

News Release

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

June 17, 2005

2005 Halibut Landing Report No. 3**Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update**

The quota share halibut fisheries opened on February 27, 2005. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ/CDQ fisheries and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through June 15, 2005.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	10,930	5,241	1,127
3A	25,470	13,272	1,248
3B	13,150	5,086	296
4A	3,440	661	51
4B	2,260	371	27
4C	1,815	59	28
4D/4E	2,174	145	252
Alaska total	59,239	24,835	3,029
2B	11,658	4,815	408
Grand Total	70,897	29,650	3,437

The Alaskan catch represents 42% of the 2005 catch limit. For comparison, from February 29 to June 17, 2004, 26.2 million pounds, or 43% of the 2004 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery. The British Columbian catch represents 41% of the 2005 catch limit. Between February 29 and June 16, 2004, 5.4 million pounds, or 44% of the catch limit, were landed from Area 2B.

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 third 48-hour fishing period of 2005 occurred between May 28 and May 30, with a total catch of 6,717 pounds. After three openings, a grand total of 11,439 pounds have been landed in 2005. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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Columbia River Area Closed June 12 for Remainder of 2005

The preliminary catch estimate for the Columbia River sport halibut fishery (Leadbetter Point, WA to Cape Falcon, OR) through June 12 is 13,826 pounds, which exceeds the quota for this area. Consequently, the Columbia River sport halibut fishery closed on June 12 at 11:59 p.m. for the remainder of 2005.

North Washington Coast Sport Halibut Fishery Open on June 16 and June 18 Only

The north Washington coast sport halibut fishery (Sekiu River, WA to Queets River, WA) will be **open on Thursday, June 16, closed on Friday, June 17 and will reopen for one more day on Saturday, June 18.** Approximately 38,000 pounds remain to be caught in this area.

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 39,918 pounds. It is estimated that 2,500 pounds of halibut were landed in Oregon through June 5. An estimated 7,430 pounds of halibut were landed in Washington State during the month of May. The incidental halibut catch fishery during the salmon troll season remains open until further notice.

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Bruce M. Leaman
Executive Director
Phone: (206) 634-1838
Fax: (206) 632-2983
Web: www.iphc.washington.edu