

**REPORT ON THE 2013 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES IN AREA 2A**  
(8/12/2013)

The 2013 Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) of 990,000 lbs set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was allocated as follows:

Treaty Tribes	346,500 lbs (35%)
Non-Tribal Total	643,500 lbs (65%)
Non-Tribal Commercial	225,400 lbs
Washington Sport	214,110 lbs
Oregon/California Sport	203,990 lbs

All weights in this report are net weight (gutted, head-off, and without ice and slime.) The structure of each fishery and the resulting harvests are described below. Refer to the table at the end of this report for the catches by the tribal, commercial and recreational fisheries.

**NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

A quota of 225,400 lbs (31.7% of the non-tribal share + 21,410 lbs for incidental halibut catch in the sablefish primary fishery) was allocated to two fishery components: 1) a directed longline fishery targeting on halibut south of Point Chehalis, WA; and 2) an incidental catch fishery during the salmon troll fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California. An additional 21,410 lbs were allocated to an incidental catch fishery in the sablefish primary fishery for vessels using longline gear north of Point Chehalis, WA. This allowance for the sablefish primary fishery is only available in years when the overall Area 2A TAC exceeds 900,000 lbs and is taken from the portion of the Washington sport allocation that is above 214,110, as long as the amount is atleast 10,000 lbs.

**Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery**

A quota of 30,600 lbs of Pacific halibut (15% of the non-tribal commercial fishery allocation) was allocated to the non-tribal commercial salmon troll fishery in Area 2A as incidental catch during salmon troll fisheries. During the development of the 2013 Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) the management objective for this fishery was changed from May-June to April-June. This change was made in anticipation of the 2014 pre-may salmon fisheries not for the 2013 fisheries. Therefore, in 2013 halibut retention was allowed beginning May 1, eventhough the CSP had already been amended to reflect the April-June timing.

If any of the allocation for this fishery remains after June 30, the fishery may continue to retain incidentally caught halibut in the salmon troll fisheries until the quota is taken. The final catch ratio established pre-season by the Council at the April 2013 meeting was one halibut (minimum 32 inches) per three Chinook landed by a salmon troller, except that one halibut could be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 15 halibut could be landed per open period. Fishing with salmon troll gear is prohibited within the Salmon Troll Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) off the northern Washington Coast. Additionally, the "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA off Washington is designated as an area to be avoided (a voluntary closure) by salmon trollers.

- Halibut retention was permitted in the salmon troll fisheries began on May 1, 2013, with the following ratio: 1 halibut per each 3 Chinook, except that 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 15 halibut may be possessed or landed per trip.
- Beginning August 1, 2013, the ratio was changed to 1 halibut per each 3 Chinook, expect that 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 5 halibut may be possessed or landed per trip. The goal of this change was to extend the opportunity through the summer.

- As of August 6, 2013, 30,301 lbs were landed.
- The fishery closed on August 8 in the area north of Cape Falcon, Oregon, and on August 10 in the area south of Cape Falcon, Oregon.

**Directed fishery targeting on halibut**

A quota of 173,390 lbs (85% of the non-tribal commercial fishery allocation) was allocated to the directed longline fishery targeting on halibut in southern Washington, Oregon, and California. The fishery was confined to the area south of Subarea 2A-1 (south of Point Chehalis, WA; 46°53.30' N. lat.). In addition, there are closed areas along the coast defined by depth contours. Between the U.S./Canada border and 40°10' N. lat the western boundary is defined by a line approximating the 100 fm depth contour. The eastern boundary is defined as follows: Between the U.S./Canada border and 46°16' N. lat., the boundary is the shoreline. Between 46°16' N. lat. and 43°00' N. lat, the boundary is the line approximating the 30 fm depth contour. Between 43°00' N. lat and 42°00' N. lat the boundary is the line approximating the 20 fm depth contour. And between 42°00' N. lat and 40°10' N. lat the boundary is the 20 fm depth contour. One-day fishing periods of 10 hours in duration were scheduled every other week by the IPHC starting June 26, 2013. A 32 inch minimum size limit with the head on was in effect for all openings. Vessel landing limits per fishing period based on vessel length were imposed by IPHC during all openings as shown in the following table. Vessels choosing to operate in this fishery could not land halibut in the incidental catch salmon troll fishery, nor operate in the recreational fishery.

**2013 fishing period limits (dressed weight, head-off without ice and slime in pounds) by vessel size.**

Vessel Class/Size	June 26 Opening	July 10 Opening
A 0 - 25 ft.	755 lbs	250 lbs
B 26 - 30 ft.	945 lbs	315 lbs
C 31 - 35 ft.	1,510 lbs	505 lbs
D 36 - 40 ft.	4,165 lbs	1,390 lbs
E 41 - 45 ft.	4,480 lbs	1,495 lbs
F 46 - 50 ft.	5,365 lbs	1,790 lbs
G 51 - 55 ft.	5,985 lbs	1,995 lbs
H 56+ ft.	9,000 lbs	3,000 lbs

- The June 26 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of about 118,000 lbs, leaving approximately 55,390 lbs.
- The July 10 directed commercial opening resulted in an approximate catch of 55,000 lbs. The fishery closed following the July 10 opening.

**Incidental halibut catch in the sablefish primary longline fishery north of Point Chehalis** A quota of 21,410 lbs was allocated to the limited entry sablefish primary fishery in Area 2A as an incidental catch during longline sablefish operations north of Point Chehalis, WA. The sablefish primary season is open from April 1 to October 31, although incidental halibut retention was not permitted until May 1. Vessels with a groundfish limited entry permit endorsed for both longline gear and with a sablefish tier were permitted to retain up to 75 lbs (dressed weight) of halibut per 1,000 lbs (dressed weight) of sablefish and up to 2 additional halibut in excess of the landing limit ratio. The fishery is confined to an

area seaward of a boundary line approximating the 100-fm depth contour. Fishing is also prohibited in the North Coast Commercial YRCA, an area off the northern Washington coast. In addition, the "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA off Washington is designated as an area to be avoided (a voluntary closure) by commercial longline sablefish fishermen.

- Through July 2, 2013, this fishery is estimated to have taken 5,823 lbs.

**SPORT FISHERIES** (Non-tribal)

418,101 lbs (68.3% of non-tribal share, minus 21,410 lbs allocated to the sablefish primary fishery from the Washington sport allocation) was allocated between sport fisheries in the Washington area (36.6%) and Oregon/California (31.7%). The allocations were further subdivided as quotas among six geographic subareas as described below. Unless otherwise noted the daily bag limit in all subareas was one halibut of any size, per person, per day.

**Washington Inside Waters Subarea** (Puget Sound and Straits of Juan de Fuca).

This area was allocated 57,393 lbs (23.5% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs). Due to inability to monitor the catch in this area inseason, a fixed season was established pre-season based on projected catch per day and number of days to achieve the sub-quota. The Puget Sound eastern sub-area, east of Low Point, was open for two 3-day periods on May 2-4 and May 16-18 (Thursday-Saturday), one 4-day period on May 23-26, Thursday-Sunday, and one 2-day period on May 30-31 (Thursday-Friday). The fishing season in western Puget Sound (west of 123°49.50' W. long., Low Point) is open May 23-26, Thursday – Sunday, and May 30-June 1, Thursday-Saturday and one day on Saturday June 8.

- The estimates for total catch in this area are not yet available.

**Northern Washington Coastal Waters Subarea** (landings in Neah Bay and La Push).

The coastal area off Cape Flattery to Queets River was allocated 108,030 lbs (62.2% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,945 lbs and 224,110 lbs). The fishery was open for four days (May 9, 11, 16, 18, 2013). The "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA, southwest of Cape Flattery, was closed to sport halibut fishing.

- The estimated total catch for this area is 107,856 lbs, leaving 174 lbs.

**Washington South Coast Subarea** (landings in Westport)

The area from the Queets River to Leadbetter Point was allocated 42,740 lbs (12.3% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery and 32% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 lbs). This subarea operates with a primary fishery and a nearshore fishery. The primary fishery was open May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, and closed after the 19<sup>th</sup>. The nearshore fishery was open everyday between May 5 and 19, 2013.

The nearshore fishery occurs in waters between the Queets River and 47°25.00' N. lat. south to 46°58.00' N. lat., and east of 124°30.00' W. long. The south coast subarea quota was allocated as follows: 2,000 lbs to the nearshore fishery and the remaining lbs (40,740 lbs) to the primary fishery.

- The estimated total catch for this area is 42,085 lbs, leaving 653 lbs.

**Columbia River Subarea** (Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon)

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 11,895 lbs, consisting of 2.0% of the first 130,845 lbs allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 4.0% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 lbs and 224,110 lbs, minus 21,410, (which is the amount allocated to incidental take in the sablefish primary fishery), and an equal amount from the Oregon/California sport allocation.

The fishery opened May 3 and is currently open through September 30, 2013, or until the quota is attained.

- The early fishery was open May 3 to July 28 with an estimated catch of 4,725 lbs.
- Catch during the early season resulted in underage of 4,791 lbs, which was added to the late season quota, for a revised late season quota of 7,170 lbs.
- The late season fishery opened August 2 and continues until September 30.
- Through August 4 the estimated late season total catch is 788 lbs.

**Oregon Central Coast Subarea** (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain).

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 203,990 lbs (92% of the Oregon/California sport allocation).

Three seasons were set for this subarea: 1) a restricted depth (inside 40-fm) fishery commenced on May 2 and continued 3 days a week (Thursday-Saturday) until July 26; 2) a fixed Spring season in all depths that was open on May 9-11, 16-18, May 30-June 1, 6-8, 20-22, and; 3) a Summer season in all depths that was open on August 2-3.

- The inside 40-fathom fishery closed on July 26 with an estimated total catch of 22,248 lbs. This was a 790 lbs underage which was added to the summer quota.
- The fixed Spring all-depth season closed on June 22 with an estimated total catch of 145,167 lbs. This resulted in an overage of 24,220 lbs which was deducted from the summer quota.
- The initial Summer all-depth season quota of 47,995 lbs, was revised by the 790 lbs nearshore underage and the 24,220 lbs spring overage resulting in a revised summer quota of 24,565 lbs.
- The Summer all-depth fishery was open August 2-3, and resulted in an estimated catch of 27,069 lbs. This was a 2,504 lbs overage.
- The summer fishery closed on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**South of Humbug Mountain, Oregon and off the California Coast Subarea**

This sport fishery was allocated 6,063 lbs (3.0% of the Oregon/California quota). This area had a pre-set season of 7 days per week from May 1 to October 31.

- This season is scheduled to remain open through October 31. No total catch estimates are available for this fishery.

**TRIBAL FISHERIES**

346,500 lbs (35% of the Area 2A TAC) was allocated to tribal fisheries. The tribes estimated that 32,200 lbs would be used for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries and the remaining 314,300 lbs were allocated to the commercial fishery. The 2013 management plan was based on a court-order, to use the 2000 season plan, updated to reflect the current allocation and management measures. It contains provisions for both unrestricted fisheries with no landing limits and restricted fisheries with limits as well as a late season or mop-up fishery that can be set up to have no landing limits or with limits, toward the end of the season.

The unrestricted fishery began at noon on March 23 and lasted 48 hours. The unrestricted fishery landed 221,463 lbs in 309 landings.

The restricted fishery had two openers with each tribe choosing to participate in one or the other. The first began at noon on April 3 and lasted 36 hours. This fishery was managed with a landing limit, set at 500 lbs/vessel/day. A makeup restricted fishery was setup on April 15 for 36 hours and it also had a landing limit of 500 lbs/vessel/day for those tribes that did not participate in the earlier opener. There was a total of 74,667 lbs taken in 259 landings during both restricted fisheries.

The first late season fishery (mop-up fishery) took place beginning at noon on May 8 and continued for

12 hours. This late season fishery had a landing limit of 150 lbs. The fishery landed 5783 lbs in 54 landings. A second late season fishery took place on June 6 for 12 hours. The landing limit for this fishery was 200 lbs. The fishery landed 3,572 lbs in 25 landings. A third late season fishery opened on July 13 and continued for 12 hours with a 200 lb landing limit. This fishery landed 471 lbs in 7 landings.

The remaining 8,344 lbs of halibut was allocated by mutual agreement of the halibut tribes to the Quinault Indian Nation to harvest in a special fishery for the 2013 canoe journey that Quinault was hosting this year. The special fishery landed 7,547 lbs in 3 landings.

In all, Treaty tribal fisheries harvested 313,503 lbs in 657 landings. This was an underage of 797 lbs below the commercial allocation. The C&S fishery will continue through December 31 and tribal estimates of catch will be reported by the tribes in January 2014.

Fishery	Dates Held	Pounds Landed	# of Landings
Unrestricted	March 23-25 (48 hr.)	221,463 lbs	309 landings
Restricted, 500 lbs/vessel/day	April 3-4 and April 15-16 (36 hr.)	74,667 lbs	259 landings
Late Season (Mop Up)	May 8, June 6, July 13 (12 hr.)	9,826 lbs	86 landings
Special Fishery	July 22-Aug. 3	7,547 lbs	3 landings
Total		313,503 lbs	657 landings

2013 Area 2A TAC and Catch (in pounds)		(Preliminary data as of 8/12/2013)			
	Quota	Inseason Revised Quota	Catch		% of Quota Taken
TRIBAL INDIAN	346,500		313,503		90.5
Commercial	314,300		313,503		99.7
Ceremonial and Subsistence	32,200			%	0.0
<b>NON-TRIBAL</b>	<b>643,500</b>		<b>564,569</b>		<b>87.7</b>
COMMERCIAL	225,400		209,124		92.8
Troll	30,600		30,301		99.0
Sablefish incidental	21,410		5,823	%	27.2
Directed	173,390		173,000		99.8
SPORT	418,101		349,932		83.7
WA Sport	214,110		149,941		70.0
OR/CA Sport	203,990		194,478		95.3
WA Inside Waters	57,393			*	0.0
WA North Coast	108,030		107,856		99.8
WA South Coast	42,740		42,085		98.5
Columbia River	11,895		5,513	%	46.3
Early Season	9,516		4,725		49.7
Late Season	2,379	7,170	788	%	11.0
OR Central Coast	203,990		194,478		95.3
Inside 40 fathoms	23,038		22,248		96.6
Spring (May-June)	120,947		145,167		120.0
Summer (August- October)	47,995	24,565	27,063		110.2
OR S. of Humbug/CA	6,063			%	0.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>990,000</b>		<b>878,072</b>		<b>88.7</b>
* Complete data not available					
% This fishery is ongoing					