

News Release



2320 W. COMMODORE WAY, SUITE 300, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98199-1287

July 6, 2011

2011 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 4

Non-Treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A for July 13 Fishery

The June 29 non-treaty commercial fishing period in Area 2A resulted in a catch of about 98,500 pounds, leaving approximately 60,880 pounds in the catch limit.

Area 2A will re-open on July 13 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	475	420
26-30	B	595	525
31-35	C	955	840
36-40	D	2,630	2,315
41-45	E	2,830	2,490
46-50	F	3,385	2,980
51-55	G	3,780	3,325
56+	H	5,680	5,000

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 has 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.

Puget Sound (WA) Sport Fishery Closure

The sport halibut season for all waters of Puget Sound (east of Sekiu River) is closed for the remainder of 2011. The area east of Low Point closed on May 29, while the area west of Low Point and east of the Sekiu River closed on June 18. The catch projection is 58,155 pounds for the entire area.

Washington North Coast Area Sport Fishery Closure

The preliminary catch for the Washington North Coast sport halibut fishery (Sekiu River, WA to Queets River, WA) through June 16 is 95,774 pounds, leaving 13,018 pounds to be harvested. Catches from a one-day fishery on June 30 are being tabulated and a decision on further fishing in the area is expected to be announced soon.

Washington South Coast Area Sport Fishery Closure and Update

The preliminary catch for the primary Washington South Coast sport halibut fishery (Queets River, WA to Leadbetter Point, WA) through May 22 is 40,371 pounds, leaving 1,129 pounds to be harvested. However, this amount is not enough to permit further sport halibut fishing in this area. The South Coast primary sport halibut fishery is closed for the remainder of 2011.

The northern nearshore fishery in this area has a quota of 2,000 pounds; through June 26, a total of 2,086 pounds have been taken. Utilizing the remaining quota from the primary fishery of 1,129 pounds, this fishery remains open seven days a week until the overall area quota is projected to be taken or September 30, whichever occurs earlier. Anglers are allowed one fish per day of any size.

Columbia River Area Sport Fishery Closure and Update

The preliminary catch for the Columbia River sport halibut fishery (Leadbetter Point, WA to Cape Falcon, OR) through June 4 is 8,783 pounds. The early season quota is 10,793 pounds, which leaves 2,010 pounds remaining to be harvested. However, management plans for 2011 stipulate that the season will close when 70% of the quota has been reached. Therefore, sport halibut fishing in this area closed at the conclusion of the June 2-4 fishery. Fishing will resume in the fall season, beginning on Friday, August 5, with a daily bag limit of one fish of any size. Any quota remaining unharvested following the June 4 closure will be added to the fall season quota of 4,625 pounds.

Central Oregon Area Sport Fishery Update and Closure of the Spring Fishery

The estimated catch in the Central Oregon (Cape Falcon, OR to Humbug Mt., OR) area following the June 23-25 fishery indicate that insufficient quota remains for any further openings in the spring fishery. Therefore, the Central Oregon all-depth spring fishery is now closed.

Fishing in the area will reopen for the all-depth summer fishery on August 5, with a quota of 43,126 pounds and fishing allowed every other week on a Friday-Saturday schedule. Any unused quota from the spring fishery will be rolled over to the summer fishery.

In addition, preliminary estimates of the catch in the nearshore (less than 40 fathoms) fishery in this area indicate that the quota of 13,800 pounds has been reached. This fishery closed on July 6 for the remainder of 2011.

Southern Oregon-California Sport Fishery Status

The sport halibut season for all waters of the Southern Oregon-California area (South of Humbug Mtn., OR) remains open through October 31. The 2011 quota is 5,625 pounds, and anglers are allowed a daily bag limit of one fish of any size.

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