

News Release

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May 19, 2011

2011 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 2**Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A for June 29 Fishery**

The Commission has determined that fishing period limits will be required during the 10-hour, June 29 non-treaty directed commercial fishing period in Area 2A to avoid exceeding the 159,380 pound catch limit. The June 29 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	955	840
26-30	B	1,195	1,050
31-35	C	1,910	1,680
36-40	D	5,260	4,630
41-45	E	5,660	4,980
46-50	F	6,775	5,960
51-55	G	7,555	6,650
56+	H	11,365	10,000

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 the exact coordinates of the closed areas, go to the following web page:

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Pacific-Halibut/Halibut-Closed-Areas.cfm>

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 2011 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 12. 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 13, 2011.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	2,330.0	870	333
3A	14,360.0	4,967	520
3B	7,510.0	972	93
4	8,310.0	432	39
Alaska total	32,510.0	7,241	985
2B	6,702.2	2,052	171
Grand Total	39,212.2	9,293	1,156

The catch off Alaska represents 22% of the 2011 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 11.0 million pounds, or 26% of the 2010 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery by this same date in 2010; however, the opening date of the 2010 fishery occurred 6 days earlier in the year than that of the 2011 fishery. Thus, during the first 62 days of the 2010 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 9.7 million pounds, or 23% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 31% of the 2011 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 2.9 million pounds, or 44% of the 2010 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2010. Also, during the first 62 days of the 2010 IVQ fishery, 2.7 million pounds, or 41% of the catch limit, had been landed.

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 28,126 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the salmon troll fishery was allowed beginning May 1. It is estimated that 11,000 pounds have been landed in Washington and 3,400 pounds in Oregon, leaving approximately 13,700 pounds to be harvested. The incidental halibut catch fishery during the salmon troll season remains open until further notice.

Area 2A Commercial Treaty Indian Fisheries

The total allowable commercial catch allocated to the Area 2A-1 Treaty Indian tribes is 293,200 pounds. During a 19-hour mop-up fishery from noon on May 1 to 7 AM on May 2, it is estimated that 116,000 pounds of halibut were landed. This number is preliminary as more landing data is being submitted daily. At this time, the total 2011 harvest is estimated at approximately 327,700 pounds. The Area 2A-1 treaty Indian commercial halibut fisheries are closed for the remainder of 2011.

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