

*News Release*

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April 21, 2016

**2016 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 1****Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update**

The 2016 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 19. It is estimated that the following commercial landings, in pounds and numbers, were made in the Alaskan IFQ fishery through April 19, 2016 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through April 18, 2016. No Alaskan Community Development Quota (CDQ) landings have occurred thus far in 2016.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,924	1,284	234
3A	7,336	1,371	250
3B and 4	6,900	279	30
Alaska total	18,160	2,934	514
2B	6,199	953	67
Grand Total	24,359	3,887	581

The catch off Alaska represents 16% of the 2016 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 2.2 million pounds, or 12% of the 2015 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery by this same date in 2015; however, the opening date of the 2015 fishery occurred five days earlier in the year than that of the 2016 fishery. Thus, during the first 31 days of the 2015 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 2.0 million pounds, or 11% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 15% of the 2016 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 1.2 million pounds, or 21% of the 2015 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2015. Also, during the first 30 days of the 2015 IVQ fishery, 1.2 million pounds, or 21% of the catch limit, had been landed.

**Area 2A Commercial Treaty Indian Fisheries**

In 2016, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) allocated 365,100 pounds of halibut for commercial use to the Treaty Indian tribes of Area 2A-1. Preliminary catch estimates indicate that during the unrestricted fishery openings between March 19 and March 23, the Treaty tribes landed 239,425 pounds of halibut. An additional 50,156 pounds of halibut were landed during a 28-hour restricted fishing period from April 1-2, which had a limit of 500 pounds per vessel. The Area 2A Treaty Indian tribes are planning a late season fishery opening in early May.

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### 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 34,123 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the salmon troll fishery was allowed beginning April 1. Preliminary landing estimates are not yet available. The PFMC has adopted new landing restrictions starting on May 1; for 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 49,686 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the sablefish fishery was allowed beginning April 1. Preliminary landing estimates are not yet available. For further incidental fishery retention information, call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825 press 7 for halibut information).

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