

News Release

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July 14, 2016

**Area 2A Non-treaty Directed Commercial Halibut Fishery Will Re-Open July 20
with Reduced Fishing Period Limits**

The June 22 and July 6 non-treaty commercial halibut fishing periods in Area 2A resulted in an estimated catch of 173,000 pounds, leaving approximately 20,000 pounds in the directed commercial allocation.

Area 2A will re-open on July 20 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 the 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	240	210
26-30	B	300	265
31-35	C	475	420
36-40	D	1,320	1,160
41-45	E	1,415	1,245
46-50	F	1,695	1,490
51-55	G	1,890	1,665
56+	H	2,840	2,500

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, please visit: http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/management/groundfish_closures/groundfish_closed_areas.html For further information, call the NMFS hotline at 800-662-9825, then press "7" for the halibut fisheries.

Due to the short notice, this notification is posted to our website only, and no paper copy has been mailed.

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