

News Release

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May 21, 2001

2001 Halibut Landing Report No. 2**Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A**

The Commission has determined that fishing period limits will be required during the 10-hour, June 27 non-treaty directed commercial fishing period in Area 2A to avoid exceeding the 192,926 pound catch limit. The June 27 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	380	335
26-30	B	475	420
31-35	C	760	670
36-40	D	2,100	1,850
41-45	E	2,260	1,990
46-50	F	2,710	2,385
51-55	G	3,020	2,660
56+	H	4,545	4,000

*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.

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 34,046 pounds. It was estimated that 1,285 pounds of halibut have been landed from the incidental fishery during the salmon troll season. In Oregon, 850 pounds of halibut were landed as of May 13 and 435 pounds of halibut were landed in Washington as of May 14.

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 fishery through May 17, 2001. No Community Development Quota (CDQ) landings have been made.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	8,780	2,957	844
3A	21,890	8,218	987
3B	16,530	2,993	181
4A	4,970	254	18
4B	4,910	161	8
4C	2,030	0	0
4D	2,030	0	0
4E	390	0	0
Alaska total	61,530	14,583	2,038
2B	10,510	3,092	242
Grand Total	72,040	17,675	2,280

The Alaskan catch represents 24% of the catch limit. For comparison, from March 15 to May 15, 2000, 12.6 million pounds or 23% of the 2000 catch limit were landed in the Alaskan IFQ fishery. From March 15 to May 15, 2000 3.5 million pounds or 33% of the catch limit were landed from Area 2B (British Columbia) compared to 29% in 2001.

Northwest Treaty Tribes Fishery in Area 2A

In 2001, the Northwest treaty Indian tribes were allocated a total allowable catch of 424,000 pounds in subarea 2A-1 (northern Washington coast); 17,500 pounds are reserved for ceremonial and subsistence purposes, leaving 406,500 pounds for the treaty Indian commercial fishery. As of April 20, two unrestricted fisheries, March 21-23 and April 19-20, and a restricted fishery have resulted in an estimated halibut catch of 384,353 pounds. A restricted fishery occurred after April 20 and the catch estimate is unavailable.

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. One 48-hour fishing period occurred between May 4 and May 6, with a total catch of 4,498 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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