

The 2009 Halibut Fishery

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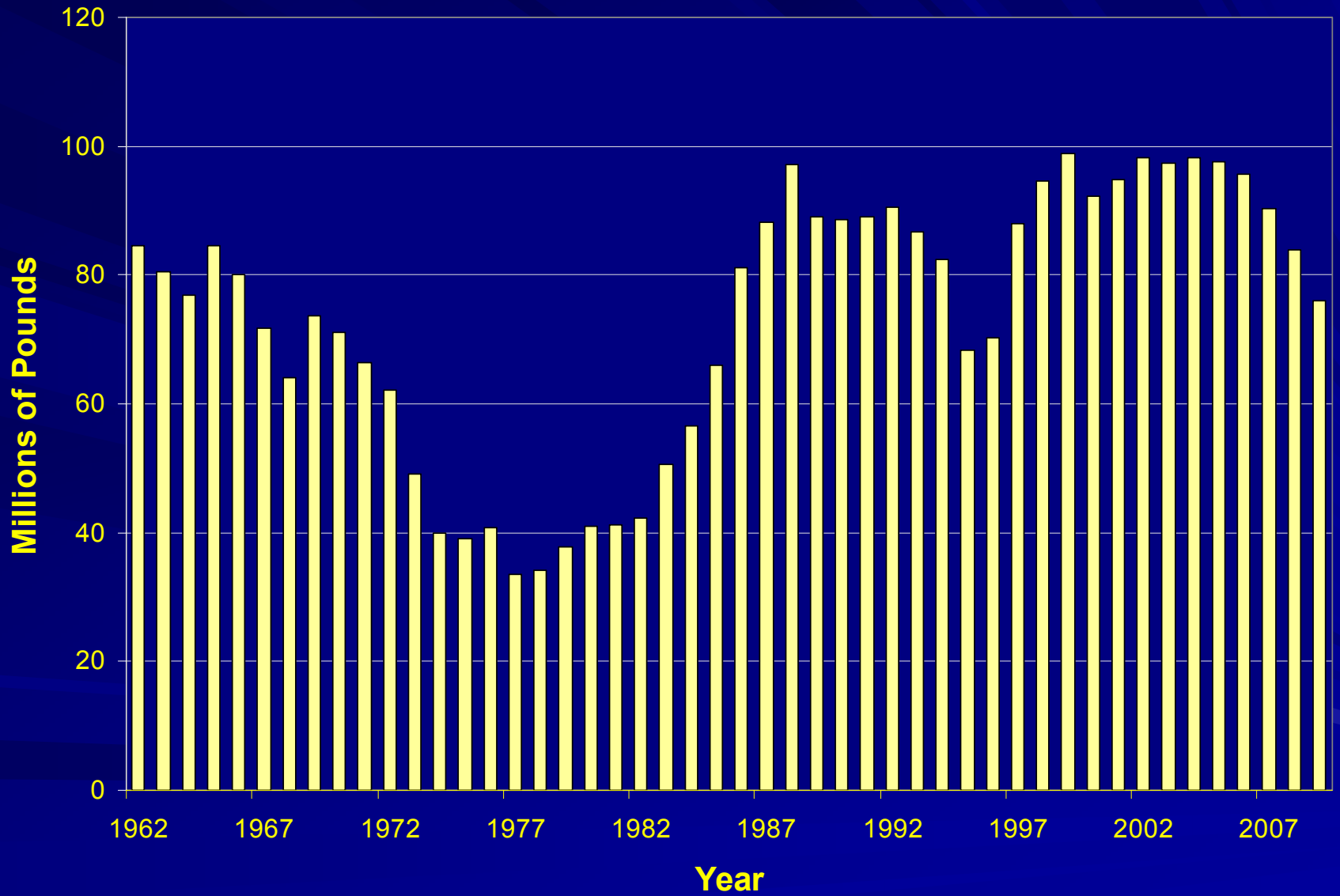
Drawings by Birgit Soderlund

Total Halibut Removals

Goal

- Accurate accounting of all removals
 - scale weights or scientifically-based estimates
 - necessary for stock assessment, allocation programs
- Commercial fishery legal-size limit is 32 inches
- Halibut 32 inches and over: O32
- Halibut under 32 inches: U32

Total Removals, 1962 - 2009





2009 Halibut Removals

➤ Commercial	51.2 M lbs	(67%)
➤ Bycatch	11.4 M lbs	(15%)
➤ Sport	8.7 M lbs	(11%)
➤ Wastage	2.7 M lbs	(4%)
➤ Personal use	1.3 M lbs	(2%)
➤ <u>IPHC research</u>	<u>0.9 M lbs</u>	<u>(1%)</u>
Total	76.2 M lbs	(100%)

O32 and U32 Removals

➤ Bycatch Mortality

- O32 removals: 4.6 M lbs
- U32 removals: 6.8 M lbs

➤ Wastage

- O32 removals: 0.1 M lbs
- U32 removals: 2.6 M lbs



Allocation by Governments

U.S. and Canadian allocation programs

- To user groups
- To individuals
- Within IPHC management areas

Allocation by Governments: Area 2A

- Catch sharing plan developed by Pacific Council
- For all sport, commercial, treaty Indian users
- Area catch limit adopted by IPHC
- CSP implemented by NMFS
- 3 commercial fisheries, 6 sport sub-area fisheries, treaty commercial and subsistence fisheries
- Total 2009 catch was 4% over 0.95 M lb catch limit

Allocation by Governments: Area 2B

- Sixth year with allocation program
- IPHC adopted combined sport/commercial catch limit
- DFO allocated to sport and commercial
- Sport catch ceiling is 12% of combined catch limit
- Total 2009 catch was slightly over the 7.63 M lb catch limit

Allocation by Governments: Areas 4CDE

- Catch Sharing plan developed by NP Council
- Commercial catch limit for Area 4CDE set by IPHC
- Allocated to regulatory area by CSP; implemented by NMFS
- NMFS and IPHC regulations allow 4C quota share to be caught in 4C or 4D and 4E to be caught in 4D
- Total 2009 catch is 5% under the 3.46 M lb catch limit

2009 Commercial Fishery: Under/Over

<u>Area</u>	<u>Catch Limit</u>	<u>Adjusted Catch Limit</u>
2A	- 3 %	N/A
2B	- 2 %	- 7 %
2C	- 3 %	- 7 %
3A	- 2 %	- 3 %
3B	- 3 %	- 3 %



2009 Commercial Fishery: Under/Over

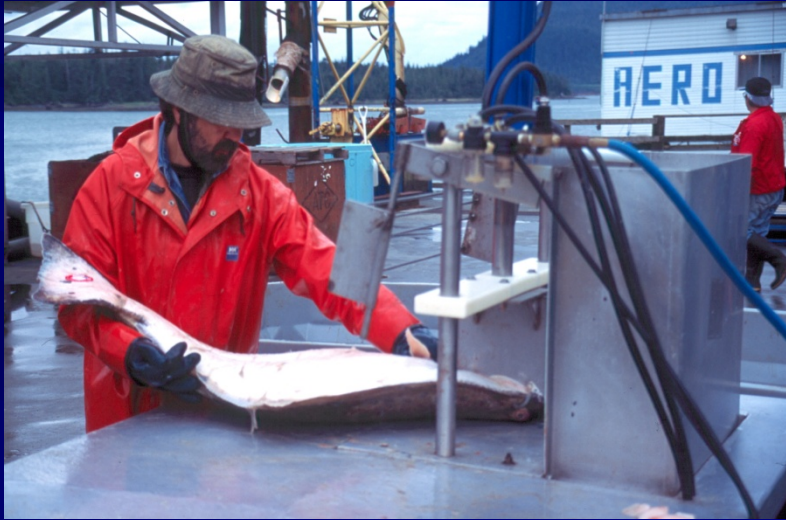
<u>Area</u>	<u>Catch Limit</u>	<u>Adjusted Catch Limit</u>
4A	- 4%	- 7%
4B	- 18%	- 20%
4CDE	- 5 %	- 7%

Area 2A 2009 Commercial Fisheries



- Directed fishery
 - 2 openings
 - 7% over the catch limit
- Incidental with salmon
 - ratio 1:2 halibut to chinook
 - 62% under the catch limit
- Incidental with sablefish
 - 2008 limit of 70,000 lbs
 - 2009 limit of 11,400 lbs
 - 100 lbs of halibut per trip
 - 55% under the catch limit
- Treaty Indian fishery
 - inter-tribal allocation program
 - longer season, catch limit taken

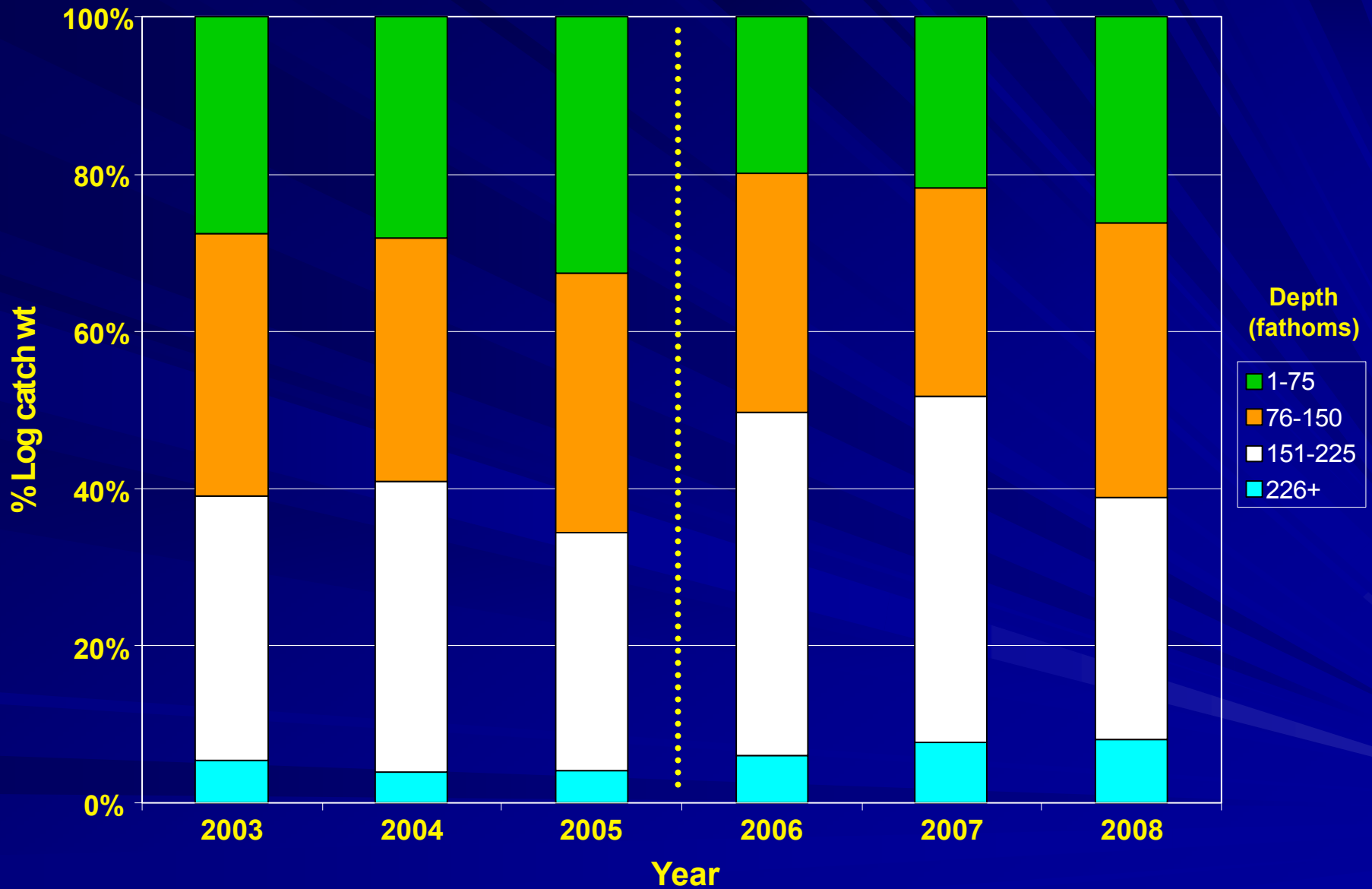
Integrated Fisheries Management: Area 2B



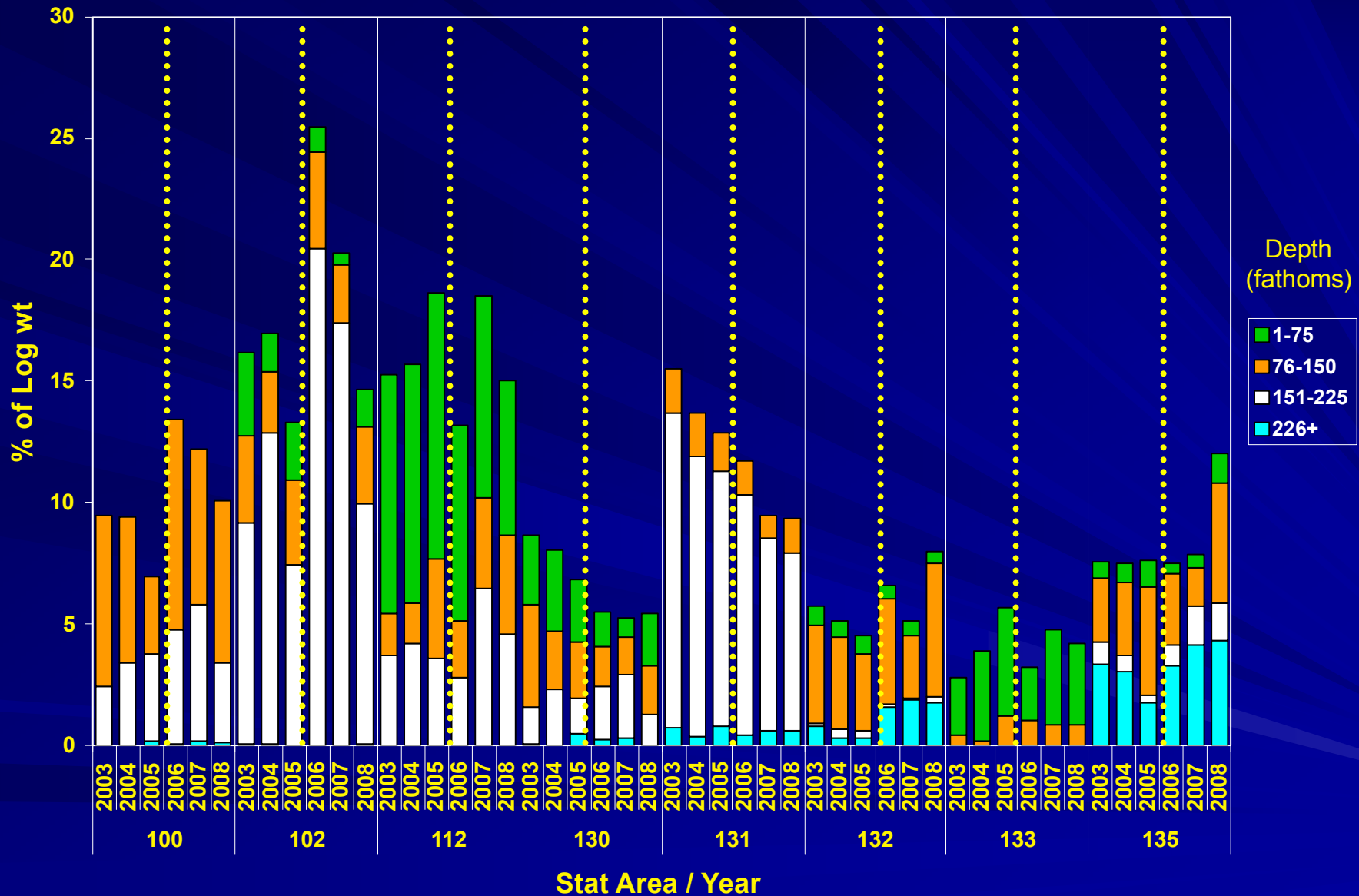
Fourth year of groundfish integrated management plan

- Pilot extended through 2009
- Individual quotas
- Transferability
- 100% at-sea monitoring (electronic monitoring/logbooks)
- 100% dockside monitoring
- Individual vessel accountability for catch and discards

Area 2B Commercial Fishery By Depth



Area 2B Commercial Fishery by Area and Depth



Sport Catch Estimates: Area 2A

- Part of catch sharing plan
- In-season estimation
- Catch of 457,000 lbs
- 12% over allocation
 - WA inside waters 99% over
 - WA North/South/Columbia areas were under by 5-20%
 - OR areas within 2%



Sport Catch Estimates: Area 2B

- Sport Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) leased commercial quota shares to provide for additional pounds for the sport fishery
- 2009 management changes included:
 - Opening date delayed from Feb. 1 to March 1
 - Limits were:
 - 1-fish daily bag limit: March 1 – August 21
 - 2-fish daily bag limit: August 22 – Dec. 31
 - possession limit changed to 2-fish from 3-fish

Sport Catch Estimates: Area 2B

- Initial 2009 allocation of 0.918 M lbs
- With the commercial quota share leased amount, allocation totaled 1.099 M lbs
- Initial 2009 catch estimate of 1.098 M lbs
- Estimation by:
 - overflights, vessel counts, creel sampling, lodge logbooks
 - self reporting and limited creel validation for lodge logbooks
 - 2009 size composition data from 44% of landed weight, remaining data from 2006-2008

Sport Catch Estimates: Alaska

2008 final estimate of 8.65 M lbs

2009 projected estimate of 7.1 M lbs

Revised methods of estimation

- Charter/guided harvest
 - # of fish from logbooks, compared to Statewide Harvest Survey (SWHS)
- Private/unguided harvest
 - projections of # of fish, with average weight by SWHS area, summed by area

Sport Fishery: Area 2C

Charter/guided fishery:

- 1-fish daily bag limit from June 5 – Dec. 31
- No retention of halibut by skipper or crew
- 1-line per angler with maximum of 6 lines
- Average weight of 25 lbs compared to 19.4 lbs in 2008
- Number of fish decreased by half

Private/unguided fishery:

- 2-fish daily bag limit
- Number and average weight similar to 2008

Sport Fishery: Areas 3 and 4

- 2-fish daily bag limit
- Only harvest change was in Area 3A
- 15% decline, substantially in charter fishery
- Charter fishery partly dependent on tourism

Sport Catch Estimates: GHL and sport charter fishery catch

Year	2C GHL M lbs	Catch M lbs (% Over)	3A GHL M lbs	Catch M lbs (% Over)
2006	1.432	1.804 (21%)	3.650	3.664 (<1%)
2007	1.432	1.918 (34%)	3.650	4.002 (10%)
2008	0.931	1.999 (115%)	3.650	3.378 (-7%)
2009	0.788	1.302 (65%)	3.650	2.564 (-30%)

Bycatch Mortality

- Halibut that die from other commercial fisheries
- 2009 estimate of 11 M lbs; 2% decrease from 2008; lowest since 1986
- Area 2A: roll-over from 2008
- Area 2B: slightly below 10-year average since implementation of Individual Bycatch Quota
- Alaska: similar to 2008, with largest (4%) decrease in Area 4 due to fishery cooperatives

Bycatch Mortality, 1962 - 2009

