

2008 commercial fishery and regulation changes

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Abstract

This section presents the 2008 regulations and the results of the commercial halibut fishery. All 2008 catch and landing data are preliminary. The data sources were the International Pacific Halibut Commission, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Washington treaty Indian tribal fisheries management departments including the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Makah, Quinault, and Quileute Indian tribes, and state agencies including Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Regulatory areas for 2008

Boundary lines for the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) regulatory areas (Fig. 1) have remained the same since 1990. The southeastern flats in the Bering Sea, excluding Bristol Bay, remained closed in 2008 to all halibut fishing. A brief description of the regulatory areas for the 2008 halibut fishery follows:

Area 2A - all waters off the coast of the States of California, Oregon, and Washington.

Area 2B - all waters off the coast of British Columbia.

Area 2C - all waters off the coast of Alaska, south and east of Cape Spencer.

Area 3A - all waters between Cape Spencer and Cape Trinity, Kodiak Island.

Area 3B - all waters between Cape Trinity and a line extending southeast from Cape Lutke, Unimak Island.

Area 4A - all waters west of Area 3B and the Bering Sea closed area that are south of 56°20' N and east of 172°00' W.

Area 4B - all waters in the Gulf of Alaska and the Bering Sea west of Area 4A and south of 56°20' N.

Area 4C - all waters in the Bering Sea north of Area 4A and the closed area that are east of longitude 171°00' W, south of 58°00' N, and west of 168°00' W.

Area 4D - all waters in the Bering Sea north of Areas 4A and 4B, north and west of Area 4C, and west of 168°00' W.

Area 4E - all waters in the Bering Sea north and east of the closed area, east of Areas 4C and 4D, and south of 65°34' N.

Changes to the regulations for 2008

The regulations for the 2008 fishery were adopted at the Commission's 2008 Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon and were later approved by the Canadian and United States governments, with one exception. Since 1999, the Canadian government has allowed the landing of live halibut caught in British Columbia waters by choosing not to approve the regulation that required commercially-caught halibut to have their gills and entrails removed before being offloaded from a vessel.

At the 2008 Annual Meeting, the Commission continued its discussions on season length and received industry support for opening dates of March 1 or 15. The recommendation from the U.S. Conference Board (CB) was March 1, from the Processor Advisory Group was March 15, and from the Canadian CB was March 15. This was the third year that the CB did not present a united position with one recommended opening date, but there was agreement to open the fishery on a Saturday to facilitate marketing. The Canadian Individual Vessel Quota (IVQ) fishery in Area 2B and the United States Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) and Community Development Quota (CDQ) fisheries in Areas 2C, 3A, 3B, 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D, and 4E commenced at 12 noon local time on March 8 and closed at 12 noon local time on November 15. The treaty Indian commercial fishery in Area 2A was required to occur during the same calendar period (March 8 to November 15).

The Commission adopts biologically-based catch limits for all individual regulatory areas and for Areas 4CDE combined. As in other years, in 2008, the individual catch limits adopted for Regulatory Areas 4C, 4D, and 4E were determined by the catch sharing plan implemented by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC). This catch sharing plan and IPHC regulations allowed Area 4D CDQ to be harvested in Area 4E and Area 4C IFQ and CDQ to be harvested in Areas 4C or 4D.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) allocates halibut catch limits among user groups in Area 2A through a catch sharing plan. In 2008, no adjustment was made to the tribal allocation as had been done between 2000 and 2007 by U.S. Federal court order. The allocation was by percent to tribal (35%) and non-tribal (65%) fisheries. The Area 2A licensing regulations have remained unchanged since 2000. All fishers have had to choose between a commercial or sport charter vessel license. Further, commercial fishers have had to choose between a license for (1) retaining halibut caught incidentally during the salmon troll fishery, or (2) fishing in the directed commercial halibut fishery (south of Point Chehalis, WA) and/or retaining halibut caught incidentally in the primary sablefish fishery (north of Point Chehalis). The 2008 deadline dates for mailing license applications remained the same as previous years: March 31 for the incidental halibut license for the salmon season, and April 30 for the license for the directed commercial fishery and halibut incidentally taken during the sablefish fishery.

In Area 2A, the non-treaty directed commercial fishery had 10-hour fishing periods, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and closing at 6:00 p.m. local time, scheduled for June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, August 20, September 3, and September 17, 2008. The first opening had previously been the last week of June, however a proposal was received from a Washington processor for a late May start date. The Commission adopted a mid-June starting date as ODFW had not been able to obtain input from the industry in Oregon prior to the Annual Meeting. Catches were monitored after each fishing period and the fishery was closed when the catch limit was taken.

Since 2004, IPHC has adopted a combined sport and commercial catch limit for Area 2B that has been allocated by DFO between commercial and sport fishers by an 88 to 12 ratio.

The previous IPHC regulation defining net weight specified halibut which were gutted, head-off, and without ice and slime. The Commission approved adding to the regulations the conversion factors that were required to be used if halibut were weighed with head-on and with ice and slime. The conversion factors were defined as a 10% deduction for head and 2% for ice and slime.

The Commission approved adding the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) voluntary sablefish logbook as an acceptable logbook so that U.S. operators in the Area 2A commercial halibut fishery did not have to complete two logbooks.

The Commission adopted a regulation that restricted tagging of halibut to IPHC-authorized programs, and by state and federal agencies. Individuals and organizations outside of state and federal agencies were required to obtain a permit from IPHC for any halibut tagging program.

For Alaska, the Commission adopted a sport regulation that no person shall possess on board a fishing vessel, including charter vessels and pleasure craft, halibut that has been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner except that each halibut may be cut into no more than two ventral and two dorsal pieces and two cheeks, all with skin on. The change allowed enforcement officers to count the number of fish possessed by an angler. Additionally, in Area 2C the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulation that required charter vessels to retain halibut carcasses remained in effect unless superseded by new NMFS regulations.

The Commission approved a regulation that allowed fishing in multiple Regulatory Areas (4A, 4B, 4C, or 4D) with a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) on board and if the vessel did not possess at any time on board more halibut than IFQ allowed for the area currently fished. This had previously been allowed with only a NMFS observer. In both cases, the halibut were required to be identifiable by regulatory area.

Regulations, catch limits, commercial catch, and seasons for the Area 2A, Metlakatla, and the Quota Share fisheries

Commercial catch and catch limits by regulatory area for 1999 through 2008 are shown in Table 1, and fishing season, catch, and catch limits are shown in Table 2. The expanded catch limit represents the IPHC catch limit with adjustments from the underage and overage programs from the previous year's quota share program. Prior to 1995, the IPHC research catch was included in the commercial catch and not shown separately. For comparisons among years, total catch should be used. The following paragraphs review catch limits, commercial catch, seasons, and trends for each area.

Area 2A

Area 2A was managed to provide a total allowable catch of 1,220,000 pounds for all user groups (Table 3). The allocation among user groups was recommended to the IPHC by the PFMC, and the IPHC adopted their recommendations. The sport fishery was allocated 471,619 pounds and is discussed in Blood 2009. The treaty Indian fishery was allocated a total of 427,000 pounds: 30,000 pounds for ceremonial and subsistence use and 397,000 pounds for the commercial fishery. The PFMC catch sharing plan stated that the primary limited entry longline sablefish (*Anoplopoma fimbria*) fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA would be allocated part of the Washington sport allocation poundage only if the Area 2A total allocation was over 900,000 pounds. Because the Area 2A catch limit exceeded this threshold, there was an incidental halibut fishery with a catch limit of 70,000 pounds during this sablefish season. The remaining non-treaty commercial catch limit was 251,381 pounds, with 213,674 pounds allocated to the directed fishery and 37,707 pounds to the incidental catch in the salmon troll fishery. The directed commercial fishery was restricted to waters south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53'18"N) and the incidental halibut fishery during the sablefish season was restricted to waters north of Point Chehalis, under regulations promulgated by NOAA.

The IPHC licensed sport charter and commercial vessels in Area 2A. In 2008, the IPHC issued 659 Area 2A vessel licenses: 135 licenses for the incidental commercial catch of halibut during

the salmon troll fishery, 296 for the directed commercial fishery and the incidental halibut during sablefish fishery, and 139 for the sport charter fishery. Three fewer sport licenses were issued in 2008 (139) than in 2007 (142). There was an increase in number of licenses issued between 2007 and 2008 for the directed commercial/incidental during sablefish fishery (+71) and a decrease for the incidental halibut during the salmon troll season (-160). The change within the commercial fisheries reflects the 2008 closure of the salmon troll fishery south of Cape Falcon in the state of Oregon; the closure prompted salmon troll fishers to obtain licenses for the directed halibut fishery as an alternative.

In the incidental commercial halibut fishery conducted during the salmon troll season, the allowable incidental catch ratio was one halibut per two Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), plus an “extra” halibut per landing. However, the total number of incidental halibut per vessel per landing could not exceed 35. The 1:2 ratio of halibut to Chinook was new in 2008 and had been 1:3 from 2000 to 2007. These ratios increased over the years, from the 1:20 ratio seen in the first year of the program (1995). The incidental commercial halibut fishery during the salmon troll season opened on May 1 and closed on November 15 when the commercial halibut fishery closed for the year. The halibut catch was 56% (21,022 pounds) under the catch limit.

The directed commercial fishery consisted of four 10-hour fishing periods with fishing period limits (Table 4). The fishing period limits were assigned by vessel class and for the first two openings, H-class vessels received 9,000 pounds per opening. The limits for the third fishing period remained high, with H-class vessels receiving 8,000 pounds. The fourth and final fishing period had a significantly lower catch limit with H-class vessels receiving 1,200 pounds. The total directed commercial catch was 3% (7,300 pounds) over the catch limit.

The incidental halibut fishery during the limited-entry sablefish season opened May 1 and closed on October 31 with the closure of the sablefish season. Incidental landings of halibut in this fishery were restricted to 100 pounds (dressed weight) of halibut for every 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish landed, and up to two “extra” halibut in excess of the 100 pounds per 1,000-pound ratio per landing. The catch was 50% (35,039 pounds) under the 70,000 pound catch limit. The decrease in the incidental halibut catch was proportional to the decrease observed in sablefish catch during the 2008 season.

Since 2005, the Treaty Indian tribes have agreed upon a management plan that includes allocation levels to tribes or groups of tribes. In the tribal fishery, 75% of the commercial catch limit was allocated to the separately managed fishery and was taken between March 8 and June 3. The remaining catch limit (25%) was allocated to the restricted fishery, subject to daily limits of 500 pounds per vessel. The total tribal commercial catch was 7.5% (29,879 pounds) over the catch limit.

Area 2C Metlakatla fishery

The Metlakatla Indian Community was authorized by the United States government to conduct a commercial halibut fishery within the Annette Islands Reserve. Eleven 48-hour fishing periods took place between May 9 and October 5, producing a total catch of 40,855 pounds (Table 5), which was included in the Area 2C commercial catch. The catch was one thousand pounds more than last year’s catch of 39,252 pounds. 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.

The Quota Share fisheries

The Quota Share (QS) fisheries of British Columbia (Area 2B) and Alaska (Areas 2C, 3, and 4) were open from March 8 to November 15. The following section discusses the fisheries by area.

Area 2B

The IPHC adopted a combined sport and commercial catch limit of 9,000,000 pounds for Area 2B that was to be allocated to the user groups by DFO. An additional 19,000 pounds was added to include the projected commercial wastage, resulting in a total catch limit of 9,019,000 pounds. The commercial fleet allocation of 88% of the total catch limit (7,936,720 pounds) was reduced by 19,000 pounds to account for wastage, resulting in an allocation of 7,917,720 pounds (Table 6). In 2007, the underage/overage program resulted in a 337,674 pound surplus roll-over to the 2008 catch limit and an adjusted catch limit of 8,255,394 pounds. Each vessel was allocated a fixed poundage of halibut, or an IVQ, as calculated by DFO. The Area 2B catch of 7,721,000 pounds was within 6% of the catch limit. The sport fishery was allocated 12% of the total catch, resulting in a 1,082,000 pound allocation and is discussed in Blood (2009) (Table 6).

When the initial halibut IVQ program was implemented in 1991, four hundred and thirty-five vessels received IVQs. Each initial IVQ was split into two shares called blocks. Numerous changes have been made since then, including first allowing temporary block transfers (1993) and then permanent block and IVQ transfers (1999). Since 1999, the number of active vessels with L licenses, including Native communal commercial licensees (FL licenses), has decreased from a high of 257 (in 1999) to a low of 168 (in 2008). Numerous small sub-areas in Area 2B were closed to halibut fishing in 2008 to protect localized stocks of non-halibut species such as a group of 164 Rockfish Conservation Areas.

In 2006, DFO implemented a Groundfish Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (Plan) to meet conservation needs, including addressing rockfish conservation concerns and improving catch monitoring. This Plan was developed with consultation by the groundfish industry and other stakeholders through the Commercial Groundfish Integrated Advisory Committee (CGIAC). A pilot program was developed by a sub-committee of the CGIAC and implemented in 2006. With the implementation of this three-year pilot program, significant changes were made to the longline groundfish fisheries, including the halibut fishery. The pilot fishery included IQs for all hook and line groundfish fisheries, transferability with limits between license holders, 100% at-sea and dockside monitoring, and vessel accountability for all catch, both landed and discarded.

A key component of the Plan was the 100% monitoring through logbook recordings, video camera coverage, and dockside coverage. A newly designed logbook, which allowed the recording of all retained and discarded species, was used to compare to the video recordings. 2008 was the final year of the three-year pilot program. However, DFO has decided to continue with the Plan for one more year, after which a complete review will be performed. IPHC will be reviewing how the Plan has affected the halibut fleet dynamics and fishing patterns. Data are not yet available to report on any changes to fishing patterns.

Alaska

The IFQ halibut and sablefish fisheries have been in effect in Alaska since 1995. NOAA Restricted Access Management (RAM) allocated halibut QS to recipients by IPHC Regulatory Area. Quota share transfers were permitted with restrictions on the amount of QS a person could

hold and the amount that could be fished per vessel. As of the end of the 2008 fishery, RAM reported that 2,911 persons held quota shares, down from the initial 4,830 persons at the start of the program.

The total 2008 catch from the IFQ/CDQ halibut fishery for the waters off Alaska was 49,473,000 pounds, 3% under the catch limit (not adjusted). For Areas 2C and 3A, the commercial QS catch was within 1% of the catch limit. For Area 3B, the commercial QS catches were within 2% of the catch limit. For Area 4, Area 4A's catch was within 5% and Area 4B's was within 8% of the catch limit. The individual catch limits adopted for Regulatory Areas 4C, 4D, and 4E were determined by the NPFMC catch sharing plan. As mentioned previously, this catch sharing plan allowed Area 4D CDQ to be harvested in Area 4E and Area 4C IFQ and CDQ to be fished in Areas 4C or 4D. These two regulations were the reason the catch in Area 4D exceeded the catch limit. The total commercial catch of 3,855,000 pounds was under the combined Area 4CDE catch limit (3,890,000 pounds).

Landing patterns and highlights

Homer received over 9,085,000 pounds of halibut, or about 18% of the commercial Alaskan catch (49,472,000 pounds). Kodiak and Seward received the second and third largest landing volumes, each moving between 11%-17% of the Alaskan commercial catch. In southeast Alaska, Sitka received 2,830,000 pounds, Petersburg 2,125,000 pounds, and Juneau 1,945,000 pounds. Only 2.3% of the Alaskan QS catch was landed outside of Alaska.

Commercial trips from Area 2B were delivered into 15 different ports in 2008. The ports of Prince Rupert/Port Edward, Port Hardy, and Vancouver were the major landing locations, receiving about 90% of the Area 2B commercial catch. Port Hardy and Prince Rupert/Port Edward received about 40 and 43% of the B.C. commercial landings, respectively.

The 2008 QS fishery landings were spread over nine months of the year (Table 7). On a month-to-month comparison, August was the busiest month for Alaska landings, which was a change, as May had been the busiest for the last seven years. August landings represented 17.0% of the total catch for Alaska. Contrary to volumes landed in 2007, April of 2008 was the busiest month for poundage delivered in British Columbia. In 2008, fourteen percent of the Area 2B catch was landed in April compared with 20.7% during the busiest month (March) last year.

The landing of live halibut from Area 2B was legally allowed by DFO and resulted in a total landing weight of 23,226 pounds. Live fish landings have ranged from a low of 7,900 pounds in 1998 to a high of 103,000 pounds in 1999.

Electronic reporting project for Alaska

IPHC, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and NMFS staff have continued to refine the web-based Interagency Electronic Reporting System (IERS) with the repository database. For halibut, the system reduces duplicative reporting resulting from the current requirements of completing both ADF&G fish tickets and NMFS RAM quota share reports, and has been operational since May 2006. The application (eLandings) records data elements required by regulations, prints fish tickets, and connects with the NMFS quota share database. The appropriate data from IERS is being sent to the agencies for their internal databases. Industry personnel and agency staff have provided feedback on the operation, and the application is continuously being modified including incorporation of additional fisheries and tender landings.

References

Blood, C. L. 2009. 2008 sport fishery. Int. Pac. Halibut Comm. Report of Assessment and Research Activities 2008:49-58.

Table 1. Commercial catch (including IPHC research catch) and catch limits of Pacific halibut by IPHC regulatory area (in thousands of pounds, net weight), 1999 - 2008.

Regulatory Area	Commercial Catch ¹									
	1999	2000 ²	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006 ²	2007	2008 ³
2A ⁴	450	482	680	851	819	892	803	829	789	707
2B	12,705	10,811	10,288	12,074	11,789	12,161	12,331	12,005	9,772	7,794
2C	10,143	8,445	8,403	8,602	8,410	10,295	10,625	10,492	8,488	6,209
3A	25,316	19,288	21,541	23,131	22,748	25,052	26,033	25,714	26,310	24,376
3B	13,835	15,413	16,336	17,313	17,231	15,614	13,171	10,792	9,419	10,893
4A	4,369	5,155	5,015	5,091	5,024	3,476	3,404	3,332	2,809	3,011
4B	3,571	4,692	4,466	4,080	3,863	2,708	1,975	1,590	1,413	1,765
4C ⁵	1,762	1,737	1,647	1,210	886	956	534	493	549	723
4D ^{5,6}	1,891	1,931	1,844	1,753	1,956	1,667	2,578	2,368	2,723	2,560
4E ⁶	264	351	479	555	415	310	369	366 ⁷	581	588
Total	74,306	68,305	70,699	74,660	73,141	73,131	71,823	67,981	62,809	58,626
Regulatory Area	Commercial Catch Limits ⁸									
	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
2A ⁴	412.5	468.1	681.4	817.9	817.9	890.4	788.6	818.5	799.2	718.4
2B	12,100	10,600	10,510	11,750	11,750	12,141	11,658	11,631	10,089.4	7,918
2C	10,490	8,400	8,780	8,500	8,500	10,500	10,930	10,630	8,510.0	6,210.0
3A	24,670	18,310	21,890	22,630	22,630	25,060	25,470	25,200	26,200.0	24,220.0
3B	13,370	15,030	16,530	17,130	17,130	15,600	13,150	10,860	9,220.0	10,900.0
4A	4,240	4,970	4,970	4,970	4,970	3,470	3,440	3,350	2,890.0	3,100.0
4B	3,980	4,910	4,910	4,180	4,180	2,810	2,260	1,670	1,440.0	1,860.0
4C	2,030	2,030	2,030	2,030	2,030	1,720	1,815	1,610	1,866.5	1,769.0
4D	2,030	2,030	2,030	2,030	2,030	1,720	1,815	1,610	1,866.5	1,769.0
4E	390	390	390	390	390	345	359	330	367.0	352.0
Total	73,712.5	67,138.1	72,721.4	74,427.9	74,427.9	74,256.4	71,685.6	67,709.5	63,248.6	58,816.4

¹ Commercial catch includes IPHC research catch and in Area 2C, the Metlakatla fishery catch.

² Poundage figures have been updated from previous publications.

³ Preliminary.

⁴ Does not include treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence fish.

⁵ Area 4C IFQ and CDQ could be fished in Area 4D (since 2005).

⁶ Area 4D CDQ could be fished in Area 4E by NOAA enforcement waiver (2001) and IFQ regulation (since 2002).

⁷ Area 4E includes research catch in Closed Area

⁸ Additional carryover from the underage/overage plan for the QS programs not included.

Table 2. Commercial fishing periods, number of fishing days, catch limit, commercial, research and total catch (thousands of pounds, net weight) by regulatory area for the 2008 Pacific halibut commercial fishery (preliminary, landings as of November 26, 2008).

Area 2A	Fishing Period	Catch Limit	No. of Days	Commercial Catch	Research Catch	Total Catch
treaty Indian	March 8 – June 3		88	326.0		
	Restricted: Mar 17 – Apr 15		30	<u>101.0</u>		
total		397.0		427.0	0	427.0
Commercial						
Incidental in Salmon fishery	May 1 – Nov 15	37.7	199	16.7	0	16.7
Incidental in Sablefish fishery	May 1- Oct 31	70.0	184	35.0	0	35.0
Directed	June 11 ¹		10-hours	68.0		
	June 25 ¹		“	73.0		
	July 9 ¹		“	57.0	7	
	July 23 ¹		“	<u>23.0</u>		
total		213.7		221.0		228.0
2A Total		718.4		699.7	7	706.7
Area	Fishing Period	Catch Limit	Adjusted Catch Limit ²	Commercial Catch	Research Catch	Total Catch
2B	3/08 – 11/15	7,918.0	8,255	7,721.0 ³	73	7,794.0
2C	3/08 – 11/15	6,210.0	6,432	6,148.0 ⁴	61	6,209.0
3A	3/08 – 11/15	24,220.0	24,415	24,021.0	355	24,376.0
3B	3/08 – 11/15	10,900.0	10,995	10,762.0	131	10,893.0
4A	3/08 – 11/15	3,100.0	3,170	2,962.0	49	3,011.0
4B	3/08 – 11/15	1,860.0	1,886	1,725.0	40	1,765.0
4C	3/08 – 11/15	1,769.0	1,825	723.0 ⁵	0	723.0
4D	3/08 – 11/15	1,769.0	1,809	2,544.0 ^{5,6}	16	2,560.0
4E	3/08 – 11/15	352.0	352	588.0 ⁶	0	588.0
Alaska Total		50,180.0	50,880	49,473.0	652	50,125.0
Grand Total		58,816.4	59,139	57,893.7	732	58,625.7

¹ Fishing period limits by vessel class.

² Includes adjustments from the underage and overage programs

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

⁴ Includes pounds taken by Metlakatla Indians during additional fishing within reservation waters.

⁵ Area 4C IFQ and CDQ can be fishing in Area 4D by NMFS and IPHC regulations

⁶ Area 4D CDQ can be fished and 4E by NMFS and IPHC regulations

Table 3. The Area 2A 2008 catch limits allocated by the Pacific Fishery Management Council catch sharing plan and preliminary catch estimates (pounds, net weight).

Area	Catch Limit	Catch
Non-treaty directed commercial	213,674	220,590
Non-treaty incidental commercial with salmon troll fishery	37,707	16,685
Non-treaty incidental commercial with sablefish fishery	70,000	34,961
Treaty Indian commercial	397,000	426,879
Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence	30,000	30,000
Sport - North of Columbia River	220,238	216,297
Sport - South of Columbia River	251,381	240,853
Total	1,220,000	1,186,265
IPHC research catch		7,000
Total	1,220,000	1,193,265

Table 4. The fishing period limits (net weight) by vessel class used in the 2008 directed commercial fishery in Area 2A.

Vessel Class		Fishing Periods (Pounds)			
Letter	Feet	June 11	June 25	July 9	July 23
A	0-25	755	755	670	200
B	26-30	945	945	840	200
C	31-35	1,510	1,510	1,345	200
D	36-40	4,165	4,165	3,705	560
E	42-45	4,480	4,480	3,985	600
F	46-50	5,365	5,365	4,770	715
G	51-55	5,985	5,985	5,320	800
H	56+	9,000	9,000	8,000	1,200

Table 5. Metlakatla community fishing periods, number of vessels, and preliminary halibut catch (net weight), 2008.

Fishing Period Dates	Number Of Vessels	Catch (Pounds)
May 9 - 11	7	1,699
May 23 - 25	12	5,974
June 6 - 8	13	7,059
June 20 - 22	10	5,182
July 11 - 13	7	5,222
July 25 - 27	7	5,237
August 8 - 10	9	2,022
August 22 - 24	4	2,231
Sept. 5 - 7	7	3,955
Sept. 19 - 21	4	958
October 3 - 5	3	1,316
11 Fishing Periods		40,855

Table 6. The Area 2B 2008 and 2007 catch limits allocated by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the catch estimates (thousand of pounds).

Fishery	2008 Allocation		2007 Allocation	
	Limit	2008 Catch ¹	Limit	2007 Catch
Commercial fishery	7,918	7,721	10,089	9,694
Sport fishery	1,082 ²	1,536 ²	1,381	1,556
Total allocation/ catch	9,000	9,257	11,470	11,250
IPHC research catch		73		78
Previous year carryover ³	338		-50	
Total	9,338	9,330	11,420	11,328

¹ Preliminary

² Quota shares transfer of 138,000 pounds from the commercial fishery to the sport fishery as of November 6.

³ Adjustment for carryover/overage amount from commercial fishery

Table 7. The total pounds (thousands, net weight, preliminary) of 2008 commercial landings (not including research catch) of Pacific halibut for Alaska and British Columbia by regulatory area and month.

Regulatory Area	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Total
2B ¹	1,077	1,098	995	556	895	993	1,048	601	458	7,721
2C	937	736	962	946	586	827	774	228	152	6,148
3A	2,633	3,483	3,978	3,118	2,411	3,029	2,750	1,996	623	24,021
3B	117	488	1,569	2,161	2,038	2,061	990	849	489	10,762
4A			220 ²	367	643	789	482	461 ³		2,962
4B		63 ²	153	307	394	415	208	185 ³		1,725
4CDE				673	955	1,298	868	61		3,855
Alaska Total	3,687	4,770	6,882	7,572	7,027	8,419	6,072	3,780	1,264	49,473
Total	4,764	5,868	7,877	8,128	7,922	9,412	7,120	4,381	1,722	57,194

¹ Based on landing ratios from DFO website.

² Weight combined with previous month for confidentiality purposes.

³ Weight combined with following month for confidentiality purposes.

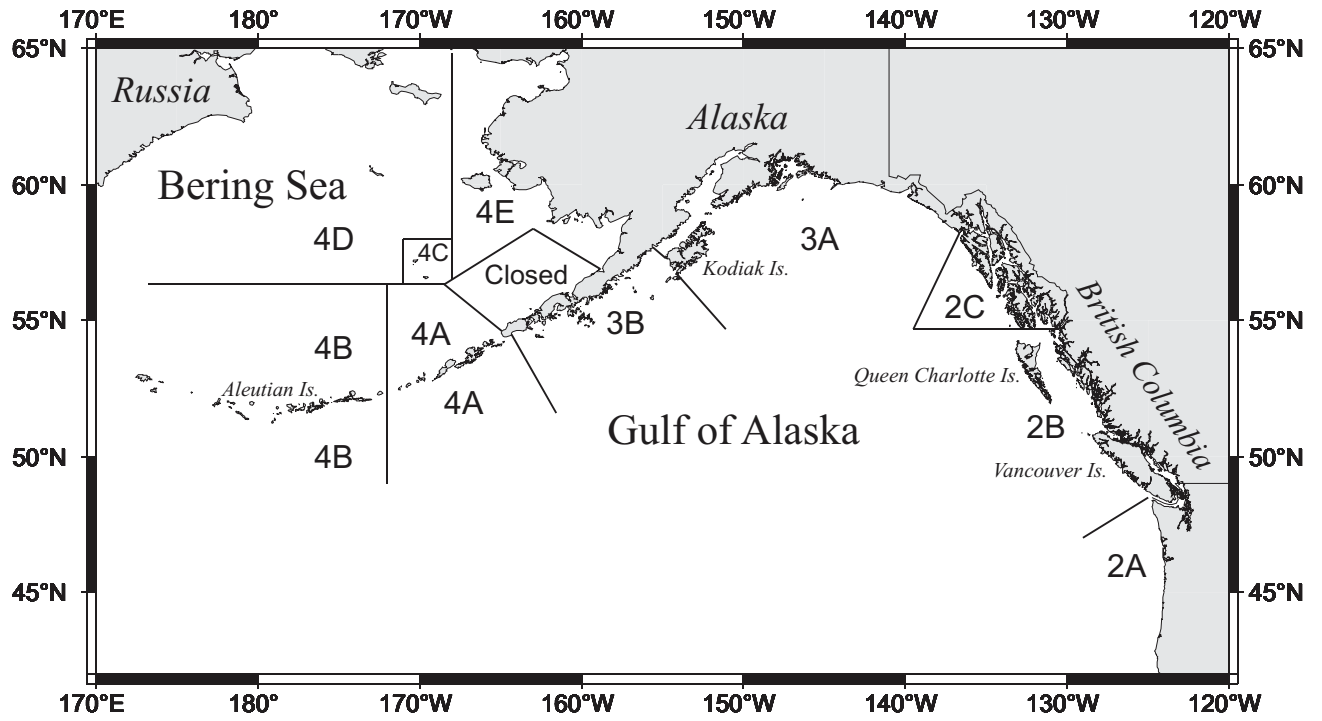


Figure 1. IPHC regulatory areas for the 2008 fishery.