

*News Release*


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

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**2003 Halibut Landing Report No. 13****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 October 16, 2003 and in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries through October 17, 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	7,821	2,572
3A	22,630	21,091	2,343
3B	17,130	16,200	927
4A	4,970	4,694	365
4B	4,180	3,547	218
4C	2,030	874	515
4D/4E	2,420	2,237	1,352
Alaska total	61,860	56,464	8,292
2B	11,750	10,086	962
Grand Total	73,610	66,550	9,254

The Alaskan catch represents 91% of the 2003 catch limit. From March 18 to October 15, 2002, 57.7 million pounds, or 93% of the 2002 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery. When comparing the length of the fishing period, 59.2 million pounds, or 96% of the 2002 catch limit, were landed after thirty weeks (October 31) in 2002.

The British Columbia catch represents 86% of the 2003 catch limit. From March 18 to October 15, 2002, 10.9 million pounds, or 93% of the 2002 catch limit, were landed from Area 2B (British Columbia). Comparing the length of the fishing period, 11.7 million pounds, or 99% of the area allocation, were landed from Area 2B after thirty weeks (October 31) in 2002.

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### 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 ninth 48-hour fishing period this year occurred between September 13 and September 15, with a total catch of 6,430 pounds. A tenth opening occurred between September 27 and September 29 resulting in a total catch of 833 pounds. After ten openings, a grand total of 82,505 pounds have been landed. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

### 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 60,356 pounds have been landed through October 6. This incidental halibut catch fishery is scheduled to close on October 31.

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