

News Release

2320 W. COMMODORE WAY, SUITE 300, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98199-1287

June 20, 2013

2013 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 3**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 June 17, 2013 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through June 18, 2013.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	2,970.00	1,671	514
3A	11,030.00	5,879	837
3B	4,290.00	1,327	156
4	4,710.00	894	120
Alaska total	23,000.00	9,771	1,627
2B	5,957.55	2,104	236
Grand Total	28,957.55	11,875	1,863

The catch off Alaska represents 42.5% of the 2013 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 9.3 million pounds, or 36.3% 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. For comparison, during the first 86 days of the 2012 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 8.4 million pounds, or 32.9% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 35.3% of the 2013 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 2.6 million pounds, or 43.3% of the 2012 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2012. Also, during the first 87 days of the 2012 IVQ fishery, 2.4 million pounds, or 40.7% 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. Three 48-hour fishing periods, with opening dates of May 3, May 17, and May 31, had halibut catches by opening of 3,156 lbs, 5,511 lbs, and 8,401 lbs, respectively. Total landings to date total 22,581 pounds, which include openings prior to May 3. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

continued...

Area 2A Commercial Treaty Indian Fisheries

For 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 221,302 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 have been two 12-hour restricted fisheries on May 8 and June 6 with landings of 5,836 pounds and 4,265 pounds, respectively. There are 8,237 pounds remaining in the Area 2A-1 Treaty Indian commercial halibut fishery catch limit.

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

The total allowable incidental commercial allocation of halibut to the 2013 Area 2A salmon troll fishery is 30,600 pounds and retention was allowed beginning May 1. It is estimated that 13,000 pounds have been landed through June 17 in Washington and Oregon, leaving approximately 17,600 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 allocation of halibut to the 2013 limited entry, fixed gear sablefish fishery, which operates in Area 2A north of Point Chehalis, Washington, is 21,410 pounds. Retention of halibut by the sablefish fishery was allowed beginning May 1. It is estimated that 3,554 pounds of halibut have been landed through May 30, leaving 17,856 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).

Washington North Coast Area Sport Fishery Closed Following the May 16,18 Fishery

The preliminary catch for the Washington North Coast sport halibut fishery (Sekiu River mouth to Queets River, WA) through May 18 is 107,856 pounds, which is 99.8% of the catch limit (108,030 pounds) for the area. Insufficient poundage remains for any further sport fishing in the area, so the North Coast sport halibut fishery is closed for the remainder of 2013.

- END -

Bruce M. Leaman
Executive Director
Phone: (206) 634-1838
Fax: (206) 632-2983
Web: www.iphc.int