

News Release

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

April 18, 2012

2012 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 1**Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update**

The 2012 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 17. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ fishery through April 16, 2012 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through April 15, 2012. No Alaskan Community Development Quota (CDQ) landings have been made in 2012.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	2,624.00	514	177
3A	11,918.00	1,570	176
3B and 4	10,971.00	96	10
Alaska total	25,513.00	2,180	363
2B	5,953.35	1,149	82
Grand Total	31,466.35	3,329	445

The catch off Alaska represents 9% of the 2012 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 3.4 million pounds, or 11% of the 2011 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery by this same date in 2011; however, the opening date of the 2011 fishery occurred five days earlier in the year than that of the 2012 fishery. Thus, during the first 30 days of the 2011 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 2.7 million pounds, or 8% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 19% of the 2012 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 1.5 million pounds, or 22% of the 2011 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2011. Also, during the first 29 days of the 2011 IVQ fishery, 1.2 million pounds, or 18% of the catch limit, had been landed.

Area 2A Commercial Treaty Indian Fisheries

In 2012, the Pacific Fishery Management Council allocated 321,650 pounds of halibut for commercial use to the Treaty Indian tribes of Area 2A-1. Preliminary catch estimates indicate that during a 55-hour restricted fishery from March 17 to March 19, the Treaty tribes landed 67,465 pounds of halibut. An additional 155,119 pounds of halibut were landed during an unrestricted fishing period from March 24-26. The Area 2A-1 treaty Indian tribes will have a late season commercial halibut fishery, scheduled to open on May 1 with about 99,000 pounds left to harvest.

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Science Curriculum for Teachers

A curriculum on Pacific halibut and the ocean ecosystem is available on the IPHC website. The unit was developed for grades 5-8, but can be adapted for high school age students. The curriculum has four lessons with hands-on activities. Through the lessons, students take on various roles from the perspective of ocean organisms, fishers, biologists, and managers. Students learn about the ecosystem and the work that goes into managing a natural resource. Each lesson plan provides the following information: lesson goals, guiding questions, preparation time, a list of materials required, teacher information, and a PowerPoint presentation with notes.

This curriculum focuses on just one species, Pacific halibut, through which many broader concepts of the ocean ecosystem and sustainable fisheries are learned. In addition to meeting many core understandings in science, the unit integrates math, economics, technology, geography, and civics into the lessons.

This unit has been aligned to the relevant National and Ocean Literacy Standards:

<http://www.coexploration.org/oceanliteracy/documents/OceanLitChart.pdf>

The Pacific Halibut and Ocean Ecosystem education curriculum is available free of charge at

<http://www.iphc.int/library.html>

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