

REPORT ON THE 2001 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES IN AREA 2A

The 2001 Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) of 1,140,000 lb set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was allocated as sub-TACs as follows:

Treaty Indian		424,000 lb (35.0% +
	25,000 lb)	
Non-Treaty Total		716,000 lb (65.0% - 25,000 lb)
Non-Treaty Commercial	274,918 lb	
Washington Sport	214,110 lb	
Oregon/California Sport		226,972 lb

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

NON-TREATY COMMERCIAL FISHERY

A sub-TAC of 226,972 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.

For the first time in 2001, the overall Area 2A TAC was high enough to allow incidental halibut retention in the primary, limited entry, fixed gear sablefish fishery. Although this is a non-treaty commercial fishery, the allocation for this fishery comes from the Washington sport fishery allocation. If the Area 2A TAC is greater than 900,000 lb, the primary sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis is allocated the Washington sport allocation that is in excess of 214,110 lb, provided that at least 10,000 lb is available to the fishery. If the amount above 214,110 lb is less than 10,000 lb, then the excess is allocated to the Washington sport fisheries.

Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery A quota of 34,046 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, the primary management objective for this fishery is to harvest the troll quota as an incidental catch during the May/June salmon troll fishery. If any of the allocation for this fishery remains after June 30, the fishery may continue to retain incidentally caught halibut in the July through September salmon troll fisheries until the quota is taken, or until the overall non-treaty commercial catch limit is taken. The final catch ratio established preseason 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.

- The salmon troll season opened May 1 and the halibut quota for this fishery lasted through July 11. A total of 34,324 lb (278 lb over quota) of halibut was landed from the salmon troll fishery. Of the total, 21,538 lb were landed in Oregon and 12,786 lb were landed in Washington.

Directed fishery targeting on halibut A quota of 192,926 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 June 27, July 11, July 25, August 8, August 22, and September 5. 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	6/27/01 Opening	7/11/01 Opening	7/25/01 Opening	8/8/01 Opening	8/22/01 Opening	9/5/01 Opening
A 0 - 25 ft.	335 lb	295 lb	225 lb	200 lb	200 lb	200 lb
B 26 - 30 ft.	420 lb	370 lb	285 lb	200 lb	200 lb	200 lb
C 31 - 35 ft.	670 lb	590 lb	455 lb	200 lb	200 lb	200 lb
D 36 - 40 ft.	1,850 lb	1,620 lb	1,250 lb	280 lb	415 lb	415 lb
E 41 - 45 ft.	1,990 lb	1,745 lb	1,345 lb	300 lb	450 lb	450 lb
F 46 - 50 ft.	2,385 lb	2,085 lb	1,610 lb	360 lb	535 lb	535 lb
G 51 - 55 ft.	2,660 lb	2,330 lb	1,795 lb	400 lb	600 lb	600 lb
H 56+ ft.	4,000 lb	3,500 lb	2,700 lb	600 lb	900 lb	900 lb

- The June 27 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of about 42,000 lb, leaving 150,926 lb for later openings.
- The July 11 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of about 80,000 lb, leaving 70,926 lb for later openings.
- The July 25 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of about 56,000 lb, leaving 14,926 lb for later openings.
- Bad weather for the August 8 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of under 1,000 lb, leaving 13,926 for later openings.
- The August 22 fishery resulted in catch of about 1,000 lb, also due to bad weather, leaving 12,926 for later openings.
- The September 5 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of about 11,500 pounds, closing the directed commercial fishery for 2001.

Incidental halibut catch in the primary sablefish longline fishery north of Point Chehalis A quota of 47,946 lb was allocated to the limited entry primary sablefish fishery in Area 2A as an incidental catch during longline sablefish operations north of Point Chehalis, WA. The primary sablefish season began on August 15, 2001, and closes October 31. Properly licensed vessels could retain up to 80 lb of (headed-and gutted) halibut per 1,000 lb of (round weight) sablefish, plus up to two additional halibut per fishing trip. Each vessel was allowed to retain up to a total cumulative limit of halibut that was based on the tier of the limited entry permit registered for use with the vessel when that vessel applied for a 2001 IPHC license. For 2001, the following halibut limits were in effect: Tier 1, 2,850 lb; Tier 2, 1,300 lb; Tier 3, 750 lb. Regardless of the number of limited entry permits registered for use with a vessel, no vessel could take more than one cumulative limit of halibut. The final landings from this fishery are not yet available.

SPORT FISHERIES (Non-treaty).

A sub-TAC of 441,082 lb (68.3% of non-treaty share) was allocated between sport fisheries in the Washington area (48.5%) and Oregon/California (51.5%). 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 57,393 lb (26.1% of the Washington sport allocation). 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 season was open 5 days per week (closed Tuesday and Wednesday) from May 17 through July 22. The daily bag limit was one halibut of any size per person.

- Catch totals from this sub-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 lb (53.0% of the Washington sport allocation). The fishery was divided into two seasons with 20,000 lb set aside for the second season. The fishery was to open May 1 and continue 5 days per week (closed Sunday and Monday) until 88,030 lb were estimated to have been taken. The second season was to open July 1- 4, and to reopen after July 4 if quota were available. 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 1 and continued 5 days a week, until June 1, when 71,131 lb was estimated to have been taken. The fishery re-opened on Saturday, June 16, when an additional 3,924 lb were taken, leaving 32,975 lb for the July 1-4 fishery.
- The season re-opened for July 1-4, during which 34,716 lb were taken, for a total of 109,771 lb, approximately 1,741 lb over quota.

Washington South Coast Subarea (landings in Westport). The area from the Queets River to Leadbetter Point was allocated 42,739lb (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 the quota was taken. An inshore fishery was also to open May 1 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 5 day per week fishery offshore fishery and the 7 day per week inshore fishery opened on May 1 and continued until June 6, when WDFW estimated that not enough halibut remained in the quota to allow another day of offshore fishing. By June 17, WDFW had estimated that 41,792 lb had been taken, leaving approximately 947 lb for the inshore fishery through September 30. Between June 17 and September 30, the inshore fishery took no halibut. The combined offshore and inshore fisheries take of 41,792 lb is 2.2% under quota.

Columbia River Subarea (Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon). This sport fishery subarea was allocated 10,487 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 June 14, with a total of 8,808 lb landed, 1,679 lb under quota.

Oregon North Central Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to the Siuslaw River). This sport fishery subarea was allocated 199,803 (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 17,150 lb was estimated to have been taken; 2) a fixed May season in all depths that was to open on May 11, 12, 18, and 19, with a projected catch of 135,866 lb and; 3) a fixed August season in all depths from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain on August 3 and 4, or until the combined all-depth subquotas for Oregon south of Cape Falcon totaling 198,473 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 closed September 30. The initial sub-quota of 17,150 lb was reduced to 5,150 lb in August, when 12,000 lb were moved from the inside 30-fathom fishery to the all-depth fishery. The combined 30-fathom fishery took 2,387 lb of halibut during the 2001 season.
- The first fixed season in May with 4 fishing days ending May 19 had a total catch of 117,499 lb, which was beneath the 135,866 lb quota, but not by enough to hold another all-depth fishing day during the May-June period.
- The August all-depth season draws on the combined quotas of the Oregon north central and south central fisheries. The initial 49,951 lb available to this fishery was supplemented by the 18,367 lb underage from the north central coast May-June fishery and by 12,000 lb from the nearshore fishery, but reduced by a 1,872 lb overage in the May-June south central coast all-depth fishery. As a result of these revisions, 78,446 lb was available to the August 3 and 4 all-depth fishery. In any brief fishery, weather has a significant effect on harvest rates and the weather for August 3 and 4 was poor. The combined central coast fisheries took 36,434 lb on August 3 and 4. Because the underage of 42,012 lb was great enough to hold another day of all-depth fishing, a third all-depth fishing day was held on August 17. On August 17, the all-depth fishery took 17,051 lb, which left 24,961 lb for two more all-depth fishing days in September. On September 21 and 22, the all-depth fishery took 31,654 lb, which was 6,693 lb over the all-depth quota. However, since the inside 30-fathom fishery came in 2,763 lb under its quota, the overall Oregon central coast fisheries landings were just 3,930 lb over quota.

Oregon South Central Coast Subarea (Siuslaw River to Humbug Mountain) This sport fishery subarea was allocated 15,820 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 the combined North Central and South Central nearshore sub-quota of 17,150 lb was estimated to have been taken; 2) a fixed May season in all depths that was to open on May 11, 12, 18, and 19, with a projected catch of 12,656 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 closed September 30. The initial sub-quota of 17,150 lb was reduced to 5,150 lb in August, when 12,000 lb were moved from the inside 30-fathom fishery to the all-depth fishery. The combined 30-fathom fishery took 2,387 lb of halibut during the 2001 season.
- The first fixed season in May with 4 fishing days ending May 19 had a total catch of 8,902 lb, which was 3,754 lb under quota. With this underage, a third May-June all-depth fishing day was scheduled for the south central coast on June 8. On the June 8 fishery, 5,626 lb were landed, for an overage of 1,872 lb.
- The final combined fixed season (Oregon central and south coast subareas) opened on August 3, 4, and 17, and on September 21 and 22, as described above.

South of Humbug Mountain, Oregon and off the California Coast Subarea This sport fishery was allocated 6,809 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 continued through September 30. No catch estimates are available for this fishery, but it is very unlikely that this subarea quota will be taken.

TRIBAL FISHERIES

A sub-TAC of 424,000 lb (35% + 25,000 lb of the Area 2A TAC) was allocated to Tribal fisheries. The tribes estimated that 17,500 lb would be used for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries and the remaining 406,500 lb was allocated to the commercial fishery. The tribal commercial fishery was

scheduled to open on March 15, 2001 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.

The first restricted fishery (500 lb/vessel/day) was held from March 15 to April 15, and resulted in 62,323 lb being taken. The first 60-hr unrestricted (no per-vessel limits) fishery was held March 21-23, and resulted in 204,005 lb being taken. The tribes held a 24-hr mop up fishery on April 19 and 20, which took an additional 116,280 lb, leaving 23,892 lb in the tribal commercial quota. The tribes targeted this remainder in another restricted fishery (500 lb/vessel/day,) held April 25 through May 11. This final restricted fishery resulted in 29,042 lb, for a total of 411,650 lb taken in the 2001 commercial fishery (5,150 lb over quota).

The C&S fishery will continue through December 31 and tribal estimates of catch will be reported by the tribes in January 2001.

2001 Area 2A TAC and Catch (in pounds)				
	Quota	Inseason Revised Quota	Catch	Over/Under
TREATY INDIAN	424,000		429,150	1.2%
Commercial	406,500		411,650	1.3%
Ceremonial & Subsistence	17,500		17,500 ‡	0.0%
NON-INDIAN	716,000		717,936	0.3%
COMMERCIAL	274,918		273,770	-0.4%
Troll	34,046		34,324	0.8%
Directed	192,926		191,500	-0.7%
Sablefish Incidental	47,946		47,946 ‡	0.0%
SPORT	441,802		444,166	0.5%
WA Sport	214,110		213,951	-0.1%
OR/CA Sport	226,972		230,175	1.4%
WA Inside Waters	57,393		57,393 ‡	0.0%
WA North Coast	108,030		109,771	1.6%
WA South Coast	42,739		41,792	-2.2%
Col River Area	10,487		8,808	-16.0%
OR Central Coast	215,623	215,623	219,553	1.8%
Inside 30 fathoms (all areas)	17,150	5,150 ●	2,387	-53.7%
May (North Central Coast)	135,866	135,866	117,499	-13.5%
May (South Central Coast)	12,656	12,656	14,528	14.8%
August/September (all areas)	49,951	78,446 ●	85,139	8.5%
OR S. of Humbug/CA	6,809		6,809 ‡	0.0%
TOTAL	1,140,000		1,147,086	0.6%

*** = Total catch not yet determined

‡ = Assumed for purposes of calculating overall catch amounts.

● = Although the initial allocation to the August all-depth fisheries was 49,951, the quota was adjusted by the North Central Coast underage in May and by the South Central Coast overage in May, resulting in 16,495 lb being added to the August all-depth. In accordance with the Catch Sharing plan, an additional 12,000 lb were transferred from the inside-30-fathom fishery to the August all-depth fishery, making the total quota available in August-September 78,446 lb.