

*News Release*

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September 16, 2003

**2003 Halibut Landing Report No. 12****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 September 15, 2003 and in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries through September 16, 2003.

<b>Area</b>	<b>Catch Limit (000's pounds)</b>	<b>Catch (000's pounds)</b>	<b>Number of Landings</b>
2C	8,500	7,197	2,302
3A	22,630	19,245	2,116
3B	17,130	14,656	810
4A	4,970	4,291	320
4B	4,180	3,144	194
4C	2,030	860	507
4D/4E	2,420	1,875	1,318
Alaska total	61,860	51,268	7,567
2B	11,750	8,723	812
Grand Total	73,610	59,991	8,379

The Alaskan catch represents 83% of the 2003 catch limit. From March 18 to September 16, 2002, 53.1 million pounds, or 86% of the 2002 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery. When comparing the length of the fishing period, 55.8 million pounds, or 90% of the 2002 catch limit, were landed after twenty-six weeks (September 30) in 2002.

The British Columbia catch represents 74% of the 2003 catch limit. From March 18 to September 16, 2002, 9.7 million pounds, or 82% of the 2002 catch limit, were landed from Area 2B (British Columbia). Comparing the length of the fishing period, 10.4 million pounds, or 88% of the area allocation, were landed from Area 2B after twenty-six weeks (September 30) in 2002.

**Annette Islands 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 Islands Reserve. The seventh 48-hour fishing period this year occurred between August 16 and August 18, with a total catch of 16,082 pounds. An eighth opening occurred between August 30 and September 1 resulting in a total catch of 10,739 pounds. After eight openings, a grand total of 75,242 pounds have been landed. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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#### Area 4 Vessel Clearances

Please be advised that no changes have been made to the regulations concerning Area 4 vessel clearances. Clearances are still required for fishing in Regulatory Area 4 as per IPHC regulations at <http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/pubs/regs/2003iphcregs.pdf>. However, NOAA Fisheries recently changed some of its reporting requirements regarding IFQ fisheries (<http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/frules/fr44473.pdf>).

#### 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 70,000 pounds. It is estimated that 46,761 pounds have been landed through August 26. This incidental halibut catch fishery remains open until further notice.

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