

News Release

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

August 21, 2008

2008 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 9**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 through August 18, 2008 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through August 17, 2008.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	6,210.0	4,642.3	1,503
3A	24,220.0	17,532.9	1,822
3B	10,950.0	7,590.6	529
4A	3,100.0	1,630.0	161
4B IFQ	1,488.0	863.6	64
4CD IFQ	2,122.8	1,285.4	53
4BCDE CDQ	2,139.2	1,528.8	2,094
Alaska total	50,230.0	35,073.6	6,226
2B	7,917.7	5,115.1	673
Grand Total	58,147.7	40,188.7	6,899

The catch off Alaska represents 70% of the 2008 catch limit. For comparison, 36.0 million pounds, or 69% of the 2007 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery between March 10 and August 18, 2007.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 55% of the 2008 catch limit. For comparison, 6.9 million pounds, or 68% of the 2007 catch limit, were landed from Area 2B between March 10 and August 17, 2007.

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 17,353 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).

continued...

Annette Islands Reserve Fishery Continues 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 fifth 48-hour opening of the 2008 season occurred between July 11 and July 13 and resulted in the landing of 5,222 pounds of halibut. A sixth opening, which occurred between July 25 and July 27, yielded a catch of 5,237 pounds. A seventh opening, between August 8 and August 10, saw 2,022 pounds of halibut landed. After seven openings, a grand total of 32,395 pounds of halibut have been landed in 2008. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

- END -

Bruce M. Leaman
Executive Director
Phone: (206) 634-1838
Fax: (206) 632-2983
Web: www.iphc.washington.edu