

*News Release*

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May 21, 2013

**2013 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 2****Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A for June 26 Fishery**

The Commission has determined that fishing period limits will be required during the 10-hour, June 26 non-treaty directed commercial fishing period in Area 2A to avoid exceeding the 173,390 pound catch limit. The June 26 fishing period will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 6:00 PM Pacific Daylight 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	860	755
26-30	B	1,075	945
31-35	C	1,715	1,510
36-40	D	4,735	4,165
41-45	E	5,090	4,480
46-50	F	6,095	5,365
51-55	G	6,800	5,985
56+	H	10,225	9,000

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, go to the following web page:

[http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/about\\_groundfish/groundfish\\_area\\_closures.html](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/about_groundfish/groundfish_area_closures.html)

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 Commercial Treaty Indian Fisheries

In 2013, the Pacific Fishery Management Council allocated 314,300 pounds of halibut for commercial use to the Treaty Indian tribes of Area 2A-1. Preliminary catch estimates indicate that during a 48-hour unrestricted fishery from March 23 to March 25, the Treaty tribes landed 221,259 pounds of halibut. An additional 74,660 pounds of halibut were landed during two restricted fishing periods from April 3-4 and April 15-16. There are 12,603 pounds remaining in the Area 2A Treaty Indian commercial halibut fishery catch limit.

### Area 2A Incidental Commercial Halibut Fishery During the Salmon Troll Season

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of halibut allocated to the Area 2A salmon troll fishery is 30,600 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the salmon troll fishery was allowed beginning May 1. It is estimated that 8,000 pounds have been landed through May 19 in Washington and Oregon, leaving approximately 22,600 pounds to be harvested. The incidental halibut catch fishery during the salmon troll season remains open until further notice. For further incidental fishery retention information, call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825 press 7 for halibut information).

### 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 21,410 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the sablefish fishery was allowed beginning May 1. It is estimated that 1,680 pounds of halibut have been landed through May 11, leaving 19,730 pounds. The incidental commercial halibut fishery during the limited entry, fixed gear sablefish fishery remains open until further notice. For further incidental fishery retention information, call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825 press 7 for halibut information).

### Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update

The 2013 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 23. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries through May 19, 2013 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through May 17, 2013.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	2,970.00	1,156	328
3A	11,030.00	3,856	512
3B	4,290.00	542	62
4	4,710.00	359	28
Alaska total	23,000.00	5,913	930
2B	5,957.55	1,514	148
Grand Total	28,957.55	7,427	1,078

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The catch off Alaska represents 25.7% of the 2013 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 5.4 million pounds, or 21.2% of the 2012 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery by this same date in 2012; however, the opening date of the 2012 fishery occurred six days earlier in the year than that of the 2013 fishery. Thus, during the first 57 days of the 2012 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 4.4 million pounds, or 17.4% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 25.4% of the 2013 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 1.9 million pounds, or 32.3% of the 2012 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2012. Also, during the first 55 days of the 2012 IVQ fishery, 1.8 million pounds, or 30.1% of the catch limit, had been landed.

### 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 first 48-hour fishing period of 2013 opened on April 19, and resulted in the landing of 5,513 pounds of halibut. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

### Washington South Coast Area Sport Fishery to Close Following the May 19 Fishery

The preliminary catch for the Washington South Coast primary sport halibut fishery (Queets River, WA to Leadbetter Point, WA) through May 12 is 27,263 pounds, leaving 13,116 pounds to be harvested. Fishery managers expect this remainder to be harvested by the completion of the upcoming fishery scheduled for May 19. Therefore, the South Coast primary sport halibut fishery will close for the remainder of 2013 following the May 19 fishery.

The northern nearshore fishery in this area has a quota of 2,000 pounds. This fishery currently remains open seven days a week until the overall area quota is projected to be taken or September 30, whichever occurs earlier. Anglers are allowed one fish per day of any size.

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