

News Release

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August 23, 2016

2016 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 5**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 and CDQ fisheries and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through August 22, 2016.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,924	3,132	923
3A	7,336	5,728	1,123
3B	2,710	1,882	248
4A	1,390	828	103
4B	1,140	704	83
4CDE	1,660	883	528
Alaska total	18,160	13,157	3,008
2B	6,199	3,882	404
Grand Total	24,359	17,039	3,412

The catch off Alaska represents 72% of the 2016 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 12.8 million pounds, or 71% 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 156 days of the 2015 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 12.4 million pounds, or 69% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 63% of the 2016 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 4.5 million pounds, or 76% of the 2015 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2015. Also, during the first 156 days of the 2015 IVQ fishery, 4.4 million pounds, or 74% of the catch limit, had been landed.

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 indicate that approximately 25,165 pounds of halibut have been landed through August 19 in Washington and Oregon. There are roughly 8,900 pounds remaining to be harvested. For further incidental fishery retention information, call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825 press 7 for halibut information).

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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. It is estimated that 16,901 pounds of halibut have been landed through August 16, leaving just under 32,800 pounds remaining to be harvested. 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. The following table lists halibut catch and numbers of participating vessels by fishing period.

Fishing Period Dates	Catch (net pounds)	Number of Vessels
April 15 - 17	3,310	12
April 29 - May 1	3,752	12
May 13 - 15	6,403	20
May 27 - 29	4,454	14
June 10 - 12	5,380	13
June 24 - 26	5,885	9
July 8 - 10	10,726	17
July 22 - 24	6,438	13
August 5 - 7	8,906	14

The total landed weight of halibut reported to date is 55,254 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

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