

News Release

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September 16, 2015

2015 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 6**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 September 14, 2015 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through September 11, 2015.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,679	3,147	1,053
3A	7,790	6,476	1,216
3B	2,650	2,145	271
4A	1,390	1,016	132
4B	1,140	933	114
4CDE	1,285	983	446
Alaska total	17,934	14,700	3,232
2B	5,914	4,962	544
Grand Total	23,848	19,662	3,776

The catch off Alaska represents 82% of the 2015 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 14.5 million pounds, or 86% 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 184 days of the 2014 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 14.1 million pounds, or 84% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 84% of the 2015 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 4.6 million pounds, or 80% of the 2014 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2014. Also, during the first 181 days of the 2014 IVQ fishery, 4.5 million pounds, or 77% of the catch limit, had been landed.

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. The eighth, ninth, and tenth 48-hour fishing periods of the 2015 season, with opening dates of July 31, August 14, and August 28, had halibut catches of 1,834, 6,221, and 6,945 pounds, respectively. The total landed weight of halibut reported to date during the 2015 season is 56,787 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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Previous Announcements

One short-notice announcement regarding the closure of the Area 2A incidental commercial halibut fishery during the limited entry, fixed gear sablefish season has been published as an on-line-only news release since the most recent printed landing report news release. This can be viewed at the IPHC website: <http://www.iphc.int/news-releases/430-nr20150826.html>.

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