

News Release



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August 8, 2013

AREA 2A HALIBUT FISHERIES UPDATE

Area 2A Incidental Commercial Halibut Catch in the Salmon Troll Fishery is Closing for the Remainder of 2013

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of halibut allocated to the Area 2A salmon troll fishery is 30,600 pounds. Preliminary catch estimates from U.S. officials indicate that the catch limit will be taken this week. Therefore, the incidental Pacific halibut fishery during the salmon troll fishery North of Cape Falcon will close on Thursday, August 8 at 11:59PM and South of Cape Falcon will close on Saturday, August 10 at 11:59PM. This fishery will remain closed for the remainder of 2013. For further incidental fishery retention information and landing requirements 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 6,163 pounds of halibut have been landed through July 20, leaving 15,247 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).

Oregon All-Depth Sport Fishery Closes for 2013

The estimated harvest from the August 2-3 all-depth Central Oregon sport halibut fishery opening is 27,069 pounds. With a small amount remaining from the nearshore (<40 fathom) fishery, the 2013 Central Oregon sport fishery harvest to date results in an overage of the subarea quota of about 2,500 pounds. Therefore, the Central Oregon all-depth sport halibut fishery is closed for the remainder of 2013. The 2013 Central Oregon nearshore fishery was previously closed following the July 26 fishery.

Anglers are reminded that the Columbia River subarea remains open on a Friday-Sunday schedule until the quota is caught or September 30, whichever occurs earlier. The South of Humberg subarea is also 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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