

*News Release*

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January 28, 2013

**HALIBUT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2013 CATCH LIMITS AND SEASONS**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) completed its Eighty-ninth Annual Meeting in Victoria, BC on January 25th, 2013. More than 250 halibut industry stakeholders attended the meeting, with over 60 more participating in web broadcasts of the public sessions.

*Catch Limits*

The Commission is recommending to the governments of Canada and the United States catch limits for 2013 totaling 31,028,000 pounds, a 7.5% decrease from the 2012 catch limit of 33,540,000 pounds. The following table displays the catch limits by regulatory area.

**2013 Catch Limits**

<b>Regulatory Area</b>	<b>Catch Limit (pounds)</b>
Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington)	
Non-treaty directed commercial (south of Pt. Chehalis)	173,390
Non-treaty incidental catch in salmon troll fishery	30,600
Non-treaty incidental catch in sablefish fishery (north of Pt. Chehalis)	21,410
Treaty Indian commercial	314,300
Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence (year-round)	32,200
Sport – North of Columbia River	214,110
<u>Sport – South of Columbia River</u>	<u>203,990</u>
Area 2A total	990,000
Area 2B (British Columbia) (includes sport catch allocation)	7,038,000
Area 2C (southeastern Alaska)	2,970,000
Area 3A (central Gulf of Alaska)	11,030,000
Area 3B (western Gulf of Alaska)	4,290,000
Area 4A (eastern Aleutians)	1,330,000
Area 4B (western Aleutians)	1,450,000
Area 4C (Pribilof Islands)	859,000
Area 4D (northwestern Bering Sea)	859,000
<u>Area 4E (Bering Sea flats)</u>	<u>212,000</u>
Area 4 total	4,710,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,028,000</b>

*Fishing Season Dates*

The Commission approved a season of March 23 – November 7, 2013 for the U.S. and Canadian Individual Quota fisheries. The Treaty tribal commercial fisheries and the incidental halibut fisheries in Area 2A will occur within these dates.

In Area 2A, seven 10-hour fishing periods for the non-treaty directed commercial fishery are recommended: June 26, July 10, July 24, August 7, August 21, September 4, September 18, 2013.

A subsequent News Release will publish more details of the Annual Meeting, including the regulatory and other issues decided by the Commission.

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