

## *News Release*



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May 20, 2015

### Washington North Coast Area Sport Fisheries Closing

The preliminary catch for the Washington North Coast primary sport halibut fishery in Marine Areas 3 (La Push) and 4 (Neah Bay) through May 16 was 70,308 pounds, leaving 37,722 pounds remaining in the allocation. Fishery managers anticipate this will sustain only one more day of fishing. After consultation with the sport industry, and taking into consideration weather forecasts, the Washington North Coast primary sport halibut fishery in Marine Areas 3 and 4 will be closed on Thursday, May 21, and open on Saturday, May 23. State fishery managers project the recreational harvest in those areas to reach the 108,030-pound area quota by the end of May 23, and therefore the North Coast primary sport halibut fishery will be closed for the remainder of the season, effective May 24.

In the Marine Area 2 (Westport-Ocean Shores) northern nearshore fishery, 401 pounds were landed during the 7-day period ending May 17, leaving 824 pounds to be harvested. When combined with the 1,825 pounds remaining from the Washington South Coast (Marine Area 2) primary fishery, there are 2,649 pounds remaining to be harvested. This nearshore fishery remains open to halibut fishing seven days per week until further notice. For more information, refer to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife website:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=1601>

In all marine areas open to halibut fishing, there is a one-fish daily catch limit and no minimum size restriction.

Due to the short notice nature of this notification, it is posted to our website only, and no paper copy has been mailed out.

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