

The Pacific halibut fishery, 2003

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The removals of halibut off the Pacific coast totaled 97 million pounds in 2003, similar to the last seven years' annual removals of over 90 million pounds. The removals include commercial catch, sport catch, bycatch mortality, personal use, and wastage (Table 1). The 2003 data are preliminary and the sources are the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC, or Commission), and federal and state agencies.

The Commission was established in 1923 to manage and conserve the halibut resource, with the commercial fishery dating back to the late 1800s. The commercial fishery represents the largest removal (75% in 2003). Through the years, the estimation of each of the other removals has been added: bycatch mortality in the 1960s, sport catch in the late 1970s, wastage in the 1980s, and personal use (subsistence) in the 1990s. In 2003, the removals for commercial catch, sport catch, incidental bycatch mortality, personal use, and wastage were 73.1, 9.1, 12.3, 0.8, and 2.0 million pounds respectively.

Accurate reporting of removals is essential to stock assessment and for determining the recommended allowable catch. Removals are estimated most accurately using a scale weight of the halibut landings, or a scientifically-based estimation procedure. Over the years, the Commission has worked with different agencies to improve the estimation procedures and has attempted to account for all removals. The Commission also recognizes the need for integrated fisheries management and works with other agencies on bycatch of other species in the halibut fishery and on other management issues. This report will review some of the data collection projects the Commission is working on with other agencies to improve catch accounting and integrated fisheries management, and will provide a progress report on allocation procedures and accounting methods.

Wastage removals represent the mortality of legal-sized halibut due to lost or abandoned gear, and of sublegal-sized halibut discarded in the halibut fishery. Since the implementation of the quota share fisheries, the total mortality of legal-sized halibut from lost gear has remained under 0.5 million pounds annually. Less gear is lost in the quota share fisheries because vessels can more likely avoid bad weather and the pace is slower compared to the derby-style fisheries.

Bycatch mortality accounts for the halibut that die from being caught in other fisheries. The 2003 bycatch mortality estimate of 12.3 million pounds is the lowest since 1987 but similar to the estimates for the last several years.

The mortality of sublegal-sized halibut (as bycatch discards in other fisheries and wastage in the halibut fishery), which was deducted prior to 1997 when setting the total Constant Exploitation Yield (CEY), is now accounted for when setting the exploitation rate. Although the estimated amounts are no longer deducted in setting the CEY, they are included in the reporting of 2003 total removals. Mortality of legal-sized halibut continues to be deducted from total CEY when calculating the setline CEY.

Allocation

The Commission does not have the authority to make allocation decisions among user groups within each country; this is the responsibility of each government. Currently, both the United States and Canadian governments are working on allocation plans by regulatory area or for smaller local areas.

In British Columbia, an allocation program between the commercial and sport sectors has been talked about for many years. Formal discussions began in 2000, with an independent advisor hired by Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) in 2002. The advisor recommended a 9 % “ceiling” for the recreational sector, and also recommended that DFO focus on improving recreational catch estimates. In October 2003, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans announced an allocation framework between the commercial and recreational sectors of the halibut fishery. The recreational sector will be allocated a 12 % “ceiling” of the combined commercial/recreational harvest until an acceptable mechanism is developed to allow the recreational sector to acquire quota from the commercial section. This allocation will allow both sector’s catch to fluctuate with stock abundance. However, if abundance levels decline or recreational angling increases, DFO will implement measures to restrict the sport catch (change bag limits) and avoid changing the season length. In 2003, DFO estimates that the sport sector accounted for eight percent of the combined Area 2B commercial/recreational removals. With this new allocation procedure, the Commission will adopt a combined catch limit for the commercial and sport sectors and DFO will allocate between the two user groups.

In Alaska, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC or Council) has reviewed several different allocation programs for the sport charter fishery. In the end, the NPFMC adopted a program for managing the harvest by sport charter vessels in Areas 3A and 2C by instituting a Guideline Harvest Level (GHL). NMFS implemented this program in September 2003. The GHL was based on 125% of the average charter harvest in each area during the period of 1995 through 1999. Initially the program was designed with restrictive measures that would be implemented the year following attainment of the GHL to return the sport charter harvest to levels below the GHL. However, in its review of the program, the NOAA General Counsel office raised concerns about NMFS’ ability to implement the restrictive measures in a timely manner. The Final Rule published by NMFS did not contain the restrictions but instead required that NMFS inform the Council when the GHL has been reached and at that time NMFS will determine how best to reduce the sport charter harvest back under the GHL. This method will allow the sport charter harvest to fluctuate with halibut abundance as the appropriate percentage of the combined commercial and guided sport catch limit is applied. The GHL was not reached in 2003.

The NPFMC also approved an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) program for sport charter vessels. NMFS is currently working on designing the program and, if implemented, it will replace the GHL. NMFS recognizes that a reporting system will be necessary for implementation and for catch accounting of the sport harvest. Therefore, NMFS hired a consulting firm to review current sport catch reporting programs used by other state or federal agencies and to make recommendations for an effective future system in Alaska. The report is in final review.

The one area where comprehensive user group allocation occurs is off Washington, Oregon, and California (Area 2A). The Commission determines the total allowable catch for all users and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) allocates the harvest among users with a Catch

Sharing Plan (CSP). The Commission annually approves the CSP, which determines the catch limits for the different fisheries. There are three commercial fisheries (directed, incidental with salmon troll, and incidental with limited-entry sablefish longline), a treaty Indian fishery, and two sport divisions (with nine sub-area sport fisheries). The 2003 total catch (1.2 million pounds) for commercial, sport, and treaty Indian users was slightly under the catch limit (Table 2).

Detailed Catch Data

The commercial fishery

A detailed summary of the 2003 catch and seasons by regulatory area (Fig. 1) is provided in Table 3. When comparing commercial catch tables from different reports, it should be noted that prior to 1995 the research catch was included in the commercial catch; it was not listed separately. The commercial catch occurs in: an open-access fishery, two incidental catch fisheries, and a treaty Indian fishery in Area 2A; the quota share (QS) fisheries in British Columbia and Alaska; and a Metlakatla fishery within the Annette Island Reserve in southeast Alaska.

Area 2A

In Area 2A, IPHC licenses sport charter and commercial vessels at the request of the PFMC. In 2003, a total of 710 vessel licenses were issued: 323 licenses (45% of the total number of licenses) for the incidental commercial catch of halibut during the salmon troll fishery; 260 (37%) for the directed commercial fishery and the incidental halibut during sablefish fishery; and 127 (18%) for the sport charter fishery. There was little change in the number of licenses issued between 2002 and 2003.

In the incidental commercial halibut fishery conducted during the salmon troll season, the allowable incidental catch ratio was one halibut per three chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and an "extra" one halibut regardless of ratio, but the total number of incidental halibut landed per vessel could not exceed 35. The ratio of halibut to number of chinook has remained the same since 2000. The incidental commercial halibut fishery during the salmon season opened on May 1 and closed on August 6, two weeks earlier than in 2002. The catch was slightly (7% or 2,700 pounds) over the catch limit.

The directed commercial fishery consisted of four 10-hour fishing periods with fishing period limits (Table 4). The fishing period limits by vessel class remained high for all of the openings, with H-class vessels ranging from 2,500 to 5,300 pounds. The total directed commercial catch was 4% (8,300 pounds) over the catch limit.

The incidental halibut fishery during the limited-entry sablefish season opened May 1 and closed at the end of the sablefish season on October 31, 2003. The catch limit was 70,000 pounds compared to 88,389 pounds in 2002. The decrease in catch limit was due to a change in allocation among users by the PFMC. The catch was still under the catch limit (by 9%) but closer than it had been in the past.

The treaty Indian catch of 465,000 pounds was over the catch limit by less than 2%. During the unrestricted fishery, there were two fishing periods (March 1-3 and April 15-16) for a total catch of 317,000 pounds. The restricted fishery with fishing period limits of 500 pounds had a total catch of 148,000 pounds. Last year 17% of the treaty Indian commercial catch was taken during the restricted fishery compared to 32% this year.

Area 2C

The Metlakatla total catch of 84,072 pounds is included in the Area 2C commercial catch. The catch was double the 2002 catch, although the total catch has varied over time from a high of 126,000 pounds in 1996 to a low of 12,000 pounds in 1998.

Quota share fisheries

The total 2003 catch from the IFQ halibut fishery for the waters off of Alaska was 59.6 million pounds, 4% under the catch limit. For Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, and 4A, the commercial QS catches were within 3% of the catch limits and the Area 4B catch was within 8% of the catch limit. Since 2002, the IFQ regulations allowed 4D Community Development Quota (CDQ) to be taken in Area 4E. This was not a biological concern to the IPHC because Areas 4CDE are managed as one stock. The combined Area 4DE catch was 4% under the combined limit. Area 4C was the one area where the catch was substantially under the catch limit, with less than half of the Area 4C catch limit taken. Since the implementation of the QS fishery, this area has always had catches under the catch limit, with last year's catch 40% under the limit. Area 4C catch in previous years ranged from 12-21% under the catch limit, with the exception of 1997 when the catch was 5% under the catch limit (1.1 million pounds). In early December 2003, NMFS reported that 3,440 persons held quota shares, down from the initial 4,830 persons at the start of the program.

Since 1991, an Individual Vessel Quota (IVQ) fishery has been in effect in Area 2B. The IVQ fishery allowed each vessel to catch a predetermined poundage of halibut as calculated by DFO, based on the 11.75 million pound catch limit approved by IPHC. There was also an additional 123,531 pounds available as carryover from the underage/overage program in the 2002 fishery. The Area 2B catch of 11.68 million pounds was within 1% of the catch limit. Since 1999, the number of active vessels has varied from year to year, ranging between a high of 257 (in 1999) and a low of 214 (in 2002). In 2003, 8,219,000 pounds, or 70% of the catch limit, was transferred between vessels, with 544,317 pounds permanently transferred between vessels.

The landing of live halibut from Area 2B has been allowed by DFO. In 2003, live fish landings totaled approximately 15,000 pounds compared to a low of 7,900 pounds in 1998 and a high of 103,000 pounds in 1999. Six vessels made a total of 15 landings with live halibut and no halibut were penned.

The QS fishery landings were spread over nine months of the year (Table 6). Because the 2003 fishery opened roughly two weeks earlier than the start dates of the previous eight QS fishing seasons, a month-to-month comparison among years is difficult. On a straight month-to-month comparison, despite the early opening, May was still the busiest month for Alaska landings, as it has been for the last three years. May landings, however, represented only 15.8% of the 2003 total catch, which was down from 19.3% in 2002. With the increased length of the March fishing period, this month became the busiest for poundage delivered in British Columbia, where the bulk of the poundage landed had previously been seen in April. Among years and within areas, Figure 2 indicates a shift in the poundage delivered from the mid-season months (May-August) to the beginning and end months of the season. Comparing fishing period lengths, 8.8% of the total 2003 Alaska catch was landed in the first four weeks of the season, while 10.4% of the total catch was landed in the first four weeks of the 2002 season. Comparing B.C. landings during the first four weeks of the season, 15.1% of the total 2B catch was landed in 2003 compared to 18.5% in 2002.

In 2003, the average ex-vessel price was close to \$3.00 per pound. The 2003 prices published by NMFS to be used in the fee collection program show the lowest prices in May and highest prices in September through October. This is a similar pattern to 2002.

Changes to the Alaska QS program

The changes to the regulations for the IFQ fishery off Alaska which were approved in 2002 were implemented in August 2003. The changes were a result of a compromise proposed by the IFQ Implementation Team, an advisory panel to the NPFMC composed of fishers and processors as voting members. The following summarizes the changes and the issues for the IPHC:

- **Prior Notice of Landing/offload window:** The offload window remained the same (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and the Prior Notice of Landing (PNOL) was shortened from 6-hour notice to 3-hour notice. This did effect the IPHC port samplers, as they had received faxed notice of offloads at 6 a.m. and noon for planning purposes. They now check in every three hours instead of every six hours, which affected hours worked and sampling schedules.

- **Buyer/location:** The requirement of providing buyer information on the PNOL was changed to require landing location, to accommodate auction sales. IPHC samplers could still find the dock/offloading site where the vessel offloaded and obtained buyer information from the fish tickets.

- **Clearance requirement:** Previously, vessels required a written clearance, obtained at a port within Alaska prior to departing Alaska with IFQ catch. Now a verbal “departure report” is required prior to leaving Alaska, which has additional information that was not in the written clearance. IPHC samplers now work with the faxed PNOL information and the enforcement officers to get the necessary offloading information.

- **Shipment reports:** The change eliminated the shipment report and required that the IFQ species be reported on the NMFS Transfer Report. This has no effect on IPHC.

The sport fishery harvest

Sport harvest estimates are provided to IPHC by state and federal agencies.

Washington, Oregon, and California harvest

The Area 2A sport harvest of 404,000 pounds was under the catch limit or allocation by 18 % (Table 6). The two subareas that were substantially under the catch limit were the Oregon North Central Coast and the Oregon Coast inside of 30 fathoms. Even though the Oregon North Central Coast sport fishery provided more fall (August-September) fishing, this area was under the allocation primarily due to sport anglers choosing salmon over halibut fishing. The Oregon near-shore (> 30 fathoms) fishery accounted for only 6% of the 20,000 pound allocation, but since 2001 only small portions (11-14%) of the allocation has been landed.

British Columbia harvest

The Area 2B harvest estimate (1.1 million pounds) was provided by DFO and revised by IPHC to include Canadian catch landed at Neah Bay, Washington. The Area 2B harvest is reported in numbers of fish harvested and was converted to pounds by multiplying the DFO catch estimates for northern British Columbia by the average weight from the Area 2C sport harvest, and adding to the product of southern British Columbia harvest multiplied by the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife average weight recorded in Neah Bay. Average weights from sport harvest sampling in

British Columbia were unavailable to the IPHC so average weights from established sampling programs in adjacent areas were used in their absence. Washington anglers landed 220,000 pounds or 10,508 fish from Canadian waters. The pounds increased from 182,000 in 2002 due to increase in numbers of fish landed.

Alaskan harvest

The Alaska sport harvest estimates are derived from a statewide postal survey in conjunction with creel surveys at points of landing. The estimates usually lag by one year and are estimated from a combination of linear projections of halibut harvested in the previous five years, current average weights, and current in-season data. The 2002 and 2003 harvest estimates are projected.

Personal use

Personal use removals occur in the following fisheries: the DFO-sanctioned Indian food fish fishery in Area 2B, Area 2A treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence fishery, Alaska subsistence fishery, sublegal-sized halibut retained in Area 4E as part of the IPHC regulations, and illegally-retained halibut from commercial and sport fisheries. Over the years, improvements have been made to how these estimates are derived, however there are still estimates produced with little documentation and without scientifically-based procedures.

In 2003, NMFS implemented the Alaska subsistence regulations that were approved by the NPFMC in 2002. The catch estimate for the 2003 fishery will not be available until mid-2004. Therefore, the 2003 personal use estimate (760,000 pounds) was calculated in the same manner as the 2002 estimate and includes the sublegal-sized halibut retained from the Area 4E and 4D CDQ fishery, and the allocated ceremonial and subsistence treaty Indian harvest (27,000 pounds) in Area 2A. IPHC regulations allowed sublegal-sized halibut to be retained in the Area 4E CDQ commercial halibut fishery by CDQ vessels that landed all of their annual catch in 4D or 4E. The three authorized CDQ groups in Alaska reported a total of 14,341 pounds of sublegal halibut retained in those fisheries. The catch has ranged from 4,000 pounds in the first year of the program (1998) to 30,000 pounds in 2001.

The Alaska subsistence fishery dates are set by the Commission and in the future the fishery will be year-round. In 2003, the fishery opened on May 15, 2003 after NMFS implemented the regulations. These regulations allow rural residents and members of federally-recognized Alaska Native Tribes to retain halibut for non-commercial, long-term, customary and traditional use for direct personal or family consumption as food; and for customary trade. Prior to subsistence halibut fishing, eligible persons must register with NMFS Restricted Access Management Division to obtain a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate (SHARC). The total number of SHARCs issued was 11,950 and they were fairly equally divided between rural residents and Tribal natives. Over 50% of the rural SHARC holders were residents of Sitka (1,221 permits), Kodiak (1,090 permits), and Petersburg (905). Four tribal communities (Tlingit and Haida tribes, Ketchikan Indian Corporation, village of Toksook Bay, Sitka Tribe) had between 400-600 individuals obtaining a SHARC.

SHARC holders could subsistence halibut fish in any area off Alaska with the exception of four "non-rural" areas and the Sitka Pinnacles Marine Reserve. There are some fishing location restrictions on Tribal members living in urban areas or out of state. The legal gear is set or hand-held hook and line gear with no more than 30 hooks. There is no size limit and the daily bag limit is 20 halibut, except there is no limit in Areas 4C, 4E, and in Savoonga and Gambell in Area 4D. There is no limit to the number SHARC holders that can fish from a single vessel. Subsistence

halibut cannot be retained when the vessel has commercial or sport halibut on board (with the exception of Areas 4D or 4E). Customary and traditional trade through monetary exchange is limited to an annual maximum of \$400 and is not allowed to occur on the premises of commercial buying operations. Subsistence-caught halibut exchanged for money, traded, or bartered cannot be sold at any time.

NMFS has contracted with the Subsistence Division of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to estimate the total weight of subsistence-caught halibut by regulatory area. The 2003 estimation will be determined primarily through responses from surveys that will be mailed in 2004 to registered card holders, with some limited face-to-face interviews in select communities.

The NPFMC and NMFS are reviewing the program, and like any new program, changes will occur. The IPHC staff has some concerns centering around catch accounting with the increased permissions for harvest under the new regulations and the enforcement of the program. Issues of concern to the Commission staff, as well as different industry sectors are: the change of the legal definition of halibut possession by allowing subsistence halibut on other commercial vessels; no possession limit; accurately accounting of the fish especially from fillets; and the enforcement of \$400 annual maximum monetary exchange. The Commission received several proposals to change subsistence regulations which will be reviewed at this meeting. However, the regulations governing this program are implemented by NMFS.

Joint programs for data collection

The Commission works with many agencies to improve accounting of halibut removals as well as to improve bycatch accounting in the halibut industry. There were several projects underway in 2003.

Logbook projects

In 2003, IPHC provided DFO with Area 2B fishing event (skates hauled and lost) and bycatch species (catch and discards) information that were recorded in the 2002 logbooks. The data were obtained by expanding the IPHC port sampler's tasks in B.C. by having them interview skippers and edit information on the bycatch of other species during halibut fishing. These data were provided by DFO statistical areas and with unique vessel identifiers to maintain the confidentiality of the vessels. The data provided has a skipper's signature acknowledging that IPHC will provide the information to DFO. The goal of the program is to provide DFO with additional information for bycatch accounting of other species. The 2003 data will be provided with additional landing weight information collected by the samplers.

IPHC and NMFS have a joint IFQ catcher vessel logbook program for vessels 60 ft and greater operating off Alaska. For the fifth year (2003), NMFS contracted IPHC staff to interview the IFQ fishers to review and collect the sablefish information in addition to the halibut information. Copies of the log sheets are sent to the NMFS scientists at the lab in Auke Bay, Alaska. IPHC and NMFS are working on a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that is currently being reviewed by NMFS lawyers. The Commission has had inquires about the confidentiality of the logbook data provided to NMFS, and the MOU provides an agreement about the confidentiality of the data. If the MOU cannot be signed by both parties the program cannot continue. However, our goal is try to continue the program.

Electronic reporting project for Alaska

Since 2002, IPHC, NMFS, and ADF&G staffs have worked with contractors hired by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to analyze and work towards developing a cooperative interagency electronic fishery information collection and management program in Alaska. The initial goal will be to develop a program for reporting groundfish and halibut landings. In 2002, two reports were completed, including a needs analysis, and a technology assessment and technological recommendation. In 2003, the interagency steering committee worked with another contractor hired by PSMFC to implement and test a technology demonstrator. The technology demonstrator evaluated actual field conditions of communications infrastructure and processor computerized reporting capabilities in Alaska. The completed report documented the measured performance and summarized processors' feedback on perceived performance.

Additionally, a facilitator was hired to conduct two meetings to present the program, and get input from the individuals outside the steering committee on their needs and the proposed program structure. The first meeting was held in October 2003 with staff from all agencies, and the facilitator will prepare a report about the results. The second meeting will occur in 2004 with a wider interest group, including the processors. The goal is to have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the directors of the agencies prior to the second meeting. The goal of the MOU is to ensure the individual agency's interests are protected and that the agencies are committed to work toward a cooperative electronic fishery information system. After the completion of the above projects, the next phase will be to design a prototype and test it on a small scale.

Seabirds and fishing gear

Over the last several years, the halibut industry and agencies have become more aware of seabird interactions with fishing gear. In Alaska and British Columbia, regulations are in place requiring vessels to tow bird avoidance devices to minimize seabird bycatch. In 2003, the Commission assisted NMFS by mailing general seabird avoidance information to the Area 2A fleet.

During its survey operations in 2003, the Commission continued a project counting seabirds in the vicinity of the survey vessel after hauling. Sampling after the haul addresses the question of where and when certain seabird species occur. IPHC developed and is maintaining a database with the seabird information. The database will include data from IPHC, ADF&G, and NMFS surveys. Ultimately, these data might be used to identify appropriate seabird deterrent requirements in certain geographic locations, especially for the halibut fleet. The project is a joint effort by IPHC and Washington Sea Grant personnel.

Summary

The Commission attempts to estimate all significant halibut removals, even when there is little information upon which to base the estimates. In many cases, the Commission and other agencies work together to improve accounting and determine a scientifically-based estimation procedure for all removals. This is especially critical when fisheries occur by catch limit regulation and if they become part of an allocation process. The Commission also recognizes the need for integrated fisheries management and is continuing to work with other agencies on projects to improve data quality.

Table 1. The 2003 removals of Pacific halibut by regulatory area in net weight (thousands of pounds, preliminary).

Area	2A	2B	2C	3A	3B	4	Total
Commercial ¹	815	11,745	8,451	22,683	17,407	12,085	73,186
Sport	404	1,065	2,596	5,002	12	43	9,122
Bycatch Mortality:							
Legal-sized fish	286	154	167	1,364	584	3,241	5,796
Sublegal-sized fish	267	93	174	1,426	980	3,560	6,500
Personal Use	27 ²	300	170	74	20	176	767
Wastage:							
Legal-sized fish	5	23	29	91	35	42	225
Sublegal-sized fish	9	318	101	614	608	133	1,783
Total	1,813	13,698	11,688	31,254	19,646	19,280	97,379

¹ Commercial catch includes IPHC research catch.

² Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence fish authorized in the catch sharing plan.

Table 2. The Area 2A 2003 catch limits allocated by the Pacific Fishery Management Council catch sharing plan and preliminary catch estimates (net weight, pounds).

Area	Catch Limit	Catch
Non-treaty directed commercial	222,700	231,000
Non-treaty incidental commercial with salmon troll fishery	39,300	42,000
Non-treaty incidental commercial with sablefish fishery	70,000	65,000
Treaty Indian commercial	456,500	465,000
Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence	27,000	27,000
Sport – North of Columbia River	232,499	228,000
Sport – South of Columbia River	262,101	176,000
Total allocation	1,310,000	1,234,000
IPHC research catch		12,000
Total		1,246,000

Table 3. Commercial fishing periods, number of fishing days, catch limit, commercial, research and total catch (thousands of pounds, net weight) by regulatory area for the 2003 Pacific halibut commercial fishery (preliminary, November 25, 2003).

Area	Fishing Period	No. Of Days	Catch Limit	Commercial Catch	Research Catch	Total
2A treaty Indian	3/1-3	2.0		150		
treaty Indian total	4/15-16	1.5		167		
	Restricted: 3/1-31, 4/2-6			88		
	Restricted: 4/23-30			60		
			456.5	465		465
2A Commercial						
Incidental in Salmon fishery	May 1 – Aug 6		39.3	42		42
Incidental in Sablefish fishery	May 1- Oct 31		70.0	65		65
Directed	June 25 ¹	10 hrs		80		
	July 9 ¹	"		85		
	July 23 ¹	"		35		
	August 6 ¹	"		31		
Commercial total			222.7	231	12	243
2A Total			817.9	803	12	815
2B	3/1 – 11/15	259	11,750 ²	11,681 ³	64	11,745
2C	3/1 – 11/15	259	8,500 ⁴	8,327 ⁵	124	8,451
3A	3/1 – 11/15	259	22,630 ⁴	22,282	401	22,683
3B	3/1 – 11/15	259	17,130 ⁴	17,141	266	17,407
4A	3/1 – 11/15	259	4,970 ⁴	4,895	75	4,970
4B	3/1 – 11/15	259	4,180 ⁴	3,827	45	3,872
4C	3/1 – 11/15	259	2,030 ⁴	878	48	926
4D	3/1 – 11/15	259	2,030 ⁴	1,906 ⁶		1,906
4E	3/1 – 11/15	259	390	411 ⁶		411
Alaska Total			61,860	59,667	959	60,626
Total			74,427.5	72,151	1,035	73,186

¹ Fishing period limits by vessel class.

² An additional 123,531 pounds available as carryover from 2002.

³ Includes the pounds that were landed by Native communal commercial licenses (F licenses).

⁴ Additional net carryover pounds (thousands) from the underage/overage program were: 2C = 120; 3A = 150; 3B = 188; 4A = 53; 4B = 64; 4C = 85; 4D = 13.

⁵ Includes 84,000 pounds taken by Metlakatla Indians during additional fishing within reservation waters.

⁶ Areas 4D and 4E CDQ can be fished in either area regardless of quota share designation NMFS enforcement waiver.

Table 4. The fishing period limits (net weight) by vessel class used in the 2003 directed commercial fishery in Area 2A.

Vessel Class		Fishing Periods (Pounds)			
Letter	Feet	June 25	July 9	July 23	August 6
A	0-25	405	445	295	210
B	26-30	505	555	370	265
C	31-35	805	890	590	420
D	36-40	2,220	2,455	1,620	1,160
E	42-45	2,390	2,640	1,745	1,245
F	46-50	2,860	3,160	2,085	1,490
G	51-55	3,190	3,525	2,330	1,665
H	56+	4,800	5,300	3,500	2,500

Table 5. The total pounds (thousands, net weight) of 2003 commercial landings (not including research or Metlakatla fishery) of Pacific halibut for Alaska¹ and British Columbia by regulatory area and month (preliminary).

Regulatory Area	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
2B	1,857	1,678	1,067	1,085	1,187	1,400	1,201	1,161	1,045	11,681
2C	1,041	1,764	1,295	1,077	837	834	697	485	213	8,243
3A	4,025	4,483	3,436	2,733	1,372	2,184	1,907	1,566	576	22,282
3B	530	1,657	3,568	3,219	1,908	2,283	2,498	1,013	465	17,141
4A	1	126	433	685	1,144	1,348	763	302	93	4,895
4B	27	54	522	749	471	1,081	487	268	168	3,827
4C	0	0	0	248	355	128	130	10	7	878
4D	0	0	80	106	467	614	424	182	33	1,906
4E	0	0	48	201	73	26	54	9	0	411
Alaska Total	5,624	8,084	9,382	9,018	6,627	8,498	6,960	3,835	1,555	59,583
Total	7,481	9,762	10,449	10,103	7,814	9,898	8,161	4,996	2,600	71,264

¹ Alaska figures are based on NMFS (RAM division) monthly catch ratios

Table 6. 2003 harvest allocations and estimates (in pounds, net weight) by subarea within Regulatory Area 2A.

Subarea	Allocation	Catch Estimate	Over/Under
WA Inside Waters	63,278	68,300	+5,032
WA North Coast	113,915	109,738	-4,177
WA South Coast (all depths)	48,623	43,253	-5,370
WA South Coast (near shore)	0	0	0
Columbia River	11,923	10,009	-1,914
OR Central Coast (all depths)	156,835	88,384	-68,451
OR South Coast (all depths)	14,609	14,904	+,295
OR Coast (<30 fathoms)	19,797	1,100	-18,697
OR Coast ¹	57,660	60,749	+3,089
OR/CA (south of Humbug Mt.)	7,860	7,860	0
Total	494,500	404,297	-98,609

¹ After accounting for underages and overages in previous openings from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, about 125,000 pounds remained to be harvested

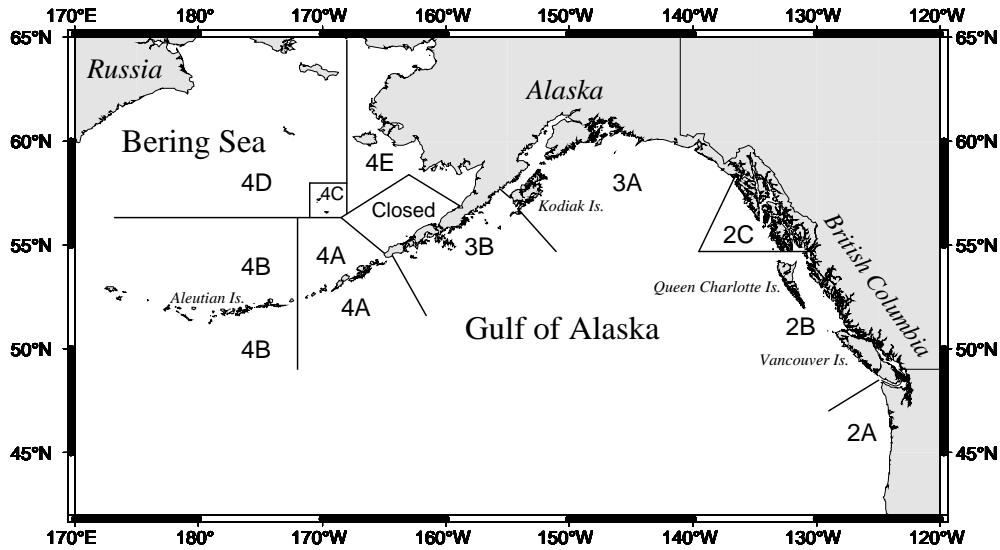


Figure 1. IPHC regulatory areas for the 2003 fishery.

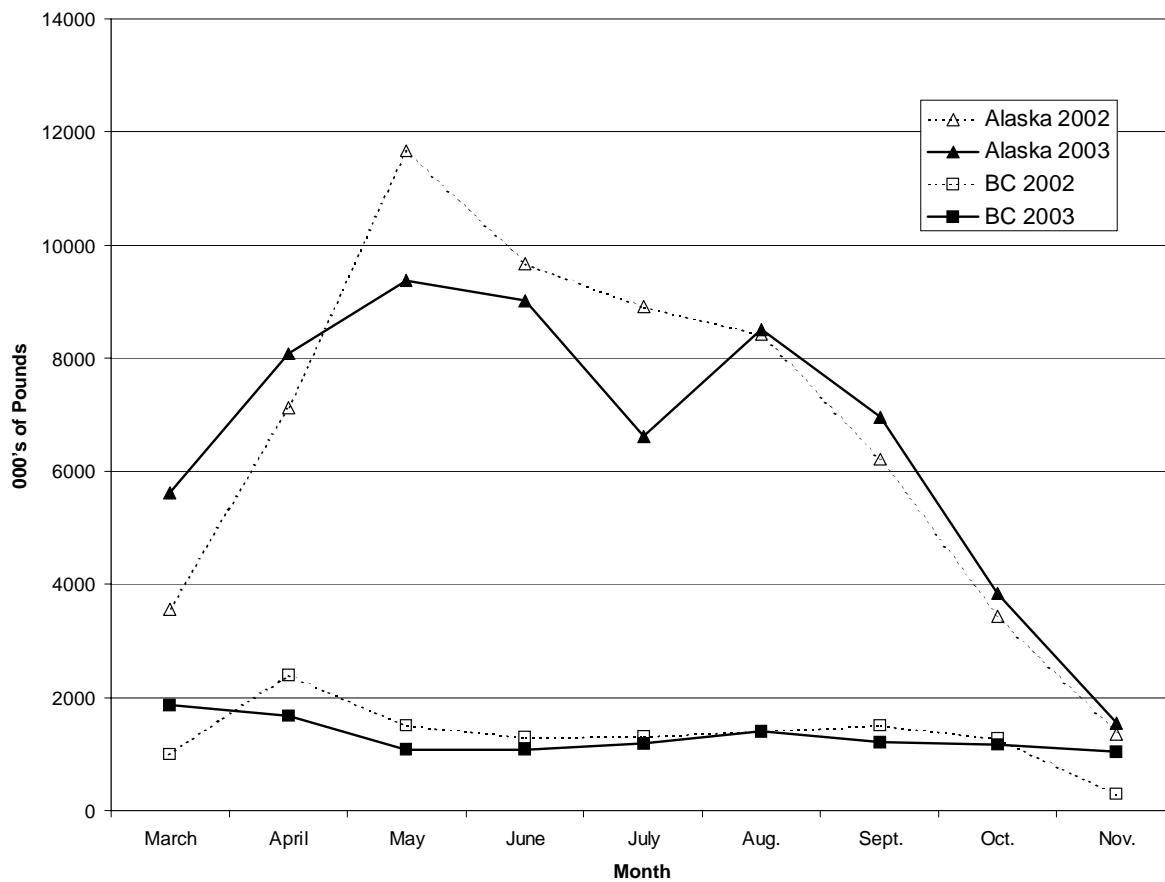


Figure 2. Monthly commercial catch (net weight) for Alaska and British Columbia, 2002 and 2003.

