

News Release

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

June 15, 2000

2000 Halibut Landing Report No. 5**Washington North Coast Sport Halibut Fishery to Close on Friday, June 16**

Preliminary estimates through June 11 and projections through June 16 for the Washington North Coast sport halibut fishery (Sekiu River to the Queets River) indicate that the catch will reach approximately 91,000 pounds. The projected catch will be about 1,000 pounds below the 92,774 pound sub-quota for the May 1 through June 30 fishing period. Therefore, the Washington North Coast sport halibut fishery will close at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, June 16, 2000. This fishery will re-open as scheduled on July 1, 2000. An announcement will be made jointly by the International Pacific Halibut Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service and Washington Department of Fisheries and Wildlife prior to June 23 regarding the number of remaining fishing days.

Quota Share Commercial Fishery Update

It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the British Columbia IVQ and in the Alaskan IFQ/CDQ fisheries through June 15, 2000.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	8,400	4,708	1,467
3A	18,310	9,657	1,469
3B	15,030	6,308	385
4A	4,970	1,110	83
4B	4,910	803	57
4C	2,030	7	2
4D	2,030	213	7
4E	390	39	126
Alaska total	56,070	22,845	3,596
2B	10,600	4,740	396
Grand Total	66,670	27,585	3,992

The Alaskan catch represents 41% of the catch limit. For comparison, from March 15 to June 15, 1999, 25.8 million pounds, or 42% of the 1999 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan IFQ/CDQ fishery. From March 15 to June 15, 1999, 6.1 million pounds, or 50% of the catch limit, were landed from Area 2B (British Columbia) compared to 45% in 2000.

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Annette Island Reserve Fishery in Area 2C

The Metlakatla Indian community has been authorized by the United States Government to conduct a commercial halibut fishery within the Annette Island Reserve. Two 48-hour fishing periods occurred between April 29 and May 15, with a total catch of 1,400 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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 is 24,464 pounds. As of June 4, it was estimated that 8,500 pounds of halibut were landed in the incidental commercial halibut fishery in Oregon. Washington numbers are unknown at this time.

Glacier Bay Notification

In cooperation with Glacier Bay National Park, a notification of an underwater cable in Glacier Bay is included with this Landing Report.

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Notification of Underwater Cable in Bartlett Cove, Glacier Bay National Park, Southeastern Alaska

The National Park Service hereby notifies the public of an underwater cable recently placed along the shoreline of Bartlett Cove. The cable is in very shallow water (less than 20 ft deep) for most of its length, but in approximately 170 ft of water (near "B" on map) there is an anchor that holds an underwater microphone. The microphone is being used to monitor underwater ambient noise in Glacier Bay, and will remain in place until further notice. The enclosed map shows the approximate location of the cable.

The National Park Service requests that all mariners avoid anchoring or setting fishing gear anywhere that they might hook the cable. In particular, please avoid anchoring or bottom-fishing in the triangle shown on the map, defined by the following latitude/longitude coordinates (degrees, minutes, seconds), where the cable is in deep water most often used for fishing and anchoring.

A: 58 27 25.41 N, 135 55 27.92 W

B: 58 25 41.66 N, 135 55 55.10 W

C: 58 25 35.22 N, 135 54 23.56 W

Avoiding the cable is in the best interest of mariners and the National Park Service. Anyone who believes they may have snagged the cable is asked to *please report the location of the possible damage*, so that it may be more easily repaired. For more information on the underwater noise monitoring project, please call Christine Gabriele at Glacier Bay National Park: (907)-697-2664.

