

## *News Release*



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July 17, 2014

### **2014 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 6**

#### **Area 2A Non-Treaty Directed Commercial Halibut Fishery Closed for Remainder of 2014**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission reports that the estimated catch from the Area 2A non-treaty directed commercial fishery is close to the catch limit following the July 9 fishing period. The remaining catch limit is too small to allow for another directed fishery without exceeding the catch limit. Therefore, the Area 2A non-treaty directed commercial halibut fishery is closed for the remainder of 2014. The remaining catch limit of 4,000 pounds will be available, beginning August 1, to the incidental halibut fishery during the salmon troll season.

#### **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 26,000 pounds have been landed through July 11 in Washington and Oregon, leaving 3,154 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 6,129 pounds of halibut have been landed through July 3, leaving 8,145 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).

#### **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 48-hour fishing period of the 2014 season, which opened on June 13, had a halibut catch of 6,200 pounds. The total landed weight of halibut to date is 27,984 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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## 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 July 14, 2014.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,318.72	2,162	700
3A	7,317.73	4,612	874
3B	2,840.00	1,227	183
4A	850.00	340	51
4B	1,140.00	487	49
4CDE	1,285.00	584	218
Alaska total	16,751.45	9,412	2,075
2B	5,792.50	3,224	321
Grand Total	22,543.95	12,636	2,396

The catch off Alaska represents 56% of the 2014 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 11.9 million pounds, or 52% 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 128 days of the 2013 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 13.3 million pounds, or 58% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 56% of the 2014 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 2.7 million pounds, or 45% of the 2013 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2013. Also, during the first 128 days of the 2013 IVQ fishery, 3.3 million pounds, or 55% of the catch limit, had been landed.

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