

*News Release*

P.O. Box 95009, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98145-2009

June 6, 2000

**2000 Halibut Landing Report No. 4****Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A**

The Commission has determined that fishing period limits will be required during the 10-hour, July 5 non-treaty directed commercial fishing period in Area 2A to avoid exceeding the 138,632 pound catch limit. The July 5 fishing period will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. The fishery is restricted to waters that are south of Point Chehalis, Washington (46°53'18"N. latitude) under regulations promulgated by National Marine Fisheries Service. Fishing period limits as indicated in the following table will be in effect for this opening.

Vessel Class		Fishing Period Limit (pounds)	
Length	Letter	Dressed, head-on	Dressed, head-off*
0-25	A	350	310
26-30	B	445	390
31-35	C	705	620
36-40	D	1,950	1,715
41-45	E	2,095	1,845
46-50	F	2,505	2,205
51-55	G	2,795	2,460
56+	H	4,205	3,700

\*Weights are after 2% has been deducted for ice and slime if fish are not washed prior to weighing.

The appropriate vessel length class and letter are printed on each vessel license.

The fishing period limit is shown in terms of dressed, head-off weight as well as dressed, head-on weight, although fishermen are reminded that regulations require that all halibut from Area 2A be landed with the head on.

The fishing period limit applies to the vessel, not the individual fisherman, and any landings over the vessel limit will be subject to forfeiture and fine.

**Northwest Treaty Tribes Fishery in Area 2A**

In 2000 the Northwest treaty Indian tribes were allocated a total allowable catch of 315,500 pounds in subarea 2A-1 (northern Washington coast); 10,500 pounds are reserved for ceremonial and subsistence purposes, leaving 305,000 pounds for the treaty Indian commercial fishery. The unrestricted fishery catch of 186,264 pounds was taken in two openings. The restricted fishery was limited to 500 pounds per trip and the catch totaled 117,901 pounds. The treaty Indian commercial halibut fishery closed for the year on May 10 with a total catch of 304,165 pounds, 835 pounds under the catch limit.

**Incidental Commercial Halibut Catch in the Area 2A Salmon Troll Fishery**

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of halibut allocated to the salmon troll fishery was 24,464 pounds. As of late May, it was estimated that approximately 10,000 pounds were landed.

## Area 2A Sport Halibut Season Openings and Closures

### **Washington**

The Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca (east of the Sekiu River) opened May 25 and will close July 27 as scheduled. Sport halibut fishing is open five days a week from Thursday through Monday. The daily bag limit and possession limit is one halibut with no minimum size limit. The projected harvest for the season is 49,137 pounds.

Through May 28, the harvest for the northwest Washington coast (Sekiu River to Queets River) is 49,860 pounds, about half of the 99,774 pound quota. Halibut fishing is open five days per week, Tuesday through Saturday, with a one halibut daily bag and possession limit and no minimum size limit.

All sport halibut fishing is closed for the remainder of 2000 on the southwest Washington coast (Queets River to Leadbetter Point). The all-depth fishery closed on May 29 and the near-shore fishery closed on June 2 at 11:59PM. Preliminary harvest estimates indicate 35,734 pounds have been caught, exceeding the 34,482 pound catch limit. An increase in the average weight of halibut landed in the last week of this fishery lead to a rapid closure.

About 20 percent of the Columbia River (Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon) sport halibut quota has been taken. This fishery is open seven days a week with a one halibut daily bag and possession limit. The first halibut taken with a length of 32 inches or greater must be kept. A total of 6,348 pounds remain in the season quota.

### **Oregon**

Good weather and fishing contributed to both the north central Oregon (Cape Falcon to Florence north jetty) and south central Oregon (Florence north jetty to Humbug Mt.) areas exceeding their quotas in the May all-depth fishery. The north central harvest was 112,953 pounds compared to a quota of 97,630 pounds. The south central harvest was 15,620 pounds compared to a quota of 9,094 pounds. Therefore, the sport halibut all-depth fishery from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. is now closed. An announcement will be made prior to August 4 on whether the sport halibut all-depth fishery will re-open this year.

Halibut sport fishing is open only inside the 30-fathom curve from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. This fishery is open seven days a week with a one halibut bag and possession limit and an area catch limit of 12,324 pounds. The harvest through May 28 is 474 pounds. The first halibut taken with a length of 32 inches or greater must be kept.

### **Southern Oregon – California**

The sport halibut fishery south of Humbug Mt. opened on May 1 and will remain open through September 30, 2000. This fishery is open seven days a week with a one halibut bag and possession limit. The first halibut taken with a length of 32 inches or greater must be kept. The projected catch is 4,893 pounds.

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