

*News Release*

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May 16, 2014

**2014 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 2****Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A for June 25 Fishery**

The Commission has determined that fishing period limits will be required during the 10-hour, June 25 non-treaty directed commercial fishing period in Area 2A to avoid exceeding the 168,137 pound catch limit. The June 25 fishing period will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 6:00 PM Pacific Daylight 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<br>with ice/slime | Dressed, head-off<br>without ice/slime |
| 0-25         | A      | 860                                | 755                                    |
| 26-30        | B      | 1,075                              | 945                                    |
| 31-35        | C      | 1,715                              | 1,510                                  |
| 36-40        | D      | 4,735                              | 4,165                                  |
| 41-45        | E      | 5,090                              | 4,480                                  |
| 46-50        | F      | 6,095                              | 5,365                                  |
| 51-55        | G      | 6,800                              | 5,985                                  |
| 56+          | H      | 10,225                             | 9,000                                  |

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, go to the following web page: [http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/groundfish\\_closures/groundfish\\_closed\\_areas.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/groundfish_closures/groundfish_closed_areas.html). For further information, call the NMFS hotline at 1-800-662-9825, then press "7" for the halibut fisheries.

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## Area 2A Commercial Treaty Indian Fisheries

In 2014, the Pacific Fishery Management Council allocated 307,500 pounds of halibut for commercial use to the Treaty Indian tribes of Area 2A-1. Preliminary catch estimates indicate that during a 10-hour restricted fishery on May 8, the Treaty tribes landed 17,438 pounds of halibut, for a season total to date of 304,139 pounds. There are 3,361 pounds remaining in the Area 2A Treaty Indian commercial halibut fishery catch limit.

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

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of halibut allocated to the Area 2A salmon troll fishery is 29,671 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the salmon troll fishery was allowed beginning April 1. It is estimated that 10,200 pounds have been landed through May 14 in Washington and Oregon, leaving approximately 19,400 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 catch of halibut allocated to the limited entry, fixed gear sablefish fishery, which operates in Area 2A north of Point Chehalis, Washington, is 14,274 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the sablefish fishery was allowed beginning April 1. It is estimated that 3,100 pounds of halibut have been landed through May 5, leaving 11,174 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).

## Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update

The 2014 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 8. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through May 14, 2014.

| Area         | Catch Limit<br>(000's pounds) | Catch<br>(000's pounds) | Number of<br>Landings |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2C           | 3,318.72                      | 1,522                   | 419                   |
| 3A           | 7,317.73                      | 3,101                   | 487                   |
| 3B           | 2,840.00                      | 463                     | 64                    |
| 4            | 3,275.00                      | 173                     | 12                    |
| Alaska total | 16,751.45                     | 5,259                   | 982                   |
| 2B           | 5,792.50                      | 2,052                   | 153                   |
| Grand Total  | 22,543.95                     | 7,311                   | 1,135                 |

The catch off Alaska represents 31% of the 2014 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 5.2 million pounds, or 23% of the 2013 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery by this same date in 2013; however, the opening date of the 2013 fishery occurred fifteen days later in the year than that of the 2014 fishery. Thus, during the first 67 days of the 2013 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 7.3 million pounds, or 32% of the catch limit, were landed.

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The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 35% of the 2014 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 1.5 million pounds, or 25% of the 2013 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2013. Also, during the first 67 days of the 2013 IVQ fishery, 1.8 million pounds, or 30% 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. The first 48-hour fishing period of the 2014 season, with an opening date of April 17, had a halibut catch of 2,871 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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