

News Release

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October 17, 2014

2014 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 9**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 October 14, 2014.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,318.72	3,085	1,191
3A	7,317.73	7,052	1,368
3B	2,840.00	2,609	418
4A	850.00	792	137
4B	1,140.00	1,067	118
4CDE	1,285.00	1,245	777
Alaska total	16,751.45	15,850	4,009
2B	5,792.50	5,211	613
Grand Total	22,543.95	21,061	4,622

The catch off Alaska represents 95% of the 2014 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 20.7 million pounds, or 90% 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 220 days of the 2013 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 21.5 million pounds, or 93% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 90% of the 2014 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 5.3 million pounds, or 88% of the 2013 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2013. Also, during the first 220 days of the 2013 IVQ fishery, 5.80 million pounds, or 97% 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 eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth 48-hour fishing periods of the 2014 season, with opening dates of September 5, September 17, and October 3, had a combined halibut catch of 7,710 pounds. The total landed weight of halibut to date is 79,819 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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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 9,949 pounds of halibut have been landed through September 20, leaving 4,325 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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