



25 October 2016

IPHC NEWS RELEASE 2016-26**2016 PACIFIC HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 7****Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update**

The 2016 quota share Pacific halibut fisheries opened on 19 March 2016. It is estimated that the following commercial landings, in pounds and numbers, were made in the Alaskan Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries through 23 October 2016 and in the British Columbian Individual Vessel Quota (IVQ) fishery through 21 October 2016.

Area*	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	3,924	3,739	1,260
3A	7,336	7,145	1,426
3B	2,710	2,538	344
4A	1,390	1,285	161
4B	1,140	1,081	123
4CDE	1,660	1,462	609
Alaska total	18,160	17,250	3,923
2B	6,199	5,648	618
Grand Total	24,359	22,898	4,541

*Detailed descriptions and maps of the Areas may be found in the 2016 Pacific Halibut Fishery Regulations (<http://www.iphc.int/library/regulations.html>)

The catch in Alaskan waters represents 95% of the 2016 commercial fishery catch limit for that area. For comparison, 17.1 million pounds, or 95% 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 (5) days earlier in the year than that of the 2016 fishery. Thus, during the first 218 days of the 2015 Alaskan commercial Pacific halibut fishery, 16.9 million pounds, or 94% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian (Area 2B) waters represents 91% of the 2016 commercial fishery catch limit for that area. For comparison, 5.6 million pounds, or 95% of the 2015 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2015. Also, during the first 216 days of the 2015 IVQ fishery, 5.5 million pounds, or 93% of the catch limit, had been landed.

Area 2A Incidental Commercial Pacific Halibut Fishery During the Salmon Troll Season

The total allowable incidental commercial catch of Pacific halibut allocated to the Area 2A salmon troll fishery was 34,123 pounds. Incidental catch of Pacific halibut in the salmon troll fishery was permitted beginning 1 April 2016. Preliminary landing estimates indicate that approximately 25,747 pounds of Pacific halibut have been landed through 25 October 2016 in Washington, Oregon, and California. There are roughly 8,000 pounds remaining from the 2016 allocation, yet to be harvested. For further incidental fishery retention information, call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825 press 7 for Pacific halibut information).

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Area 2A Incidental Commercial Pacific 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 permitted beginning 1 April 2016. It is estimated that 29,100 pounds of Pacific halibut have been landed through 15 October 2016, leaving approximately 20,600 pounds remaining to be harvested. For further incidental fishery retention information, call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825 press 7 for Pacific 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.

Fishing Period Dates	Catch (net pounds)	Number of Vessels
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
16 – 18 September	3,066	8
30 September – 2 October	1,073	5

The total landed weight of Pacific halibut reported to date is 79,358 pounds. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced the closure of this fishery on 7 October 2016.

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