

News Release

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

November 20, 2003

2003 Halibut Landing Report No. 14**Quota Share Commercial Fishery Update**

The British Columbia IVQ fishery and the Alaska IFQ and CDQ fisheries closed on November 15. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the British Columbia IVQ fishery through November 19, 2003 and in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries through November 20, 2003.

| Area | Catch Limit (000's pounds) | Catch (000's pounds) | Number of Landings |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2C | 8,500 | 8,243 | 2,755 |
| 3A | 22,630 | 22,271 | 2,550 |
| 3B | 17,130 | 17,141 | 1,003 |
| 4A | 4,970 | 4,895 | 384 |
| 4B | 4,180 | 3,788 | 228 |
| 4C | 2,030 | 878 | 516 |
| 4D/4E | 2,420 | 2,317 | 1,355 |
| Alaska total | 61,860 | 59,533 | 8,791 |
| 2B | 11,750 | 11,659 | 1,066 |
| Grand Total | 73,610 | 71,192 | 9,857 |

The Alaskan catch represents 96% of the 2003 catch limit. By the end of the 2002 season, 60.6 million pounds, or 98% of the 2002 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery.

The British Columbia catch represents 99% of the 2003 catch limit. By the end of the 2002 season, 12.0 million pounds, or 102% of the 2002 catch limit, were landed from Area 2B (British Columbia). Please note that these percentages do not take into account any overage/underage plans that are in effect.

While the individual quota fisheries closed on November 15, catch numbers are not yet final as fishers are permitted a period of time after closure to deliver their fish.

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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 70,000 pounds. It is estimated that a total of 65,325 pounds have been landed. This incidental fishery closed on October 31.

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