption or sharing as food, or customary trade. The primary subsistence fisheries are the treaty Indian Ceremonial and Subsistence fishery in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A off northwest Washington State, the First Nations Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) fishery in British Columbia, and the subsistence fishery by rural residents and federally recognized native tribes in Alaska documented via Subsistence [Pacific] Halibut Registration Certificates (SHARC).

The coastwide subsistence estimate for 2025 was 373 tonnes (822,866 pounds) (Table 2). This includes U32 fish retained for personal consumption in CDQ fishery (excluded from commercial CDQ landings statistics), reported directly to the IPHC in accordance with Section 14 of the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2025).

Estimated subsistence harvests by area

In the commercial Pacific halibut fisheries coastwide, the state and federal regulations require that take-home Pacific halibut caught during commercial fishing be recorded as part of the commercial fishery on the landing records (i.e., State fish tickets or Canadian validation records). This is consistent across areas, including the quota share fisheries in Canada and USA, and as part of fishing period limits and Pacific halibut ratios in the incidental fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. Therefore, personal use fish or take-home fish within the commercial fisheries, with exception of U32 fish retained by CDQ groups, are accounted for as commercial catch and are not included here.

USA - IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Washington, Oregon, California)

The Pacific Fishery Management Council's Catch Sharing Plan allocates the Pacific halibut fishery limit to commercial, recreational, and treaty Indian users in IPHC Regulatory Area 2A. The treaty tribal fishery limit is further sub-divided into commercial and C&S fisheries. It is estimated that 7 tonnes (14,800 pounds) were retained as C&S.

Canada - IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (British Columbia)

The source of Pacific halibut subsistence harvest in British Columbia is the First Nations FSC fishery. The IPHC receives some logbook and landing data for this harvest from the DFO, but those data have not been adequate for the IPHC to make an independent estimate of the FSC fishery harvest. DFO estimated the First Nations FSC harvest to be 136 tonnes (300,000 pounds) annually until 2006, and since 2007, the yearly estimate has been provided as 184 tonnes (405,000 pounds).

USA - IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3, and 4 (Alaska)

In 2003, the subsistence Pacific halibut fishery off Alaska was formally recognized by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and implemented by IPHC and NOAA Fisheries regulations. The fishery allows the customary and traditional use of Pacific halibut by rural residents and members of federally recognized Alaska, USA native tribes who can retain Pacific halibut for non-commercial use, food, or customary trade. The NOAA Fisheries regulations define legal gear, number of hooks, and daily bag limits, and IPHC regulations set the fishing season. Prior to subsistence fishing, eligible applicants must obtain a SHARC license. The Division of Subsistence at Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) was contracted by NOAA Fisheries to estimate the subsistence harvest in Alaska through a data collection program. A voluntary survey of fishers is conducted by mail or phone, with some onsite visits. Since 2018, this survey has been conducted on a biennial schedule rather than annually. The 2023 estimates have been carried forward for 2024 and 2025, except for Regulatory Area 4CDE, which has been updated. Estimates for all Regulatory Areas are provided in Table 2.

In addition to the SHARC harvest, IPHC regulations allow Pacific halibut less than 81.3 cm or 32 inches in fork length (also called U32) to be retained in the IPHC Regulatory Area 4D and 4E commercial Pacific halibut CDQ fishery, under an exemption requested by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, if the fish are not sold or bartered. The exemption originally applied only to CDQ fisheries in IPHC Regulatory Area 4E in 1998 but was expanded in 2002 to also include IPHC Regulatory Area 4D. The CDQ organizations are required to report to the IPHC the amounts retained during their commercial fishing operations. This harvest is not included in the SHARC program estimate and is reported separately.

Reports for 2025 removals were received from three CDQ management organizations: Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC), Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC), and Coastal Villages Regional Fund (CVRF).

CDQ – Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC)

BBEDC requires their fishers to record the lengths of retained U32 Pacific halibut in a separate log, which are then tabulated by BBEDC at the conclusion of the season. The lengths were converted to weights using the IPHC length/weight relationship and summed to estimate the total retained U32 weight. Pacific halibut were landed by BBEDC vessels in Naknek and Dillingham. BBEDC reported the landing of two U32 Pacific halibut <1 tonne (135 pounds).

CDQ – Coastal Villages Regional Fund (CVRF)

CVRF reported that no Pacific halibut were landed by their fishers or received by their facilities.

CDQ – Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC)

NSEDC reported 146 U32 Pacific halibut weighing <1 tonne (1,327 pounds) were caught in the local CDQ fishery and landed at the Nome plant.

NON-DIRECTED COMMERCIAL DISCARD MORTALITY

The IPHC accounts for non-directed commercial discard mortality (CDM) by IPHC Regulatory Area and sector. All removals for 2025 are provided in Table 2.

Estimates of non-directed CDM of Pacific halibut are provided by Contracting Party agencies. The amounts are estimates because not all fisheries are monitored at 100%, and it is not assumed that all discarded Pacific halibut fail to survive. The IPHC relies upon information supplied by observer programs run by Contracting Party agencies for non-directed CDM estimates in most fisheries. Non-IPHC research survey information is used to generate estimates of non-directed CDM in the few cases where fishery observations are unavailable.

Non-directed commercial discard mortality by area

USA – IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (Washington, Oregon, California)

Groundfish fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California are managed by NOAA Fisheries, following advice and recommendations developed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Non-directed commercial discard mortality projected estimates are provided by NOAA Fisheries, which operates observer programs off the USA West Coast.

Canada – IPHC Regulatory Area 2B (British Columbia)

In Canada, Pacific halibut non-directed commercial discard mortality in trawl fisheries are monitored and capped at 454 tonnes round weight by DFO. Non-trawl non-directed CDM is handled under the IVQ system within the directed Pacific halibut fishery cap. Non-directed CDM information from trawl fishery is provided to IPHC by DFO.

In 2025, DFO also provided additional data that included hook-and-line and pot (groundfish) discard mortality subject to quota deductions. The submission contained by-landing data for 2022–2025. Data for 2025 were rolled over from 2024, as a full-year projection was not available.

USA – IPHC Regulatory Areas 2C, 3, and 4 (Alaska)

Groundfish fisheries in Alaska are managed by NOAA Fisheries, following advice and recommendations developed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council. Non-directed commercial discard mortality projected estimates for Alaskan areas are provided by NOAA Fisheries and ADF&G.

<u>IPHC Regulatory Area 2C (Southeast Alaska)</u>

For the federal waters of IPHC Regulatory Area 2C, only non-directed commercial discard mortality by hook-and-line vessels fishing in the outside waters were reported by NOAA Fisheries. These vessels are primarily targeting Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) and rockfish (*Sebastes* spp.) in open access fisheries, and sablefish in the IFQ fishery. In 1998, a no trawl zone was established in the Gulf of Alaska eliminating trawl fishing in this area.

Fisheries occurring within state waters and resulting in Pacific halibut non-directed CDM include pot fisheries for red and golden king crab (*Paralithodes camtschaticus*, *Lithodes aequispinus*), and tanner crab (*Chionoecetes bairdi*). Information is provided periodically by ADF&G, and the estimate was rolled forward from 2022 to 2025.

<u>IPHC Regulatory Area 3 (Eastern, Central and Western Gulf of Alaska)</u>

IPHC Regulatory Area 3 is comprised of Areas 3A and 3B. For the purposes of stock assessment and management, IPHC tracks non-directed commercial discard mortality in both IPHC Regulatory Areas. Federal groundfish fisheries operate throughout both areas and a subset of these vessels are monitored for discarded Pacific halibut. Trawl fisheries are responsible for most of the non-directed CDM in Regulatory Area 3, with hook-and-line fisheries a distant second. State-managed crab and scallop fisheries are also known to take Pacific halibut as non-directed CDM, but data from these state-managed fisheries are currently unavailable.

Estimates of non-directed CDM in IPHC Regulatory Area 3 reflect different levels of observer coverage by gear and type of fishing trip. 2024 coverage rates varied from 100% to 9% of the estimated discarded groundfish pounds by gear and fishery (Table 4-3 in AFS 2025). Trawl vessels in the Gulf of Alaska non-pelagic trawl fisheries have a high likelihood of encountering Pacific halibut and are responsible for the majority of the Pacific halibut bycatch. There are three general categories for these trawl vessels, which receive varying rates of catch monitoring. In 2024 in the Gulf of Alaska, 100% of the non-pelagic catcher/processor catch was monitored; 100% of the catch by non-pelagic catcher vessels in the Central Gulf Rockfish Program was monitored; and 18% of the remaining catch of non-pelagic catcher vessels was monitored. In total, 74% of the non-pelagic trawl catch in the Gulf of Alaska was monitored for bycatch in 2024.

There has long been concern that non-directed CDM estimates for non-pelagic trawl catcher vessels in IPHC Regulatory Area 3 have greater uncertainty and potential bias compared to those from other areas and sectors with higher coverage rates (e.g., catcher/processors). This concern had diminished in recent years as a large share of the non-pelagic trawl fleet catch in the Gulf of Alaska became observed. However, the unobserved portion of this fleet catch increased from 13% in 2023 to 26% in 2024. Catcher vessel portion partial coverage decreased from 42% in 2023 to 18% in 2024.

In July 2024, NMFS adopted rules to implement an electronic monitoring (EM) program for pelagic trawl pollock catcher vessels and tender vessels delivering to processors in the Gulf of Alaska (Amendment 114). EM essentially monitors the catch from trawl nets which may not be handled until delivery to a processor where observers monitor and record 100% of the catch. NOAA Fisheries indicated that the program evaluation improved Pacific halibut non-directed discards accounting, specifically in the Western Gulf of Alaska pollock fishery. NOAA Fisheries intends to expand the EM program to the Central Gulf of Alaska Rockfish Program in the near future.

IPHC Regulatory Area 4 (Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands)

In IPHC Regulatory Area 4CDE non-directed commercial discard mortality estimates have typically been the highest (Table 2) due to groundfish fisheries which target flatfish in the Bering Sea.

IPHC FISHERY-INDEPENDENT SETLINE SURVEY (FISS) AND OTHER IPHC RESEARCH

In 2025, 139 tonnes (305,406 pounds) of Pacific halibut were landed from the FISS and other IPHC research, including the fecundity study. Totals landed from each IPHC Regulatory Area are provided in Table 2.

NON-IPHC RESEARCH REMOVALS

In 2025, four IPHC research permits were issued to NOAA to allow the harvest of Pacific halibut while conducting their Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea standardised bottom trawl surveys. A fifth research permit was issued to the Blue Latitudes LLC for a demographic study requiring Pacific halibut capture with no retention.

REMOVALS OUTSIDE THE IPHC CONVENTION AREA

The latest Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statistics for Pacific halibut capture production outside the IPHC Convention Area (2023) indicate catches by Russia amounting to 1,861 tonnes, or 12% of the global total.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission:

1) **NOTE** paper IPHC-2025-IM101-07 Rev_1 that provides the Commission with a preliminary overview of the 2025 Pacific halibut removals, including the status of mortality reported against mortality and fishery limits adopted by the Commission and outlined in the IPHC Fishery Regulations (2025).