

News Release

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July 3, 2013

2013 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 4**Area 2A Non-treaty Directed Commercial Fishery Will Open July 10 With Reduced Fishing Period Limits**

The June 26 non-treaty commercial fishing period in Area 2A resulted in a catch of about 118,000 pounds, leaving approximately 55,390 pounds remaining in the catch limit.

Area 2A will re-open on July 10 for 10 hours, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM local 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	285	250
26-30	B	360	315
31-35	C	575	505
36-40	D	1,580	1,390
41-45	E	1,700	1,495
46-50	F	2,035	1,790
51-55	G	2,265	1,995
56+	H	3,410	3,000

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, contact Sarah Williams at NMFS at (206) 526-4646.

For further information, call the NMFS hotline at 1-800-662-9825, then press "7" for the halibut fisheries.

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Oregon Spring All-Depth Sport Fishery Closed Until August

The estimated harvest from the recent June 20-22 opening in the Oregon Central Coast all-depth sport halibut fishery has resulted in about 145,100 pounds being landed, exceeding the quota by more than 24,000 pounds. Therefore, the spring Central Coast all-depth sport halibut fishery is now closed. Sport halibut fishing will resume in the summer all-depth fishery scheduled for August 2-3.

Halibut anglers are reminded that the Oregon Central Coast nearshore (<40 fathom) fishery is open on a Thursday-Saturday schedule until the quota is caught. Also, the Columbia River subarea remains open on a Thursday-Saturday schedule until the early season quota is caught or July 28, whichever occurs earlier. The South of Humbug subarea also is open seven days a week until October 31. Each angler is allowed one fish per day of any size in these subareas.

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