

News Release

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July 23, 2007

2007 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 7Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update

The 2007 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 10. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries through July 17, 2007 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through July 18, 2007.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	8,510.0	5,181	1,339
3A	26,200.0	15,208	1,509
3B	9,220.0	4,891	349
4A	2,890.0	971	87
4B	1,4400.0	655	45
4C	1,866.5	116	164
4D	1,866.5	364	19
4E	367.0	345	1,685
Alaska total	52,360.0	27,731	5,197
2B	10,089.0	5,909	693
Grand Total	62,449.0	33,640	5,890

The Alaskan catch represents 53% of the 2007 catch limit. For comparison, 31.1 million pounds, or 56% of the 2006 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery between March 5 and July 16, 2006.

The British Columbian catch represents 59% of the 2007 catch limit. For comparison, 6.6 million pounds, or 56% of the 2006 catch limit, were landed from Area 2B between March 5 and July 14, 2006.

Area 2A Commercial Tribal Fisheries

In 2007, the Pacific Fishery Management Council allocated 461,000 pounds of halibut to the Treaty Indian tribes of Area 2A-1 for commercial use. It is estimated that 417,803 pounds have been landed by the Treaty tribes through July 15.

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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 40,227 pounds. An estimated 5,138 pounds of halibut were landed in Washington while an additional 4,553 pounds of halibut were landed in Oregon through June 30. The incidental halibut catch fishery during the salmon troll season remains open until further notice.

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 11,010 pounds have been landed through July 19. This incidental halibut catch fishery remains open until further notice. For further incidental fishery retention information call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825).

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 fourth 48-hour opening of the 2007 season occurred between June 8 and June 10 and resulted in the landing of 7,324 pounds of halibut. A fifth opening, which occurred between June 22 and June 24, yielded a catch of 4,068 pounds. After five openings, a grand total of 23,646 pounds of halibut have been landed in 2007. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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