

News Release

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

August 14, 2007

2007 HALIBUT LANDING REPORT NO. 9**Area 2A Directed Commercial Halibut Fishery Closed for Remainder of 2007**

The International Pacific Halibut Commission reports that the catch limit for the Area 2A non-treaty directed commercial fishery has been reached, following the August 8 fishing period. Therefore, this fishery is closed for the remainder of 2007. The remaining catch limit of 3,440 pounds is now available to the incidental halibut fishery during the salmon troll season.

Quota Share Commercial Fisheries Update

The 2007 quota share halibut fisheries opened on March 10. It is estimated that the following catches and numbers of landings were made in the Alaskan IFQ and CDQ fisheries and in the British Columbian IVQ fishery through August 13, 2007.

Area	Catch Limit (000's pounds)	Catch (000's pounds)	Number of Landings
2C	8,510.0	6,146	1,720
3A	26,200.0	18,138	1,804
3B	9,220.0	6,309	458
4A	2,890.0	1,713	167
4B	1,4400.0	939	79
4C	1,866.5	340	355
4D	1,866.5	936	82
4E	367.0	489	2,158
Alaska total	52,360.0	35,010	6,823
2B	10,089.0	6,663	811
Grand Total	62,449.0	41,673	7,634

The Alaskan catch represents 67% of the 2007 catch limit. For comparison, 38.5 million pounds, or 70% of the 2006 catch limit, were landed in the Alaskan fishery between March 5 and August 15, 2006.

The British Columbian catch represents 66% of the 2007 catch limit. For comparison, 7.5 million pounds, or 65% of the 2006 catch limit, were landed from Area 2B between March 5 and August 15, 2006.

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Area 2A Commercial Tribal Fisheries

In 2007, the Pacific Fishery Management Council allocated 461,000 pounds of halibut to the Treaty Indian tribes of Area 2A-1 for commercial use. It is estimated that 459,429 pounds have been landed by the Treaty tribes through July 30, the closing date for the commercial tribal fisheries.

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 40,227 pounds. The catch limit now available is 43,667 pounds which includes 3,440 pounds that has rolled from the directed fishery. A total of 21,349 pounds of halibut were landed through August 13, with 13,384 pounds landed in Washington and 7,965 pounds landed 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

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 70,000 pounds. It is estimated that 15,496 pounds have been landed through August 13. This incidental halibut catch fishery remains open until further notice. For further incidental fishery retention information call the NMFS hotline (1-800-662-9825).

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 sixth 48-hour opening of the 2007 season occurred between July 6 and July 8 and resulted in the landing of 5,116 pounds of halibut. After six openings, a grand total of 28,762 pounds of halibut have been landed in 2007. The Metlakatla Indian Community and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will announce future halibut openings.

News Release Correction

Incorrect Interim Meeting days were listed in the News Release dated July 20, 2007. The 2007 IPHC Interim Meeting will be held in Seattle on Wednesday, November 28 and Thursday, November 29, 2007.

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