

News Release

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June 17, 2004

2004 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 4**Central Oregon Coast Sport Halibut Fishery to Re-Open June 25-26**

Preliminary estimates through June 12 for the Central Oregon coast sport halibut fishery (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain) indicate that the harvest is 133,120 pounds, or 61,583 pounds short of the 194,703 pound catch limit. Therefore, the Central Oregon coast sport halibut fishery will re-open for two days, Friday, June 25 and Saturday June 26, 2004. The daily bag and possession limit is one fish. The first halibut taken with a length of 32 inches or greater must be kept. Details on catch and regulations for all Oregon sub-areas can be found at <http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/odfw/finfish/halibut/>. For further information on Area 2A halibut fishing, call the National Marine Fisheries Service hotline (1-800-662-9825).

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 June 16, 2004 and in the Alaskan IFQ/CDQ fisheries through June 17, 2004.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	10,500	5,526	1,143
3A	25,060	12,938	1,182
3B	15,600	6,488	323
4A	3,470	553	59
4B	2,810	431	33
4C	1,720	129	30
4D/4E	2,065	177	320
Alaska total	61,225	26,242	3,090
2B	12,141	5,397	400
Grand Total	73,366	31,639	3,490

The Alaskan catch represents 43% of the catch limit. For comparison, from March 1 to June 16, 2003, 28.0 million pounds, or 45% of the 2003 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery. Comparing British Columbian landings, from March 1 to June 16, 2003, 5.2 million pounds, or 44% of the catch limit, were landed from Area 2B compared to 44% in 2004.

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Annette Island 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 third 48-hour fishing period occurred between May 14 and May 16, with a total catch of 4,853 pounds. A fourth opening occurred between May 28 and May 30, resulting in a total catch of 6,207 pounds. After four openings, a grand total of 15,478 pounds have been landed. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

Area 2A Incidental Commercial Halibut Fishery during the Salmon Troll Season

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of halibut allocated to the Area 2A salmon troll fishery is 44,554 pounds. The estimate of halibut landed through June 6 in Oregon is 4,400 pounds. An estimated weight of halibut landed in Washington State is unavailable. The incidental halibut catch fishery during the salmon troll season remains open until further notice.

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