

News Release

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July 17, 2012

2012 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 5**Area 2A Non-Treaty Directed Commercial Halibut Fishery Closed for Remainder of 2012**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission reports that the catch limit for the Area 2A non-treaty directed commercial fishery has been reached following the July 11 fishing period. Therefore, the Area 2A non-treaty directed commercial halibut fishery is closed for the remainder of 2012.

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 and CDQ fisheries through July 15, 2012 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through July 13, 2012.

| Area | Catch Limit (000's pounds) | Catch (000's pounds) | Number of Landings |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2C | 2,624.00 | 1,706 | 664 |
| 3A | 11,918.00 | 6,310 | 949 |
| 3B | 5,070.00 | 2,074 | 230 |
| 4A | 1,567.00 | 605 | 63 |
| 4B | 1,869.00 | 640 | 60 |
| 4C/4D/4E | 2,465.00 | 778 | 835 |
| Alaska total | 25,513.00 | 12,113 | 2,801 |
| 2B | 5,953.35 | 3,059 | 359 |
| Grand Total | 31,466.35 | 15,172 | 3,160 |

The catch off Alaska represents 47% of the 2012 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 17.5 million pounds, or 54% 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 120 days of the 2011 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 16.8 million pounds, or 52% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 51% of the 2012 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 3.15 million pounds, or 47% of the 2011 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2011. During the first 118 days of the 2011 IVQ fishery, 3.06 million pounds, or 46% of the catch limit, had been landed.

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Annette Islands Reserve Fishery in Area 2C

The Metlakatla Indian Community has been authorized by the United States Government to conduct a commercial halibut fishery within the Annette Islands Reserve. The fifth 48-hour fishing period, with an opening date of June 15, had a halibut catch of 3,660 pounds. After five openings, a grand total of 15,277 pounds of halibut have been landed in 2012. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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 2,567 pounds of halibut have been landed through June 28. This fishery remains open until further notice.

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