

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 2000 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES IN AREA 2A

The 2000 Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) of 830,000 lb set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was allocated as sub-TACs as follows:

Treaty Indian	315,500 lb (35.0% + 25,000 lb)
Non-Treaty Total	514,500 lb (65.0% - 25,000 lb)
Non-Treaty Commercial	163,097 lb
Washington Sport	188,307 lb
Oregon/California Sport	<u>163,097 lb</u>
Total	<u>830,000 lb</u>

The structure of each fishery and the resulting harvests are described below.

NON-TREATY COMMERCIAL FISHERY

A sub-TAC of 163,097 lb (31.7% of the non-treaty share) was allocated to this fishery. The commercial fishery was divided into two 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.

Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery A quota of 24,464 lb (15% of the non-Indian commercial fishery allocation) was allocated to the salmon troll fishery in Area 2A as an incidental catch during chinook fisheries. According to the Catch Sharing Plan, if this quota is not harvested during the May/June salmon troll fishery, the remaining quota is rolled over to the directed halibut fishery on July 1. However, if the directed fishery were unable to harvest the full commercial quota (including the roll-over) by July 31, then the incidental catch of halibut during the salmon troll fisheries would re-open on August 1, and would continue until the quota for the troll fishery were taken or the overall non-Indian commercial quota were estimated to have been achieved. The final catch ratio established pre-season by the Council at the April meeting was one halibut (minimum 32") per 3 chinook landed by a salmon troller, except that one halibut could be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut could be landed per trip.

- A total of 20,925 lb of halibut was landed during the May/June salmon troll fishery. Of the total, 12,425 lb were landed in Oregon during the salmon fishery that extended to June 30, and 8,500 lb were landed in Washington through June 15. The remaining 3,539 lb were rolled over to the directed halibut fishery on July 1.
- Because the directed halibut fishery did not take the entire commercial allocation in July, incidental halibut landings in the salmon troll fishery were again allowed for August 1-4, concurrent with the August 2 directed commercial fishery. After August 4, the IPHC calculated landings from both commercial halibut fisheries and estimated that there would be enough halibut available to re-open the halibut opportunity in the salmon troll fisheries for August 11-21. Commercial halibut opportunities were closed after August 21. In the month of August, 1,425 lb of halibut landed in Oregon by salmon troll fishers and no halibut was landed in Washington by salmon troll fishers.

Directed fishery targeting on halibut A quota of 138,632 lb (85% of the non-treaty 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° 53'18" N. lat.). One-day fishing periods of 10 hours in duration were scheduled by the IPHC for July 5, July 19, August 2, August 23, September 6, and September 20. A 32" minimum size limit 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.

Fishing period limits (dressed weight, head-off in pounds) by vessel size.

Vessel Class/Size	7/5/00 Opening	7/19/00 Opening	8/2/00 Opening
A 0 - 25 ft.	310 lb	200 lb	200 lb
B 26 - 30 ft.	390 lb	200 lb	200 lb
C 31 - 35 ft.	620 lb	200 lb	200 lb
D 36 - 40 ft.	1,715 lb	325 lb	230 lb
E 41 - 45 ft.	1,845 lb	350 lb	250 lb
F 46 - 50 ft.	2,205 lb	415 lb	300 lb
G 51 - 55 ft.	2,460 lb	465 lb	335 lb
H 56+ ft.	3,700 lb	700 lb	500 lb

- The July 5 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of 120,000 lb, leaving approximately 18,632 lb for later openings, plus 3,539 lb available from the incidental fishery.
- The July 21 directed commercial fishery resulted in an estimated catch of about 13,000 lb, which left approximately 9,471 lb in the commercial allocation, including the amount rolled over from the incidental salmon troll fishery.
- On August 2, the directed commercial fishery resulted in an estimated catch of about 3,000 lb, plus an initially estimated 1,500 lb taken in the incidental salmon troll fishery August 1-4, leaving approximately 4,971 lb in the commercial allocation, an amount too small to hold another directed commercial fishery. The incidental catch allowance in the commercial salmon troll fishery was re-opened for August 11-21. Following these fisheries, the August salmon troll fisheries were estimated to have taken 1,425 lb of halibut between both open periods.

SPORT FISHERIES (Non-treaty).

A sub-TAC of 351,404 lb (68.3% of non-treaty share) was allocated between sport fisheries in the Washington area (53.6%) and Oregon/California (46.4%). The allocations were further subdivided as quotas among seven geographic subareas as described below.

Washington Inside Waters Subarea (Puget Sound and Straits of Juan de Fuca). This area was allocated 49,136 lb (26.1% of the Washington sport allocation). Due to inability to monitor the catch in this area inseason, a fixed season was established preseason based on projected catch per day and number of days to achieve the sub-quota. The season was open 5 days per week (closed Tuesday and Wednesday) from May 25 through July 27. The daily bag limit was one halibut of any size per person.

- There is no catch estimate for this fishery at this time.

Northern Washington Coastal Waters Subarea (landings in Neah Bay and La Push). The coastal area off Cape Flattery to Queets River was allocated 99,773 lb (53.0% of the Washington sport allocation). The fishery was divided into two seasons with 7,000 lb set aside for the second season. The fishery was to open May 2 and continue 5 days per week (closed Sunday and Monday) until 92,773 lb were estimated to have been taken. The second season was to open July 1 and continue 5 days per week (closed Sunday and Monday) until the subarea quota of 99,773 lb was estimated to have been taken. A portion of this subarea, located about 19 miles southwest of Cape Flattery, was closed to halibut fishing. The daily bag limit was one halibut of any size per person.

- The fishery opened May 2 and continued 5 days a week, until June 16, when the initial quota of 92,773 lb was estimated to have been reached. Later calculations showed that 88,457 lb had been taken, making 11,316 lb available to the July re-opening.
- The season re-opened for July 1 and 4, as the fishery was expected to take approximately 5,000 lb per day on those days. A total of 101,114 lb (1,341 lb over quota) was actually taken.

Washington South Coast Subarea (landings in Westport). The area from the Queets River to Leadbetter Point was allocated 34,482 lb (18.3% of the Washington sport allocation). The fishery was to open on May 1 and continue 5 days per week (closed Friday and Saturday) offshore, until 1,000 lb were projected to remain in the subarea quota. An inshore fishery was to open May 2 and continue 7 days per week in waters between the Queets River and 47° 00'00" N. lat., and east of 124° 40'00" W. long. through the closure of the offshore fishery until either the subarea quota were estimated to have been taken, or until September 30, whichever occurred first. The daily bag limit was one halibut of any size per person.

- The 7 day per week fishery continued until June 2, with the closed hot spot remaining closed from May 2-6, and opening on May 7. The offshore fishery closed on May 29, at which time 35,734 lb had been taken. At the time the offshore fishery was closed, 1,000 lb were estimated to remain in the quota; however, subsequent calculations showed that the entire quota had been taken and the inshore fishery was closed on June 2. No

fish were taken in the inshore fishery between May 30 and June 2, and total of 35,734 lb (1,252 lb over quota) was actually taken for this area.

Columbia River Subarea (Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon). This sport fishery subarea was allocated 8,177 lb, consisting of 2.7% of the Washington sport allocation plus 2.0% of the Oregon/California sport allocation. The fishery was to open May 1 and continue 7 days per week until September 30 or until the quota has been taken. The daily bag limit is the first halibut taken of 32 inches or greater in length.

- This 7 day per week fishery began on May 1 and continued through to July 29, with a total of 7,728 lb landed, 449 lb under quota.

Oregon North Central Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to the Siuslaw River). This sport fishery subarea was allocated 143,574 (88.03% of the Oregon/California sport allocation). Three seasons were set: 1) a restricted depth (inside 30 fathoms) fishery to commence on May 1 and continue every day until the combined North Central and South Central nearshore sub-quota of 12,324 lb was estimated to have been taken; 2) a fixed May season in all depths that was to open on May 11, 12, 13, 18, and 19, with a projected catch of 97,630 lb and; 3) a fixed August season in all depths from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain on August 4 or until the combined all-depth subquotas for Oregon south of Cape Falcon totaling 142,617 lb were estimated to have been taken. The daily bag limit was the first halibut taken of 32 inches or greater in length.

- The restricted 30-fathom fishery opened on May 1 and remains open. The initial sub-quota of 12,324 lb was reduced to 7,324 lb in September, when 5,000 lb were moved from the inside 30-fathom fishery to the all-depth fishery. By the end of September, this fishery had landed 5,362 lb, which is 45.7% below the initial sub-quota.
- The first fixed season in May with 5 fishing days ending May 19 had a total catch of 112,953 lb, exceeding the 97,630 lb quota. As a result, the 35,893 lb available for the August all-depth fishery was reduced by 15,323 lb.
- The August all-depth season draws on the combined quotas of the Oregon north central and south central fisheries. The initial 35,893 lb available to this fishery was reduced by a 15,323 lb overage in the May north central coast all-depth fishery, and by a 6,526 lb overage in the May south central coast all-depth fishery, leaving 14,044 available to the August all-depth fishery. Pre-season, ODFW had estimated that 30,500 lb would be needed for a single day of all-depth fishing in August; therefore, the August all-depth opportunity was cancelled. Halibut managers met to consider whether a day of all-depth fishing could be held in September, and agreed that the 14,044 lb remaining in the all-depth quota, plus 5,000 lb available to be moved from the nearshore quota, would be enough to hold a single day of all-depth fishing in late September. An all-depth fishing opportunity was set for Friday, September 22. The weather on September 22 was particularly unpleasant and the fishery landed only 7,203 lb. The north and south May all-depth seasons combined with the September 22 fishery landed 135,776 lb, 4.8% under the 142,617 lb combined quota for these seasons.

Oregon South Central Coast Subarea This sport fishery subarea was allocated 11,368 lb (6.97% of the Oregon/California sport allocation). Three seasons were set: 1) a restricted depth (inside 30 fathoms) fishery to commence on May 1 and continue every day until 2,274 lb was estimated to have been taken; 2) a fixed May season in all depths that was to open on May 11, 12, 13, 18, and 19, with a projected catch of 9,094 lb and; 3) a fixed August season in all depths from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, described above. The daily bag limit was the first halibut taken of 32 inches or greater in length.

- The restricted 30-fathom fishery opened on May 1 and continues. The initial combined sub-quota of 12,324 lb was reduced to 7,324 lb in August, when 5,000 lb were moved from the inside 30-fathom fishery to the all-depth fishery. By the end of September, this fishery had landed 5,362 lb, which is 45.7% below the initial sub-quota.
- The first fixed season in May with 5 fishing days ending May 19 had a total catch of 15,620 lb exceeding the 9,094 lb quota. As a result, the 35,893 lb available for the August all-depth fishery was reduced by 6,526 lb.
- The final combined fixed season (Oregon central and south coast subareas) opened on September 22, as described above.

South of Humbug Mountain, Oregon and off the California Coast Subarea This sport fishery was allocated 4,893 lb (3.0% of the Oregon/California quota). This area had a pre-set season of 7 days per week from May 1 to September 30 and a bag limit of the first halibut taken of 32 inches or greater in length.

- This season closed September 30, in accordance with the Catch Sharing Plan. Through August 13, 65 lb had been landed in Oregon from this area. No catch estimates are yet available for California, but it is very unlikely that this subarea quota will be taken.

TRIBAL FISHERIES

A sub-TAC of 315,500 lb (35% + 25,000 lb of the Area 2A TAC) was allocated to Tribal fisheries. The tribes estimated that 10,500 lb would be used for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries and the remaining 305,000 lb was allocated to the commercial fishery. The tribal commercial fishery was scheduled to open on March 15, 2000 pursuant to regulations adopted by the IPHC and continue until the tribal commercial subquota was reached. The tribal C&S fishery was scheduled to run throughout the year.

Commercial fisheries began on March 15 and closed on May 11. The tribes landed a total of 300,130 lb in the commercial fishery (1.6% under commercial quota). The fishery was open for two unrestricted periods with no landings limits on March 15 (48 hours) and March 30 (24 hours). It was also opened on a restricted basis of 500 lb per day trip limits from March 15 through April 15. After April 15, there were several longer open periods governed by 500 lb trip limits. Reserving a portion of the commercial quota for the restricted fishery facilitated close monitoring of quota-attainment and allowed a longer commercial landings period.

The C&S fishery will continue through December 31 and tribal estimates of catch will be reported by the tribes in January 2000.

2000 Area 2A TAC and Catch (in pounds)			
	<u>TAC</u>	<u>Catch</u>	<u>Over/Under</u>
TREATY INDIAN	315,500	310,630	***
Commercial	305,000	300,130	-1.6%
Ceremonial & Subsistence	10,500	10,500 †	***
NON-INDIAN	514,500	***	***
COMMERCIAL	163,097	159,350	-2.3%
Troll	24,464	22,350	-8.6%
Directed	138,632	137,000	-1.2%
SPORT	351,404	***	---
WA Sport	188,307	***	***
OR/CA Sport	163,097	148,458	-9.9%
WA Inside Waters	49,136	***	***
WA North Coast	99,773	101,114	1.3%
WA South Coast	34,482	35,734	3.6%
Col River Area	8,177	7,728	-5.5%
OR Central Coast	154,942	141,408	-8.7%
Inside 30 fathoms (all areas)	12,324 ‡	5,632	-45.7%
May (North Central Coast)	97,630	112,953 ‡	15.7%
May (South Central Coast)	9,094	15,620 ‡	71.8%
August (all areas)	35,893	7,203 ‡	-33.0%
OR S. of Humbug/CA	4,893	4,237	-13.4%
TOTAL	830,000	809,337 ★	-2.5%★

*** = Total catch not yet determined

† = Assumed for purposes of calculating overall catch amounts.

‡ = May all-depth catch exceeded May quota by 21,849 lb, which was then deducted from the 35,893 lb that was initially available to the August all-depth fishery, leaving 14,044 lb. ODFW, NMFS, and IPHC agreed that this amount was not sufficient for a day of all-depth fishing in August. This amount was combined with 5,000 lb moved from the inside-30-fathom fisheries, to make 19,044 lb available to a September 22 all-depth fishery.

★ = Assumes for demonstration purposes that Tribal Ceremonial and Subsistence fisheries and Non-Tribal Washington State Puget Sound sport fisheries achieve, but do not exceed their quotas. These numbers should be finalized in January 2001.