

News Release

P.O. BOX 95009, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98145-2009

May 19, 2010

2010 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 2**Non-treaty Commercial Fishing Period Limits in Area 2A for June 30 Fishery**

The Commission has determined that fishing period limits will be required during the 10-hour, June 30 non-treaty directed commercial fishing period in Area 2A to avoid exceeding the 141,865 pound catch limit. The June 30 fishing period will begin at 8:00 AM and end at 6:00 PM. The fishery is restricted to waters that are south of Point Chehalis, Washington (46°53'18" N. latitude) under regulations promulgated by 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	860	755
26-30	B	1,075	945
31-35	C	1,715	1,510
36-40	D	4,735	4,165
41-45	E	5,090	4,480
46-50	F	6,095	5,365
51-55	G	6,800	5,985
56+	H	10,225	9,000

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, go to the following web page: <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Groundfish-Halibut/Pacific-Halibut/Halibut-Closed-Areas.cfm>
For further information, call the NMFS hotline at 1-800-662-9825, then press "5" for the halibut fisheries.

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Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update

The 2010 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 6. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries through May 16, 2010 and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through May 14, 2010.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	4,400.0	1,850	531
3A	19,900.0	7,877	680
3B	9,900.0	1,286	120
4	8,070.0	331	28
Alaska total	42,270.0	11,334	1,359
2B	6,598.7	2,912	264
Grand Total	48,868.7	14,246	1,623

The catch off Alaska represents 27% of the 2010 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 9.5 million pounds, or 21% of the 2009 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery by this same date in 2009; however, the opening date of the 2009 fishery occurred 15 days later in the year than that of the 2010 fishery. Thus, during the first 71 days of the 2009 Alaskan commercial halibut fishery, 13.0 million pounds, or 29% of the catch limit, were landed.

The catch from British Columbian waters represents 44% of the 2010 commercial fishery catch limit. For comparison, 2.1 million pounds, or 31% of the 2009 catch limit, had been landed from Area 2B by this same date in 2009. Also, during the first 69 days of the 2009 IVQ fishery, 2.4 million pounds, or 36% 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 25,035 pounds. Incidental catch of halibut in the salmon troll fishery was allowed beginning May 1. It is estimated that 3,000 pounds have been landed through May 15 in Washington and 2,600 pounds in Oregon. The incidental halibut catch fishery during the salmon troll season remains open until further notice.

Incidental Commercial Halibut Catch in the Area Fixed Gear Sablefish Fishery

In 2010, the incidental commercial catch of halibut in the limited entry, fixed gear sablefish fishery which operates in Area 2A north of Point Chehalis, Washington is not allowed. This is a result of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Catch Sharing Plan and a lower total Area 2A catch limit for halibut.

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Bruce M. Leaman
Executive Director
Phone: (206) 634-1838
Fax: (206) 632-2983
Web: www.iphc.washington.edu