

News Release

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

October 15, 2004

2004 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 12Quota 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 14, 2004 and in the Alaskan IFQ/CDQ fisheries through October 15, 2004.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	10,500	9,439	2,562
3A	25,060	23,096	2,411
3B	15,600	14,616	821
4A	3,470	3,265	273
4B	2,810	2,571	175
4C	1,720	914	405
4D/4E	2,065	1,943	909
Alaska total	61,225	55,844	7,556
2B	12,141	10,315	930
Grand Total	73,366	66,159	8,486

The 2004 Alaskan catch represents 91% of the catch limit. For comparison, from March 1 to October 17, 2003, 56.5 million pounds, or 91% of the 2003 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery. Comparing the British Columbia landings, from March 1 to October 16, 2003, 10.1 million pounds, or 86% of the catch limit, were landed from Area 2B, compared to 85% in 2004.

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 tenth 48-hour fishing period during 2004 occurred between August 20 and August 22, with a total catch of 10,967 pounds. An eleventh opening occurred between September 3 and September 5, resulting in a total catch of 7,303 pounds. A twelfth opening occurred between September 17 and September 19, with a total catch of 2,080 pounds. The thirteenth 48-hour fishing period occurred between October 1 and October 3, with a total catch of 591 pounds. After thirteen openings, a grand total of 89,522 pounds have been landed. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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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 58,752 pounds had been landed through October 6. This incidental halibut catch fishery remains open until further notice. For further incidental fishery retention information call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825).

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