

News Release

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August 16, 2013

2013 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 6**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 August 15, 2013 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through August 14, 2013.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	2,970.00	2,078	808
3A	11,030.00	7,951	1,212
3B	4,290.00	2,374	275
4A	1,330.00	704	91
4B	1,450.00	743	94
4CDE	1,930.00	1,320	1,324
Alaska total	23,000.00	15,170	3,804
2B	5,957.55	3,902	444
Grand Total	28,957.55	19,072	4,248

The catch off Alaska represents 66.0% of the 2013 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 16.4 million pounds, or 64.3% 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 a comparison by length of opening, during the first 145 days of the 2012 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 15.1 million pounds, or 59.2% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 65.5% of the 2013 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 3.7 million pounds, or 62.6% of the 2012 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2012. Also, during the first 144 days of the 2012 IVQ fishery, 3.5 million pounds, or 59.5% 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 seventh 48-hour fishing periods of the 2013 season, with an opening date of July 26, had a halibut catch of 3,969 lb. The total landed weight of halibut to date is 38,691 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 6,340 pounds of halibut have been landed through August 1, leaving 15,070 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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