

News Release

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July 5, 2012

2012 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 4**Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A for July 11 Fishery**

The June 27 non-treaty commercial fishing period in Area 2A resulted in a catch of about 150,000 pounds, leaving approximately 23,000 pounds in the catch limit.

Area 2A will re-open on July 11 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	225	200
26-30	B	225	200
31-35	C	285	250
36-40	D	790	695
41-45	E	845	745
46-50	F	1,015	895
51-55	G	1,135	1,000
56+	H	1,705	1,500

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, contact Sarah Williams at NMFS at 206.526.4646.

For further information, call the NMFS hotline at 1-800-662-9825, then press "7" for the halibut fisheries.

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Area 2A Incidental Commercial Halibut Catch in the Salmon Troll Fishery Closed for the Remainder of 2012

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of halibut allocated to the Area 2A salmon troll fishery is 30,568 pounds. Preliminary catch estimates from U.S. officials indicate the catch limit was taken by July 3, 2012. Therefore, the incidental halibut fishery during the salmon troll season closed at 11:59 PM Tuesday, July 3, 2012, and will remain closed for the remainder of 2012.

Area 2A Incidental Commercial Halibut Fishery During the Limited Entry, 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 21,173 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the sablefish fishery was allowed beginning May 1. It is estimated that 2,192 pounds of halibut have been landed through June 13. This fishery remains open until further notice.

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