



July 15, 2015

2015 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 4

Area 2A Non-Treaty Directed Commercial Halibut Fishery Closed for Remainder of 2015

The International Pacific Halibut Commission reports that the total catch limit for the Area 2A non-treaty directed commercial fishery has been reached following the July 8 fishing period. As a result, the Area 2A non-treaty directed commercial fishery is closed for the remainder of 2015.

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 15,900 pounds have been landed through July 12 in Washington and Oregon, leaving 13,135 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).

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 6,600 pounds have been landed through June 24, leaving 3,747 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).

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. Four 48-hour fishing periods, with opening dates of April 24, May 8, May 22, and June 5, had halibut catches of 2,371, 6,592, 5,679, and 7,200 pounds, respectively. The total landed weight of halibut to date during the 2015 season is 21,842 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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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 July 13, 2015 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through July 10, 2015.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,679	2,496	699
3A	7,790	4,709	872
3B	2,650	1,267	172
4A	1,390	546	66
4B	1,140	492	44
4CDE	1,285	421	134
Alaska total	17,934	9,931	1,987
2B	5,914	3,453	345
Grand Total	23,848	13,384	2,332

The catch off Alaska represents 55% of the 2015 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 9.4 million pounds, or 56% 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 121 days of the 2014 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 9.1 million pounds, or 54% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 58% of the 2015 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 3.1 million pounds, or 53% of the 2014 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2014. Also, during the first 118 days of the 2014 IVQ fishery, 3.0 million pounds, or 52% of the catch limit, had been landed.

Previous Announcements

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

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