

REPORT ON THE 2022 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES IN AREA 2A (10/05/2022)

The 2022 Area 2A Pacific halibut (halibut) catch limit of 1,490,000 pounds was allocated according to the 2022 Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) for Area 2A as follows:

Treaty Tribes	521,500 lb (35%)
Non-Tribal Total	968,500 lb (65%)
Non-Tribal Commercial	297,330 lb
Washington Recreational	344,786 lb
Oregon Recreational	287,645 lb
California Recreational	38,740 lb

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 767,530 pounds of the non-tribal total quota and 479,376 pounds of the tribal quota, with a total preliminary harvest estimate of 1,246,906 pounds, or 84 percent, of the 1,490,000-pound catch limit. A summary of all Area 2A quotas and preliminary harvest estimates for 2022 is provided in Table 2.

TRIBAL FISHERIES

Tribal fisheries were allocated 521,500 pounds (35% of the Area 2A catch limit). The tribes estimated that 23,500 pounds would be used for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries and the remaining 498,000 pounds were allocated to the commercial fishery.

- The unrestricted fishery was open 55 hours for each tribe between March 6 and May 31. The unrestricted fishery landed 298,996 pounds.
- The restricted fishery was open between March 6 and May 31. The restricted fishery landed 120,701 pounds.
- The late fishery was open June 3 to September 30 and landed 59,679 pounds.
- The total reported landings for all tribal fisheries is 479,376 pounds, which is 96 percent of the tribal commercial allocation. The C&S fishery will continue through December 31 and catch estimates will be reported by the tribes in January 2023.

NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

A quota of 297,330 pounds (30.7% of the non-tribal share) was allocated to two commercial 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 50,000 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 recreational allocation that is more than 214,110 pounds, as long as it is at least 10,000 pounds more.

Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery

A quota of 44,599 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 April 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 22,281 pounds. This fishery is ongoing and is still accruing catch.

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 252,730 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.).

Fishing periods were 58 hours in duration every other week, starting Tuesday, June 28. In 2022, the fishery was open for three fishing periods: June 28–30, July 12–14, and July 26–28. 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. 2022 fishing period limits (dressed weight, head-on with ice and slime, in pounds per vessel) by vessel size.

Vessel Class/Size (ft)		Jun 28–30	Jul 12–14	Jul 26–28
0–25	A	2,263	2,263	2,206
26–30	B	2,263	2,263	2,206
31–35	C	2,263	2,263	2,206
36–40	D	3,410	3,410	3,325
41–45	E	3,410	3,410	3,325
46–50	F	4,545	4,545	4,431
51–55	G	4,545	4,545	4,431
56+	H	5,113	5,113	4,985

- The three directed commercial open periods resulted in a catch of approximately 241,365 pounds. Final catch amounts will be available in 2023.

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

A quota of 50,000 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.

- Starting April 1, the incidental landing limit was 225 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.
- Effective May 9, the incidental landing limit was revised to 150 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 October 4, this fishery is estimated to have landed 52,391 pounds, having exceeded the incidental halibut allocation for the sablefish fishery by 2,391 pounds. The fishery's season is scheduled to end on October 31.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES (NON-TRIBAL)

A total of 621,171 pounds was allocated between recreational fisheries in Washington (35.6% of non-tribal share, less 50,000 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 83,210 pounds (23.5% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to the Washington recreational fishery, and 32% of the Washington recreational allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 pounds). The fishery in Puget Sound and eastern waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca was open April 7–9, 14–16, 21–23, 28–30; May 5–7, 12–14, 19–21, 27–29; June 2–4, 9–11, 16–18, 23–25, 30; and August 11–September 30. The western waters in the Strait of Juan de Fuca were open May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 27–29; June 2–4, 9–11, 16–18, 23–25, and 30; and August 11–September 30.

- The estimated total catch in this area is 58,721 pounds, which is 24,489 pounds less than 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 133,847 pounds (62.2% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to the Washington recreational fishery, and 32% of the Washington recreational allocation between 130,945 and 224,110 pounds). The fishery was open May 5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 27, and 29; June 2, 4, 9–11, 16–18, 23–25; June 27–July 3; and Thursday through Monday August 11–September 5, and 7 days per week from September 6 through September 30. The "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA, southwest of Cape Flattery, was closed to recreational halibut fishing.

- The estimated total catch for this area is 95,448 pounds, which is 38,399 pounds under the quota.

Washington South Coast Subarea (landings in Westport)

The area from the Queets River to Leadbetter Point was allocated 68,555 pounds (12.3% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to the Washington recreational fishery and 32% of the Washington recreational allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 pounds). The all-depth fishery was open May 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, and 26; June 16, 19, 23, 26, 28, and 30; August 19, 25, 28; and September 3, 4, and 23.

- The all-depth fishery estimated catch is 71,203 pounds, which is 2,648 pounds over the quota.

Columbia River Subarea (Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon)

This recreational fishery subarea was allocated 19,037 pounds, consisting of 2.0% of the first 130,845 pounds allocated to the Washington recreational fishery, and 4.0% of the Washington recreational allocation between 130,845 and 224,110 pounds, 2.3% of the Oregon recreational 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 May 5, 8, 12, 15, 19, 22, and 26; June 2, 5, 9, 12, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26, and 30; August 19, 25, 28; and September 3, 4, and 23. The nearshore fishery opened May 9, and was open Monday–Wednesday until September 30.
- The all-depth fishery estimated catch is 20,211 pounds, which is 1,674 pounds more than the combined subarea quota.

Oregon Central Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain)

This recreational fishery subarea was allocated 269,782 pounds (93.79% of the Oregon recreational allocation).

Three seasons occurred in this subarea:

- a restricted depth nearshore (inside 40-fathom) fishery, opened May 1st, 7 days a week;
- a fixed Spring season in all depths that was open on May 12, seven days per week, through June 30, then July 14–16 and 29–30;
- a Summer season in all depths that was open August 4–6, 11–13, 18–20, and 25–27; September 1–3, 8–10, 15–17, and 19–25.

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

- The Spring all-depth fishery resulted in an estimated catch of 123,359 pounds, which is 46,604 pounds under the spring allocation.
- The Summer all-depth fishery has an estimated catch of 39,845 pounds, which is 27,600 pounds under the allocation.
- The inside 40-fathom fishery has an estimated catch of 4,846 pounds, which is 27,528 pounds under the allocation.

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

This recreational fishery was allocated 8,000 pounds (3.9% of the Oregon recreational 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. Beginning September 13, the daily bag limit was increased from one to two fish.

- This fishery has estimated catch of 8,246 pounds, which is 246 pounds over the quota.

California (Off the California Coast)

This recreational fishery was allocated 38,740 pounds (4.0% of the non-tribal share). The fishery was open May 1–August 7, closing after the quota was estimated to be taken.

- The fishery has an estimated catch of 39,967 pounds which is 1,227 pounds more than the quota.

Table 2. Summary of all Area 2A quotas and preliminary 2021 harvest estimates, updated with fishery information reported to NMFS through October 5, 2022.

2022 Area 2A catch limits and catch (in pounds)			2022 Quota			% Quota taken
Tribal			521,500	479,376		92
Tribal	C&S		23,500	-		
Tribal	Comm.		498,000	479,376		96
Non-Tribal			968,500	777,216		80
Commercial			297,330	263,646		89
Commercial	Directed		252,730	241,365	*	96
Commercial	Incid. Salmon Troll		44,599	22,281		50
WA Rec.			344,786	277,763		81
WA Rec.	Incid. Sable		50,000	52,391		105
WA Rec.	Puget Sound		83,210	58,721		71
WA Rec.	North Coast		133,847	95,448		71
WA Rec.	South Coast		68,555	71,203	*	104
WA/OR	Columbia River	All-Depth	18,537	20,211	*	109
WA/OR	Columbia River	Nearshore	500	43		9
OR Rec.			287,645	176,296		61
OR Rec.	Central OR Coast	Spring all-depth	169,963	123,359	*	73
OR Rec.	Central OR Coast	Summer all-depth	67,445	39,845		59
OR Rec.	Central OR Coast	Nearshore	32,374	4,846		15
OR Rec.	Southern OR		8,000	8,246		103
CA Rec.			38,740	39,967		103
Total			1,490,000	1,257,302	*	84
* Fishery closed for the season						