

News Release

July 1, 2008

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

2008 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 5**Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A for the July 9 Opening**

The June 25 non-treaty commercial fishing period in Area 2A resulted in a catch of about 73,000 pounds, leaving approximately 72,674 pounds in the catch limit.

Area 2A will re-open on July 9 for 10 hours, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM 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 with ice/slime	Dressed, head-off without ice/slime
0-25	A	760	670
26-30	B	955	840
31-35	C	1,530	1,345
36-40	D	4,210	3,705
41-45	E	4,530	3,985
46-50	F	5,420	4,770
51-55	G	6,045	5,320
56+	H	9,090	8,000

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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