

News Release

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April 21, 2015

2015 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 1**Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update**

The 2015 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 14. It is estimated that the following commercial landings, in pounds and numbers, were made in the Alaskan IFQ fishery through April 19, 2015 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through April 15, 2015. No Alaskan Community Development Quota (CDQ) landings have occurred thus far in 2015.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,679	916	190
3A	7,790	1,147	189
3B and 4	6,465	114	10
Alaska total	17,934	2,177	389
2B	5,914	1,246	82
Grand Total	23,848	3,423	471

The catch off Alaska represents 12% of the 2015 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 2.9 million pounds, or 17% of the 2014 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery by this same date in 2014; however, the opening date of the 2014 fishery occurred six days earlier in the year than that of the 2015 fishery. Thus, during the first 36 days of the 2014 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 2.3 million pounds, or 14% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 21% of the 2015 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 1.3 million pounds, or 23% of the 2014 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2014. Also, during the first 32 days of the 2014 IVQ fishery, 1.1 million pounds, or 19% of the catch limit, had been landed.

Area 2A Commercial Treaty Indian Fisheries

In 2015, the Pacific Fishery Management Council allocated 307,700 pounds of halibut for commercial use to the Treaty Indian tribes of Area 2A-1. Preliminary catch estimates indicate that during a 48-hour unrestricted fishery from March 16 to March 18, the Treaty tribes landed 238,373 pounds of halibut. An additional 72,632 pounds of halibut were landed during a 30-hour restricted fishing period from April 1-2, which had a limit of 500 pounds per vessel. The Area 2A Treaty Indian commercial halibut fishery is closed for the remainder of 2015.

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