

REPORT ON THE 2014 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES IN AREA 2A
(9/1/2015)

This report provides final catch amounts and updates the previous NMFS report submitted to the November 2014 Council briefing book (G.1.b, NMFS report 4). To see previous years final catch data please see the Annual Reports provided by the IPHC at <http://iphc.int/library/annual-reports.html>

The 2014 Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) of 960,000 lbs. set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was allocated as follows:

Treaty Tribes	336,000 lbs. (35%)
Non-Tribal Total	624,000 lbs. (65%)
Non-Tribal Commercial	197,808 lbs.
Washington Sport	228,384 lbs.
Oregon Sport	191,568 lbs.
California Sport	6,240 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 197,808 lbs. (31.7% of the non-tribal share) 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 14,274 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 at least 10,000 lbs.

Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery

A quota of 29,671 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.

The final catch ratio established by the Council was one halibut (minimum 32 inches) per four Chinook landed by a salmon troller, except that one halibut could be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 12 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 on April 1, 2014, with the following ratio: 1 halibut per each 4 Chinook, except that 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 12 halibut may be possessed or landed per trip.
- Beginning May 30, the ratio was changed to 1 halibut per trip.

- Beginning July 25, the ratio was changed to 1 halibut per each 4 Chinook, except that 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 3 halibut may be possessed or landed per trip.
- Beginning August 8, the ratio was changed to 1 halibut per each 4 Chinook, except 1 halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 7 halibut may be possessed or landed per trip.
- Beginning August 22, the total trip limit amount was changed to a total of 3 halibut per trip, the ratio remained 1 halibut per each 4 Chinook.
- In August, 4,000 lbs. from the directed commercial fishery were added to the incidental quota resulting in an adjusted allocation of 33,671 lbs.
- The fishery closed on September 11, 2014, with an estimated total season catch of 33,349 lbs.
- The final total season catch was 34,025 lbs.

Directed fishery targeting on halibut

A quota of 168,137 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 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 25, 2014. 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 as incidental catch in the salmon troll fishery, nor operate in the recreational fishery.

2014 fishing period limits (dressed weight, head-off without ice and slime in pounds) by vessel size.

Vessel Class/Size	June 26 Opening	July 9 Opening
A 0 - 25 ft.	755 lbs	200 lbs
B 26 - 30 ft.	945 lbs	210 lbs
C 31 - 35 ft.	1,510 lbs	353 lbs
D 36 - 40 ft.	4,165 lbs	925 lbs
E 41 - 45 ft.	4,480 lbs	995 lbs
F 46 - 50 ft.	5,365 lbs	1,190 lbs
G 51 - 55 ft.	5,985 lbs	1,330 lbs
H 56+ ft.	9,000 lbs	2,000 lbs

- The June 26 and July 9 directed commercial open periods resulted in a catch of approximately 164,000 lbs, leaving approximately 4,000 lbs.
- The 4,000 lbs remaining was made available to the salmon troll fishery because it was not enough

quota for another directed commercial fishing period.

- The final total season catch was 155,446 lbs.

Incidental halibut catch in the sablefish primary longline fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA

A quota of 14,274 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 April 8. 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 was confined to an area seaward of a boundary line approximating the 100-fm depth contour. Fishing was 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.

- The season closed on October 31 with an estimated total catch of 10,511 lbs.
- The final total season catch was 11,931 lbs.

SPORT FISHERIES (Non-tribal)

426,192 lbs were allocated between sport fisheries in Washington (36.6% of non-tribal share), Oregon (30.7% of the non-tribal share), and California (1.0% of the non-tribal share). The allocations were further subdivided as quotas among seven 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 Strait 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 preseason based on projected catch per day and number of days to achieve the sub-quota. The fishing season in eastern Puget Sound (east of Low Point or 123°49.50' W. long.) was open May 17 (Saturday); May 22-25 (Thursday through Sunday); May 29-31 (Thursday through Saturday); and Saturday, June 7. The fishing season in western Puget Sound (west of low Point) was open May 22-25 (Thursday through Sunday); May 29-31 (Thursday through Saturday); and Saturday, June 7.

- 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 15, 17, 22, and 24). The "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA, southwest of Cape Flattery, was closed to sport halibut fishing.

- The final season catch for this area is 112,002 lbs., which is 3,972 lbs. over the quota.

Washington South Coast Subarea (landings in Westport)

The area from the Queets River to Leadbetter Point was allocated 42,739 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 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, and closed after the 18th. The nearshore fishery was open everyday between May 4 and 21.

The nearshore fishery occurred 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 40,739 lbs to the primary fishery.

- The final season catch for this area is 45,903 lbs, which is 3,164 lbs over the quota.

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 14,274 lbs, (which is the amount allocated to incidental take in the sablefish primary fishery), and an equal amount from the Oregon sport allocation. The 2014 fishery included a new nearshore fishery in this subarea.

- The early fishery was open May 1 to July 27 with an estimated catch of 8,289 lbs.
- Catch during the early season resulted in underage of 274 lbs, which was added to the late season quota, for a revised late season quota of 2,415 lbs.
- The late season fishery was open August 1-September 30
- The late season closed on September 28 with an estimated late season total catch of 807 lbs.
- The nearshore fishery was open May 5-September 30 with an estimated catch of 143 lbs.
- The final season catches are unchanged from the above estimates.

Oregon Central Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain)

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 185,621 lbs (Oregon sport fishery allocation minus the Oregon contribution to the Columbia River subarea).

Three seasons were set for this subarea: 1) a restricted depth (inside 40-fm) fishery, open July 1-October 5, 7 days a week; 2) a fixed Spring season in all depths that was open on May 8-10, 22-24, May 26-June 1, June 5-7, June 12-14, and; 3) a Summer season in all depths that was open on August 1-2 and August 15-16.

- The inside 40-fathom fishery was open July 1-October 31 with an estimated catch is 16,124 lbs., which is 6,150 lbs under the quota of 22,274 lbs.
- The fixed Spring all-depth season resulted in an estimated catch of 106,782 lbs.
- The Summer all-depth fishery resulted in an estimated catch of 42,542 lbs.
- The final season catches are unchanged from the above estimates.

Southern Oregon (Humbug Mountain to the OR/CA Border)

This sport fishery was allocated 3,712 lbs. (2.0% of the Oregon Central Coast quota). This area had a pre-set season of 7 days per week from May 1 to October 31.

- This area was open May 1-October 31 with an estimated catch of 6,108 lbs. which was 2,396 lbs over the quota.
- Quota from the Oregon Central Coast subarea was transferred inseason to cover the overage in this area.
- The final season catch amount is unchanged from the above estimate.

California (Off the California Coast)

This sport fishery was allocated 6,240 lbs. (1% of the Area 2A non-tribal share).

- This season was open May 1-July 31 and September 1 through October 31, seven days per week.
- The estimated catch for the season is 31,226 lbs.
- The final season catch amount is unchanged from the above estimate.

TRIBAL FISHERIES

336,000 lbs (35% of the Area 2A TAC) was allocated to tribal fisheries. The tribes estimated that 28,500

lbs would be used for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries and the remaining 307,500 lbs were allocated to the commercial fishery. The 2014 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 was open March 11-13 (48 hours). The unrestricted fishery landed 227,905 lbs. in 349 landings.

The restricted fishery had two openers. The first was open March 20-21 for 30 hours, with a 500 lbs/vessel/day limit. This open period resulted in catch of 58,442 lbs in 222 landings. The second (late season) fishery was open on May 8 for 10 hours with a landings limit of 400 lbs/vessel/day. This open period resulted in catch of 22,571 lbs in 78 landings.

The C&S fishery total season catch was 31,800 lbs.

Fishery	Dates Held	Pounds Landed	# of Landings
Unrestricted	March 11-13 (48 hr.)	227,905 lbs	349 landings
Restricted, 500 lbs/vessel/day	March 20-21 (30 hrs)	58,442 lbs	259 landings
Late Season (Mop Up)	May 8 (10 hrs)	22,571 lbs	78 landings
Total		308,919 lbs	649 landings

2014 Area 2A TAC and Catch (in pounds)		(Data as of 9/1/2015)			
	Quota	Inseason Revised Quota	Catch		% of Quota Taken
TRIBAL INDIAN	336,000		340,196		101.2
Commercial	307,500		308,396		100.3
Ceremonial and Subsistence	28,500		31,800		111.6
NON-TRIBAL	624,000		580,567		93.0
COMMERCIAL	197,808		201,402		101.8
Troll	29,671	33,671	34,025		101.1
Sablefish incidental	14,274		11,931		83.6
Directed	168,137		155,446		92.5
SPORT	426,192		369,926	*	86.8
WA Sport	214,110		157,905		73.7
OR Sport	191,568		171,556		89.6
CA Sport	6,240		31,226		500.4
WA Inside Waters	57,393			*	0.0
WA North Coast	108,030		112,002		103.7
WA South Coast	42,739		45,903		107.4
Columbia River	11,895		9,239		77.7
Early Season	8,564		8,289		96.8
Late Season	2,141	2,416	807		33.4
Nearshore	1,190		143		12.0
OR Central Coast	185,621		165,448		89.1
Inside 40 fathoms	22,274		16,124		72.4
Spring (May-July)	113,229		106,782		94.3
Summer (August- October)	46,405		42,542		91.7
Southern Oregon	3,712		6,108		164.5
California	6,240		31,226		500.4
TOTAL	960,000		920,763		95.9
* Complete data not available					