

*News Release*

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July 17, 2013

**2013 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 5****Area 2A Non-Treaty Directed Commercial Halibut Fishery Closed for Remainder of 2013**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission reports that the catch limit for the Area 2A non-treaty directed commercial fishery has been reached following the July 10 fishing period. Therefore, the Area 2A non-treaty directed commercial halibut fishery is closed for the remainder of 2013.

**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 July 16, 2013 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through July 15, 2013.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	2,970.00	1,811	627
3A	11,030.00	6,759	1,014
3B	4,290.00	1,717	199
4	4,710.00	1,699	1,087
Alaska total	23,000.00	11,986	2,927
2B	5,957.55	2,740	322
Grand Total	28,957.55	14,726	3,249

The catch off Alaska represents 52.1% of the 2013 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 12.3 million pounds, or 48.1% 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 a comparison by length of opening, during the first 115 days of the 2012 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 11.5 million pounds, or 45.2% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 46.0% of the 2013 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 3.1 million pounds, or 51.4% of the 2012 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2012. Also, during the first 114 days of the 2012 IVQ fishery, 2.9 million pounds, or 49.57% of the catch limit, had been landed.

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### 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 fifth and sixth 48-hour fishing periods of the 2013 season, with opening dates of June 14 and June 28, had halibut catches by opening of 5,772 lb and 6,369 lb, respectively. The total landed weight of halibut to date is 34,722 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

### 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 5,823 pounds of halibut have been landed through July 2, leaving 15,587 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).

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