

INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

News Release



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

July 16, 2002

2002 Halibut Landing Report No. 6

Area 2A Non-treaty Directed Commercial Fishery to Reopen on July 24

The July 10 non-treaty commercial fishing period in Area 2A resulted in a catch of about 46,000 pounds, leaving 47,700 pounds in the directed commercial catch limit.

Area 2A will reopen on July 24 for 10 hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. local time. 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 halibut license.

The fishing period limit is shown in terms of dressed, head-off weight as well as dressed, head-on weight, although fishers 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 fishers.

Area 2A Incidental Commercial Halibut Fishery during the Salmon Troll Season

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of halibut allocated to the Area 2A salmon troll fishery is 39,300 pounds. The estimate of halibut landed in Oregon through July 14 is 9,000 pounds. The troll fishery off Washington has landed 8,737 pounds, with the initial May/June season accounting for 3,087 pounds and the July 1-8 fishery accounting for 5,650 pounds. The incidental halibut catch fishery during the salmon troll season remains open until further notice. For further incidental fishery retention information call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825).

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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 19,866 pounds have been landed through July 6. This incidental halibut catch fishery remains open until further notice. For further incidental fishery retention information call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825).

Quota Share Commercial Fishery Update

It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the British Columbia IVQ fishery and in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries through July 15, 2002.

| Area | Catch Limit (000's pounds) | Catch (000's pounds) | Number of Landings |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2C | 8,500 | 5,621 | 1,404 |
| 3A | 22,630 | 15,916 | 1,550 |
| 3B | 17,130 | 10,425 | 520 |
| 4A | 4,970 | 1,529 | 115 |
| 4B | 4,180 | 1,722 | 104 |
| 4C | 2,030 | 312 | 205 |
| 4D | 2,030 | 376 | 15 |
| 4E | 390 | 332 | 997 |
| Alaska total | 61,860 | 36,233 | 4,910 |
| 2B | 11,750 | 6,770 | 529 |
| Grand Total | 73,610 | 43,003 | 5,439 |

The Alaskan catch represents 59% of the catch limit. For comparison, from March 15 to July 18, 2001, 31.8 million pounds or 52% of the 2001 catch limit were landed in the Alaskan IFQ/CDQ fisheries. From March 15 to July 18, 2001, 5.6 million pounds or 50% of the 2001 catch limit were landed from Area 2B (British Columbia) compared to 58% in 2002.

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. Five 48-hour fishing periods occurred between May 10 and July 7, with a total catch of 14,889 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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