

News Release

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May 21, 2008

2008 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 2**Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A**

The Commission has determined that fishing period limits will be required during the 10-hour, June 11 non-treaty directed commercial fishing period in Area 2A to avoid exceeding the 213,674 pound catch limit. The June 11 fishing period will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 6:00 PM. 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 with ice/slime	Dressed, head-off without ice/slime
0-25	A	860	755
26-30	B	1,075	945
31-35	C	1,715	1,510
36-40	D	4,735	4,165
41-45	E	5,090	4,480
46-50	F	6,095	5,365
51-55	G	6,800	5,985
56+	H	10,225	9,000

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.

NMFS implemented mandatory depth-based area closures that are in effect for the directed halibut fishery to protect specific rockfish species. For further information, call the NMFS hotline at 1-800-662-9825, then press "5" for the halibut fisheries.

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Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update

The 2008 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 8. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ fishery and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through May 19, 2008. No Alaskan Community Development Quota (CDQ) landings have been made yet in 2008.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	6,210.0	2,114	557
3A	24,220.0	7,982	690
3B	10,950.0	1,292	108
4A	3,100.0	128	15
4B	1,860.0	112	9
4CDE	3,890.0	0	0
Alaska total	50,230.0	11,628	1,379
2B	7,917.7	2,642	254
Grand Total	58,147.7	14,270	1,633

The catch off Alaska represents 23% of the 2008 catch limit. For comparison, 13.1 million pounds, or 25% of the 2007 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery between March 10 and May 18, 2007.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 33% of the 2008 catch limit. For comparison, 4.3 million pounds, or 42% of the 2007 catch limit, were landed from Area 2B between March 10 and May 18, 2007.

Area 2A Commercial Tribal Fisheries

In 2008, the Pacific Fishery Management Council allocated 397,000 pounds of halibut for commercial use to the Treaty Indian tribes of Area 2A-1. As of May 20, the Treaty tribes have landed 362,642 pounds of halibut.

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