

News Release

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

July 29, 2003

2003 Halibut Landing Report No. 8**Area 2A Non-treaty Directed Commercial Fishery to Re-open on August 6**

The July 23 non-treaty commercial fishing period in Area 2A resulted in a catch of about 35,000 pounds, leaving 22,700 pounds in the directed commercial catch limit.

Area 2A will re-open on August 6 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	240	210
26-30	B	300	265
31-35	C	475	420
36-40	D	1,320	1,160
41-45	E	1,415	1,245
46-50	F	1,695	1,490
51-55	G	1,890	1,665
56+	H	2,840	2,500

*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 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 fisher, and any landings over the vessel limit will be subject to forfeiture and fine.

In 2003, NMFS implemented mandatory depth-based area closures that are in effect for the directed halibut fishery, to protect specific rockfish species. NMFS has mailed information on the closures to license holders. For further information, call the NMFS hotline at 1-800-662-9825, then press "5" for the halibut fisheries.

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