

News Release

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June 30, 2015

Area 2A Non-treaty Directed Commercial Fishery Will Open July 8 With Reduced Fishing Period Limits

The June 24 non-treaty commercial fishing period in Area 2A resulted in an estimated catch of 105,400 pounds, leaving approximately 59,100 pounds in the directed commercial allocation.

Area 2A will re-open on July 8 for 10 hours, from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM local time. The fishery is restricted to waters that are south of Point Chehalis, Washington (46°53'18" N. latitude) under regulations promulgated by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Fishing period limits as indicated in the following table will be in effect for this opening.

Vessel Class		Fishing Period Limit (pounds)	
Length	Letter	Dressed, head-on with ice/slime	Dressed, head-off without ice/slime
0-25	A	575	505
26-30	B	715	630
31-35	C	1,150	1,010
36-40	D	3,160	2,780
41-45	E	3,400	2,990
46-50	F	4,065	3,575
51-55	G	4,535	3,990
56+	H	6,820	6,000

The appropriate vessel length class and letter are printed on each vessel license.

The fishing period limit is shown in terms of dressed, head-off weight as well as dressed, head-on weight, although fishers are reminded that regulations require that all halibut from Area 2A be landed with the head on.

The fishing period limit applies to the vessel, not the individual fisher, and any landings over the vessel limit will be subject to forfeiture and fine.

NMFS implemented mandatory depth-based area closures that are in effect for the directed halibut fishery to protect specific rockfish species. For the exact coordinates of the closed areas, contact Sarah Williams at NMFS at 206-526-4646.

For further information, call the NMFS hotline at 800-662-9825, then press "7" for the halibut fisheries.

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