

REPORT ON THE 2020 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES IN AREA 2A (8/13/2020)

The 2020 Area 2A Pacific halibut (halibut) total allowable catch (TAC) of 1,500,000 pounds was allocated according to the 2020 Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 2A as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Treaty Tribes | 525,000 (35%) |
| Non-Tribal Total | 975,000 (65%) |
| Non-Tribal Commercial | 299,325 |
| Washington Sport | 347,100 |
| Oregon Sport | 289,575 |
| California Sport | 39,000 |

All catch estimates in this report are preliminary, as some fisheries are ongoing and others have not had final data reconciliation. All weights in this report are net weight (gutted, head-off, and without ice and slime), unless otherwise noted. The structure of each fishery and the resulting harvests are described below.

TOTAL TRIBAL AND NON-TRIBAL FISHERIES

Best estimates of halibut catch for Area 2A indicate harvest of 720,520 pounds of the non-tribal total quota and 494,568 pounds of the tribal quota, with a total preliminary harvest estimate of 1,215,088 pounds, or 81%, of the 1,500,000 pound TAC. A summary of all Area 2A quotas and preliminary harvest estimates for 2020 is attached in Table 2 on the last page of this document.

NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

A quota of 299,325 pounds (30.7% of the non-tribal share) was allocated to two fishery components:

- 1) a directed longline fishery targeting halibut south of Point Chehalis, WA; and
- 2) an incidental catch fishery during the salmon troll fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California.

An additional 70,000 pounds 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 taken from the portion of the Washington sport allocation that is above 214,110 pounds, as long as the amount is at least 10,000 pounds.

Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery

A quota of 44,899 pounds 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.

- Halibut retention was permitted in the salmon troll fisheries beginning May 1, with the following ratio: one halibut (minimum 32 inches) per two Chinook salmon 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.

- On July 1, the fishery was extended at the same ratio and landing limit.
- The fishery is estimated to have taken 25,624 pounds. This fishery is ongoing and catch is still accruing.

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.

Directed fishery targeting halibut

A quota of 254,426 pounds (85% of the non-tribal commercial fishery allocation) was allocated to the directed longline fishery targeting halibut in southern Washington, Oregon, and California. The fishery was confined to the area 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 of the closed area is defined by a line approximating the 100 fm depth contour. The eastern boundary of the closed area 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 40°10' N. lat. the boundary is the 30 fm depth contour. Fishing periods were 58 hours in duration every other week, starting Monday, June 22. In 2020, the fishery was open for five fishing periods (as of August 13, 2020): June 22-24, July 6-8, July 20-22, August 3-5, and August 17-19. 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 Table 1. 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.

Table 1. 2020 fishing period limits (dressed weight, head-on with ice and slime, in pounds per vessel) by vessel size.

| Vessel Class/Size (ft) | | Jun 22-24 | Jul 6-8 | Jul 20-22 | Aug 3-5 | Aug 17-19 |
|------------------------|---|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| 0-25 | A | 905 | 1,810 | 2,263 | 2,263 | 905 |
| 26-30 | B | 905 | 1,810 | 2,263 | 2,263 | 905 |
| 31-35 | C | 905 | 1,810 | 2,263 | 2,263 | 905 |
| 36-40 | D | 1,364 | 2,728 | 3,410 | 3,410 | 1,364 |
| 41-45 | E | 1,364 | 2,728 | 3,410 | 3,410 | 1,364 |
| 46-50 | F | 1,818 | 3,636 | 4,545 | 4,545 | 1,818 |
| 51-55 | G | 1,818 | 3,636 | 4,545 | 4,545 | 1,818 |
| 56+ | H | 2,045 | 4,090 | 5,113 | 5,113 | 2,045 |

- The first three directed commercial open periods resulted in a catch of approximately 201,426 pounds. The fishery is ongoing and catch is still accruing. Final catch amounts will be available in 2021.

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

A quota of 70,000 pounds was allocated to the primary sablefish fishery in Area 2A as incidental catch north of Point Chehalis, WA. This incidental fishery is only available to vessels with a groundfish limited entry permit endorsed for longline gear with a sablefish tier limit and with an IPHC license.

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.

- Beginning April 1, the incidental landing limit is 200 pounds (dressed weight) of halibut per 1,000 pounds (dressed weight) of sablefish and up to 2 additional halibut in excess of the landing limit ratio.
- Through August 10, this fishery is projected to have landed 25,380 pounds, with 44,620 pounds remaining. This fishery is ongoing and catch is still accruing. The fishery closes October 31.

SPORT FISHERIES (NON-TRIBAL)

675,675 pounds were allocated between sport fisheries in Washington (35.6% of non-tribal share, minus 70,000 pounds allocated to the incidental catch in the sablefish primary fishery), Oregon (29.7% of the non-tribal share), and California (4.0% of the non-tribal share). 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 Strait of Juan de Fuca)

This area was allocated 77,550 pounds (23.5% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 pounds). The fishery in Puget Sound was open May 20 through June 30 on alternating days. The fishery reopened August 6-8, and is scheduled to be open August 13-15, 20-22, 27-29, September 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, and 24-26, or until there is no quota remaining.

- The estimated total catch in this area is 50,014 pounds, which is 27,536 pounds under the quota.

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

The coastal area off Cape Flattery to Queets River was allocated 128,187 pounds (62.2% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 32% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,945 and 224,110 pounds). The fishery was open August 6-8, and is scheduled to be open August 13-15, 20-22, 27-29, September 3-5, 10-12, 17-19, and 24-26, or until there is no quota remaining. 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 13,710 pounds, which is 114,477 pounds under the quota.

Washington South Coast Subarea (landings in Westport)

The area from the Queets River to Leadbetter Point was allocated 62,896 pounds (12.3% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to the Washington sport fishery and 32% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 pounds). In 2020, this subarea operated with an all-depth fishery as the primary fishery, with plans to conduct a nearshore fishery if sufficient quota remained upon conclusion of the all-depth fishery. The all-depth primary fishery is ongoing. The all-depth fishery was open August 6, and is scheduled to be open August 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30, September 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, and 27, or until there is no quota remaining. If catch and effort are lower than anticipated, NMFS may also announce additional fishing days for the South Coast that may include August 28, September 4, and September 11.

- The all-depth fishery estimated catch is 8,856 pounds which is 54,040 pounds under the quota.

Columbia River Subarea (Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon)

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 18,450 pounds, consisting of 2.0% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to the Washington sport fishery, and 4.0% of the Washington sport allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 pounds, 2.3% of the Oregon sport allocation, and any quota over 8,000 pounds in the Southern Oregon subarea. The fishery operates with an all-depth and nearshore fishery. The nearshore fishery is allocated 500 pounds to accommodate incidental halibut retention during groundfish fishing when the all depth halibut fishery in this area is closed.

- The all-depth fishery was open August 6, and is scheduled to be open August 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30, September 3, 6, 10, 13, 17, 20, 24, and 27, or until there is no quota remaining. If catch and effort are lower than anticipated, NMFS may also announce additional fishing days for the Columbia River that may include August 28, September 4, and September 11. The nearshore fishery is open August 10 Monday –Wednesday each week until the nearshore allocation is taken or September 30, 2020, whichever is earlier.
- The all-depth fishery estimated catch is 715 pounds which is 17,235 pounds under the subarea quota. Data for the nearshore estimated catch is not yet available. This fishery is ongoing and catch is still accruing.

Oregon Central Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain)

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 271,582 pounds (93.79% of the Oregon sport allocation).

Three seasons occurred in this subarea:

1. a restricted depth nearshore (inside 40-fathom) fishery, opened May 1, seven days a week;
2. a fixed Spring season in all depths that was open on May 21-23, 28-30, June 11-13, 18-20, July 9-11, 16-18, 23-25, and July 30-August 1;
3. a Summer season in all depths that was open August 6-8, and is scheduled to be open every other Thursday through Saturday until October 31 or until no quota remains.

Harvest in this subarea in these seasons is summarized in the bullets below.

- The Spring all-depth fishery resulted in an estimated catch of 114,235 pounds, which is 56,868 pounds under the spring allocation. The remaining quota will shift to other fisheries as needed.
- Data for the Summer all-depth estimated catch is not yet available. This fishery is ongoing and catch is still accruing.
- The inside 40-fathom fishery has an estimated catch of 18,195 pounds, which is 14,396 pounds under the allocation. This fishery is ongoing and catch is still accruing.

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

This sport fishery was allocated 8,000 pounds (3.9% of the Oregon sport fishery allocation minus the Oregon contribution to the Columbia River subarea). This area has a pre-set season of 7 days per week from May 1 to October 31.

- This fishery has estimated catch of 2,437 pounds, which is 5,563 pounds under the quota. This fishery is ongoing and catch is still accruing.

California (Off the California Coast)

This sport fishery was allocated 39,000 pounds (4.0% of the non-tribal share). The fishery was open May 1- August 11, and closed after the quota was estimated to be taken.

- The fishery has an estimated catch of 42,561 pounds which is 3,561 pounds over the quota.

TRIBAL FISHERIES

525,000 pounds (35% of the Area 2A TAC) was allocated to tribal fisheries. The tribes estimated that 32,200 pounds would be used for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries and the remaining 492,800 pounds were allocated to the commercial fishery.

- The unrestricted fishery is open 55 hours for each tribe between March 14 and November 15. The unrestricted fishery has landed 40,086 pounds.
- The first restricted fishery is open 102 hours for each tribe between March 14 and November 15. The first restricted fishery has landed 26,187 pounds.
- The late fishery is ongoing.
- The total landings for all tribal fisheries is 66,273 pounds, which is 426,527 pounds under the tribal commercial allocation. The C&S fishery will continue through December 31 and catch estimates will be reported by the tribes in January 2021.

Table 2. Summary of all Area 2A quotas and preliminary 2020 harvest estimates, updated with fishery information reported to NMFS through 8/13/20.

| 2020 Area 2A TAC and Catch (in pounds) | | | 2020 Quota | | % Quota taken |
|--|---------------------|------------------|------------|---------|---------------|
| Tribal | | | 525,000 | 66,273 | 12.6 |
| Tribal | C&S | | 32,200 | - | 0.0 |
| Tribal | Comm | | 492,800 | 66,273 | 13.4 |
| Non-Tribal | | | 975,000 | - | 0.0 |
| Commercial | | | 299,325 | 175,624 | 58.7 |
| Commercial | Directed | | 254,426 | 201,426 | 79.2 |
| Commercial | Incid. Salmon Troll | | 44,899 | 25,624 | 57.1 |
| WA Sport | | | 347,100 | - | 0.0 |
| WA Sport | Incid. Sable | | 70,000 | 25,380 | 36.3 |
| WA Sport | Puget Sound | | 77,550 | 50,014 | 64.5 |
| WA Sport | North Coast | | 128,187 | 13,710 | 10.7 |
| WA Sport | South Coast | | 62,896 | 8,856 | 14.1 |
| WA/OR | Columbia River | All-Depth | 17,950 | 715 | 4.0 |
| WA/OR | Columbia River | Nearshore | 500 | - | 0.0 |
| OR Sport | | | 289,575 | 134,867 | 46.6 |
| OR Sport | Central OR Coast | Spring all-depth | 171,103 | 114,235 | 66.8 |
| OR Sport | Central OR Coast | Summer all-depth | 67,898 | - | 0.0 |
| OR Sport | Central OR Coast | Nearshore | 32,591 | 18,195 | 55.8 |
| OR Sport | Southern OR | | 8,000 | 2,437 | 30.5 |
| CA Sport | | | 39,000 | 42,561 | * 109.1 |
| Total | | | 1,500,000 | 518,000 | 34.5 |

* Fishery closed for the season