

*News Release*

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**IPHC NEWS RELEASE 2016-25****2016 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 6****Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update**

The 2016 quota share halibut fisheries opened on 19 March 2016. It is estimated that the following commercial landings, in pounds and numbers, were made in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries through 22 September 2016 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through 20 September 2016.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,924	3,539	1,146
3A	7,336	6,553	1,295
3B	2,710	2,364	309
4A	1,390	1,171	143
4B	1,140	989	109
4CDE	1,660	1,271	594
Alaska total	18,160	15,887	3,596
2B	6,199	4,691	518
Grand Total	24,359	20,578	4,114

The catch off Alaska represents 87% of the 2016 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 15.4 million pounds, or 86% 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 187 days of the 2015 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 15.0 million pounds, or 84% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 76% of the 2016 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 5.1 million pounds, or 86% of the 2015 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2015. Also, during the first 185 days of the 2015 IVQ fishery, 5.0 million pounds, or 85% 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 1 April 2016. Preliminary landing estimates indicate that approximately 26,257 pounds of halibut have been landed through 18 September 2016 in Washington, Oregon, and California. There are roughly 7,800 pounds remaining to be harvested. For further incidental fishery retention information, call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825 press 7 for halibut information).

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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 Pacific 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 Pacific halibut in the sablefish fishery was allowed beginning 1 April 2016. It is estimated that 21,679 pounds of Pacific halibut have been landed through 11 September 2016, leaving approximately 28,000 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 Pacific halibut fishery within the Annette Islands Reserve. The following table lists Pacific halibut catch and numbers of participating vessels by fishing period.

<b>Fishing Period Dates</b>	<b>Catch (net pounds)</b>	<b>Number of Vessels</b>
15 - 17 April	3,310	12
29 April - 1 May	3,752	12
13 - 15 May	6,403	20
27 - 29 May	4,454	14
10 - 12 June	5,380	13
24 - 26 June	5,885	9
8 - 10 July	10,726	17
22 - 24 July	6,438	13
5 - 7 August	8,906	14
19 - 21 August	13,351	15
2 - 4 September	6,614	15

The total landed weight of Pacific halibut reported to date is 75,219 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future Pacific halibut openings.

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