INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

News Release

June 2, 2004

2004 Halibut Landing Report No. 3

Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A

The Commission has determined that fishing period limits will be required during the 10-hour, June 23 non-treaty directed commercial fishing period in Area 2A to avoid exceeding the 252,475 pound catch limit. The June 23 fishing period will begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. 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 (NMFS). 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	670	590
26-30	B	835	735
31-35	C	1,335	1,175
36-40	D	3,680	3,240
41-45	E	3,960	3,485
46-50	F	4,740	4,170
51-55	G	5,290	4,655
56+	H	7,955	7,000

*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 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 2004, 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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