

News Release



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September 17, 2012

2012 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 7

Commission Seeks Regulations Proposals

The Commission invites the public to submit requests for 2013 regulatory changes (season length, logbook reporting measures, landing requirements, etc.) or management actions for review at the Annual Meeting to be held January 22-25, 2013 in Victoria, B.C. ***The deadline date for submission is November 2, 2012.*** The Commission will not guarantee consideration of proposals received after this date.

The Commission will distribute a brief summary of stock assessment information and catch limit options following the Interim Meeting. This information should be posted on the Commission's web page at <http://www.iphc.int> by December 1, 2012. ***Comments on 2013 catch limit changes should be submitted to the Commission by December 30, 2012.***

The regulations proposal form and catch limit comment form can be located at <http://www.iphc.int/meetings-and-events/annual-meeting.html> or by calling the IPHC office at (206) 634-1838. A summary of all proposals will be posted on the IPHC web site when available.

The Commission's web site will be updated regularly with new information as the meeting date approaches. The 2013 IPHC Annual Meeting Schedule of Sessions and the list of corresponding meeting rooms will be released in December, 2012.

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. A 48-hour fishing period, with an opening date of August 10, had a halibut catch of 6,470 pounds. After eight openings, a grand total of 31,028 pounds of halibut have been landed in 2012. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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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 September 16, 2012 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through September 11, 2012.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	2,624.00	2,245	1,030
3A	11,918.00	9,522	1,474
3B	5,070.00	4,156	488
4A	1,567.00	1,356	173
4B	1,869.00	1,405	137
4C/4D/4E	2,465.00	1,973	1,509
Alaska total	25,513.00	20,657	4,674
2B	5,953.35	4,601	573
Grand Total	31,466.35	25,258	5,247

The catch off Alaska represents 81% of the 2012 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 26.8 million pounds, or 83% 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 183 days of the 2011 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 26.3 million pounds, or 81% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 77% of the 2012 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 4.8 million pounds, or 72% of the 2011 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2011. During the first 177 days of the 2011 IVQ fishery, 4.7 million pounds, or 71% of the catch limit, had been landed.

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 4,514 pounds of halibut, or 21% of the catch limit, have been landed through September 5. This fishery remains open until further notice.

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