

*News Release*


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

December 3, 2009

**2009 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 10****Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update**

The 2009 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 21. The following are preliminary estimates of catch and numbers of landings that were made in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery during the 2009 halibut season.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	5,020.0	4,832	1,689
3A	21,700.0	21,352	2,289
3B	10,900.0	10,623	786
4	7,880.0	7,272	2,215
Alaska total	45,500.0	44,079	6,979
2B	6,711.6	6,567	1,026
Grand Total	52,211.6	50,646	8,005

The catch off Alaska represents 97% of the 2009 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 49.5 million pounds, or 99% of the 2008 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery between March 8 and November 15, 2008.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 98% of the 2009 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 7.7 million pounds, or 98% of the 2008 catch limit were landed from Area 2B between March 8 and November 15, 2008.

The commercial halibut fisheries closed on November 15, 2009 at noon, local time.

**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 11,895 pounds. It is estimated that 5,415 pounds have been landed during the 2009 season.

**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 29,362 pounds. A total of 11,310 pounds of halibut were landed in this incidental fishery during the 2009 season.

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## Alaska sport regulations

At the 2009 IPHC Annual Meeting, the staff agreed to review the IPHC Alaska sport fishery regulations and determine if changes are necessary. In October, the IPHC staff met with NOAA Enforcement and NMFS to discuss issues with the sport filleting regulation raised by the Alaska sport industry. The staffs agreed that the daily bag and possession limits need to be enforceable to provide for adequate monitoring and assessment of the sport fishery. The group could not identify any reasonable and enforceable alternatives to the present regulation to provide to the industry for discussion at a separate meeting. Therefore, a separate meeting will not be scheduled. The IPHC staff remains willing to consider any alternative ideas which are enforceable and retain the ability to identify daily bag and possession limits. Regulatory proposals received for 2010 can be viewed on the IPHC webpage at: <http://www.iphc.washington.edu/halcom/pubs/annmeet/2010/regs/regprop2010.htm>. IPHC staff contacts are Gregg Williams ([gregg@iphc.washington.edu](mailto:gregg@iphc.washington.edu)) or Heather Gilroy ([heather@iphc.washington.edu](mailto:heather@iphc.washington.edu)).

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