

News Release



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June 17, 2002

2002 Halibut Landing Report No. 4

Subsistence Halibut Fishery in Alaskan waters

The subsistence halibut fishery adopted by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council for waters off Alaska has not been approved by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. National Marine Fisheries Service is writing the regulations that will implement the subsistence fishery. Fish for subsistence use can be taken currently under IPHC sport fish regulations, allowing a single line with no more than two hooks attached or a spear. The exception is in the Area 4E CDQ fishery where sublegal-sized halibut can be retained, provided the catch is recorded and the fish are not sold or bartered.

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 in Area 2A is 39,300 pounds. It is estimated that 4,753 pounds of halibut were landed in Oregon through June 2 and 2,000 pounds were landed in Washington through May 26.

Incidental Commercial Halibut Catch in the Area 2A Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of halibut allocated to the limited entry, fixed gear sablefish fishery which operates in Area 2A north of Point Chehalis, Washington is 88,389 pounds. It is estimated that 6,039 pounds have been landed from this fishery.

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 May 10 and May 26, with a total catch of 2,212 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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Quota Share Commercial Fishery Update

It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the British Columbia IVQ fishery through June 14, 2002 and in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries through June 16, 2002.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	8,500	4,863	1,080
3A	22,630	13,052	1,182
3B	17,130	7,674	379
4A	4,970	774	71
4B	4,180	1,065	58
4C	2,030	0	0
4D	2,030	200	7
4E	390	145	313
Alaska total	61,860	27,773	3,090
2B	11,750	5,453	387
Grand Total	73,610	33,226	3,477

The Alaskan catch represents 45% of the catch limit. For comparison, from March 15 to June 14, 2001, 24.4 million pounds or 40% of the 2001 catch limit were landed in the Alaskan IFQ/CDQ fisheries. From March 15 to June 14, 2001, 4.4 million pounds or 42% of the 2001 catch limit were landed from Area 2B (British Columbia) compared to 46% in 2002.

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