

News Release

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October 17, 2008

2008 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 11**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 and CDQ fisheries through October 16, 2008 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through October 14, 2008.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	6,210.0	5,898.4	2,028
3A	24,220.0	22,411.0	2,327
3B	10,900.0	9,966.1	742
4A	3,100.0	2,748.6	267
4B IFQ	1,488.0	1,295.0	89
4C IFQ*	884.5	52.4	17
4D IFQ*	1,238.3	2,061.0	67
4BCDE CDQ	2,139.2	2,108.1	2,310
Alaska total	50,180.0	46,540.6	7,847
2B	7,917.7	6,969.2	961
Grand Total	58,097.7	53,509.8	8,808

*Area 4C IFQ and CDQ can be fished in Area 4D

The catch off Alaska represents 93% of the 2008 catch limit. For comparison, 47.9 million pounds, or 91% of the 2007 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery between March 10 and October 18, 2007.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 88% of the 2008 catch limit. For comparison, 8.7 million pounds, or 86% of the 2007 catch limit, were landed from Area 2B between March 10 and October 18, 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 25,500 pounds have been landed through September 11. 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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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 37,707 pounds. A total of 16,700 pounds of halibut were landed in Washington through September 17. The incidental halibut catch fishery during the salmon troll season remains open until further notice.

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 ninth 48-hour opening of the 2008 season occurred between September 5 and September 7 and resulted in the landing of 3,955 pounds of halibut. After nine openings, a grand total of 38,581 pounds of halibut have been landed in 2008. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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