

News Release

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August 17, 2006

2006 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 7Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update

The 2006 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 5, one week later than the 2005 opening date. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through August 15, 2006.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	10,630	7,624	2,035
3A	25,200	18,628	1,840
3B	10,860	7,499	470
4A	3,350	1,840	149
4B	1,670	1,133	81
4C	1,610	392	289
4D	1,610	1,058	37
4E	330	317	1,316
Alaska total	55,260	38,491	6,217
2B	11,631	7,524	554
Grand Total	66,891	46,015	6,771

The Alaskan catch represents 70% of the 2006 catch limit. For comparison, 41.3 million pounds, or 70% of the 2005 catch limit, had been landed in the Alaskan fishery from February 27 to August 15, 2005. Comparing catch with the number of days opened, 39.0 million pounds, or 66% of the catch limit, had been delivered after 163 days of the 2005 season.

The British Columbian catch represents 65% of the 2006 catch limit. The catch in Area 2B between February 27 and August 15, 2005 was 7.9 million pounds, or 68% of the 2005 catch limit. Comparing catch with the number of days opened, 7.7 million pounds, or 66% of the catch limit, had been delivered after 163 days of the 2005 season.

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 41,464 pounds. An estimated 17,862 pounds of halibut were landed in Washington State through August 1 while an additional 2,569 pounds of halibut were landed in Oregon through August 15. The incidental halibut catch fishery during the salmon troll season remains open until further notice.

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Incidental Commercial Halibut Catch in the Area 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 33,452 pounds have been landed through August 4. 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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