

News Release

2320 W. COMMODORE WAY, SUITE 300, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, 98199-1287

June 16, 2015

2015 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 3**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 June 14, 2015 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through June 11, 2015.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,679	2,144	519
3A	7,790	3,778	685
3B	2,650	934	122
4	3,815	612	56
Alaska total	17,934	7,468	1,382
2B	5,914	2,666	239
Grand Total	23,848	10,134	1,621

The catch off Alaska represents 42% of the 2015 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 8.1 million pounds, or 48% 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 92 days of the 2014 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 7.6 million pounds, or 45% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 45% of the 2015 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 2.6 million pounds, or 44% of the 2014 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2014. Also, during the first 89 days of the 2014 IVQ fishery, 2.5 million pounds, or 43% of the catch limit, had been landed.

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 29,035 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the salmon troll fishery was allowed beginning April 1. It is estimated that 13,000 pounds have been landed through June 12 in Washington and Oregon, leaving 16,035 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).

...continued

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 10,347 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the sablefish fishery was allowed beginning April 1. It is estimated that 5,700 pounds have been landed through June 1, leaving 4,647 pounds to be harvested. 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).

Previous Announcements

Three short-notice announcements regarding changes in the Area 2A sport fishery have been published as on-line-only news releases since the most recent printed news release. These releases can be viewed at the IPHC website: <http://iphc.int/news-releases.html>.

- END -

Bruce M. Leaman
Executive Director
Phone: (206) 634-1838
Fax: (206) 632-2983
Web: www.iphc.int