

*News Release*

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**HALIBUT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2016 CATCH LIMITS AND SEASONS**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) completed its Ninety-second Annual Meeting in Juneau, AK on January 29, 2016. More than 280 halibut industry stakeholders attended the meeting, with over 80 more participating in web broadcasts of the public sessions.

The Commission is recommending to the governments of Canada and the United States catch limits for 2016 totaling 29.89 million pounds, displayed in the following table by regulatory area.

**2016 Catch Limits**

<b>Regulatory Area</b>	<b>Catch Limit (pounds)</b>
<b>Area 2A</b> (California, Oregon, and Washington)	<b>1,140,000</b>
Non-treaty directed commercial (south of Pt. Chehalis)	193,364
Non-treaty incidental catch in salmon troll fishery	34,123
Non-treaty incidental catch in sablefish fishery (north of Pt. Chehalis)	49,686
Treaty Indian commercial	365,100
Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence (year-round)	33,900
Sport – Washington	214,110
Sport – Oregon	220,077
Sport – California	29,640
<b>Area 2B</b> (British Columbia) (includes sport catch allocation)	<b>7,300,000</b>
<b>Area 2C</b> (southeastern Alaska) (combined commercial/guided sport) <sup>1</sup>	<b>4,950,000</b>
Commercial fishery (3,924,000 catch and 120,000 incidental mortality)	4,044,000
Guided sport fishery	906,000
<b>Area 3A</b> (central Gulf of Alaska) (combined commercial/guided sport) <sup>1</sup>	<b>9,600,000</b>
Commercial fishery (7,336,000 catch and 450,000 incidental mortality)	7,786,000
Guided sport fishery	1,814,000
<b>Area 3B</b> (western Gulf of Alaska)	<b>2,710,000</b>
<b>Area 4A</b> (eastern Aleutians)	<b>1,390,000</b>
<b>Area 4B</b> (central/western Aleutians)	<b>1,140,000</b>
<b>Areas 4CDE</b>	<b>1,660,000</b>
Area 4C (Pribilof Islands)	733,600
Area 4D (northwestern Bering Sea)	733,600
Area 4E (Bering Sea flats)	192,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>29,890,000</b>

<sup>1</sup>The combined total includes estimated mortality from regulatory discards of sublegal halibut and lost gear in the commercial fishery, plus discard mortality in the guided sport fishery, as mandated in the U.S. Catch Sharing Plan. s

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The Commission approved a season of **March 19 – November 7, 2016** for the U.S. and Canadian Individual Quota fisheries. The Treaty tribal commercial fisheries and the incidental halibut fisheries in Area 2A will occur within these dates. In Area 2A, eight 10-hour fishing periods for the non-treaty directed commercial fishery are recommended: June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17, August 31, September 14, and September 28, 2016.

A subsequent IPHC News Release will provide more details of the Annual Meeting, including the regulatory and other issues decided by the Commission.

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