

News Release

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

August 2, 2005

2005 Halibut Landing Report No. 7**Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A for the August 10th opening**

The July 27 non-treaty commercial fishing period in Area 2A resulted in a catch of about 38,000 pounds, leaving 30,203 pounds in the directed commercial catch limit.

Area 2A will reopen on August 10 for 10 hours from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. local time. 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	380	335
26-30	B	475	420
31-35	C	760	670
36-40	D	2,100	1,850
41-45	E	2,260	1,990
46-50	F	2,710	2,385
51-55	G	3,025	2,660
56+	H	4,545	4,000

*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 2005, 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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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 21,618 pounds have been landed through July 27. 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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