

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES REPORT
2025 AREA 2A PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES AND INSEASON UPDATE
 (as of August 20, 2025)

SUMMARY

The 2025 Area 2A Pacific halibut (halibut) catch limit of 1,530,000 pounds is divided among sectors according to the 2025 Catch Sharing Plan (CSP, Table 1). The Area 2A preliminary harvest estimate to date is 920,344 pounds. The non-tribal harvest estimate to date is 683,644 pounds and the tribal harvest estimate to date is 236,700 pounds (not including the tribal customary and subsistence (C&S) fishery). All weights in this report are net weight (gutted, head-off, and without ice and slime), unless otherwise noted.

Table 1. Area 2A allocations and inseason preliminary harvest estimates by sector, 2025.

		Allocation	Catch	Percent Caught	
Tribal (1)	Ceremonial & Subsistence	14,800		N/A	
	Commercial	520,700	236,700	45%	
	Tribal Total	535,500	236,700	-	
Non-Tribal	Commercial	Directed	259,515	263,597	102%
		Incidental salmon troll	45,797	23,357	51%
		Incidental sablefish (2)	70,000	31,766	45%
		Total	375,312	318,720	85%
	Washington Recreational (2,3)	Puget Sound	79,772	69,134	87%
		North Coast	130,409	87,690	67%
		South Coast	65,117	36,674	56%
		Total	275,297	193,498	70%
	Recreational (3)	Columbia River	19,087	17,015	89%
		Oregon Recreational (3)	Central Coast	277,024	135,700
Southern Oregon			8,000	2,535	32%
Total			285,024	138,235	48%
California Recreational		Northern California Coast	39,280	16,176	41%
		South of Point Arena	500	0	0%
	Total	39,780	16,176	41%	
Total		619,188	364,924	59%	

Non-Tribal Total	994,500	683,644	69%
Area 2A Total	1,530,000	920,344	60%

(1) The Ceremonial & Subsistence (C&S) projected harvest, based on the previous year C&S harvest.

(2) The incidental commercial sablefish allocation is derived from the Washington recreational fishery allocation. In this table, the incidental sablefish allocation is not included in the Washington recreational total and is only shown in a with the commercial fisheries.

(3) The Columbia River subarea allocation is derived from both the Washington and Oregon allocations. Totals for Washington and Oregon do not include the Columbia River.

TRIBAL FISHERIES

Regulatory framework

The tribal allocation is set at 35% of the Area 2A FCEY. There are two components of the tribal fishery:

- 1) a commercial fishery managed as: an unrestricted fishery, a restricted fishery, and a late season fishery; and
- 2) a ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fishery

The tribal commercial fishery allocation was set by subtracting the projected C&S fishery projection, which was based on the prior year C&S harvest, from the total tribal allocation.

Fishery statistics

The tribal allocation is 535,500 pounds. The preseason projected C&S harvest is 14,800 pounds with the remaining 520,700 pounds available to the commercial fishery.

- The unrestricted fishery was open 55 hours for all tribes between March 20 and June 19. Inside tribes could choose to convert some or all of their hours to restricted fishing (24 hours unrestricted and 52.7 hours with a 500-pound daily limit, or 93.5 hours with a 500-pound daily limit). The unrestricted fishery landed 85,012 pounds.
- The restricted fishery was open between March 20 and June 19 for 122 hours (not to exceed 6 days), with a 500-pound daily limit. The restricted fishery landed 82,180 pounds.
- The first late fishery was open between June 23 and July 31, and tribes could choose to fish 48 hours unrestricted or 81.5 hours with a 500-pound daily limit. The first late fishery landed 69,508 pounds.
- The second late fishery will be open between August 11 and December 7 (or until tribes agree to close the fishery) with a 5,000-pound daily limit.
- The total landings for all tribal fisheries to date is 236,700 pounds, which is 45 percent of the tribal commercial allocation.
- The C&S fishery will continue through December 31 and the tribes will report catch estimates in January 2026.

NON-TRIBAL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Regulatory framework

There are three components of the non-tribal commercial fishery:

- 1) a directed fishery targeting halibut south of Point Chehalis, WA (46°53.30' N. lat.); and
- 2) an incidental catch fishery during the salmon troll fisheries off Washington, Oregon, and California; and
- 3) an incidental catch fishery during the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA.

The allocations for the directed commercial fishery and the incidental catch fishery during salmon troll fisheries are set at 85 percent and 15 percent, respectively, of the non-tribal commercial fishery allocation (30.7% of the non-tribal share). The allocation for the incidental catch fishery during the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA comes from the portion of the Washington recreational allocation over 214,110 pounds, with a 10,000-pound minimum and 70,000-pound maximum allocation.

Vessels permitted in the directed commercial fishery were prohibited from landing halibut as incidental catch in the salmon troll fishery and from participating as a charter vessel in the recreational fishery.

Closed Areas

Vessels in the directed fishery are prohibited from fishing within closed areas as defined in [50 CFR 300.63\(f\)](#), including the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs). RCAs are depth-based areas closed to fishing with certain gear types. The RCA boundaries are lines that connect a series of latitude and longitude coordinates and are intended to approximate particular depth contours. Coordinates that define the RCA boundary lines are listed at [50 CFR 660.71\(e\)](#), [50 CFR 660.73\(a\)](#), and [50 CFR 660.72\(j\)](#). All vessels must comply with Pacific halibut RCA regulations regardless of groundfish retention. Vessels retaining groundfish in state waters of California are also subject to [California RCA regulations](#).

Vessels that incidentally catch halibut while fishing in the salmon troll fishery are prohibited from fishing within a closed area known as the Salmon Troll YRCA, defined in the groundfish regulations at [50 CFR 660.70](#) and in the salmon regulations at [50 CFR 660.405\(c\)](#). Vessels that incidentally catch halibut while fishing in the primary sablefish fishery north of Point Chehalis, WA must comply with groundfish closed area regulations.

See [Pacific halibut regulations](#) and the [NOAA Fisheries West Coast Groundfish Closed Areas](#) page for more information on closed areas, including Essential Fish Habitat Conservation areas and Yelloweye RCAs.

Changes for 2025

Inseason announcement procedures for the directed commercial fishery now include email notices to permit holders, which allows for a more consistent, 2-week interval of fishing periods.

Additionally, the permit deadline for all non-Tribal commercial fisheries is now March 15 (beginning in 2026), to allow for permit decisions to be made after the March Council meeting.

Fishery statistics

Directed Fishery Targeting Halibut

- The allocation is 259,515 pounds.
- The preliminary harvest estimate is 263,597 pounds.
- To date, the fishery has been open for three, 58-hour fishing periods: June 24-26, July 8-10, and July 22-24.
- Catch limits by fishing period, based on vessel length / size class are in Table 2.

Table 2. 2025 fishing period limits (dressed weight, head-on with ice and slime, in pounds per vessel) by vessel size class.

Vessel Length (ft)	Size Class	June 24–26	July 8–10	July 22–24
1–25	A	2,000	2,000	5,000
26–30	B	2,000	2,000	5,000
31–35	C	2,000	2,000	5,000
36–40	D	3,400	3,400	5,000
41–45	E	3,400	3,400	5,000
46–50	F	4,300	4,300	5,000
51–55	G	4,300	4,300	5,000
56+	H	5,000	5,000	5,000

Incidental Catch during the Salmon Troll Fishery

- The allocation is set at 45,797 pounds.
- The estimated harvest to date is 23,357 pounds.
- Halibut retention during salmon troll fisheries began on April 1. Incidental halibut will be allowed until the end of the salmon season on September 30.
- The landing limit is one halibut per two Chinook salmon, except that one halibut can be possessed or landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut can be possessed or landed per trip.

Incidental Catch during the Primary Sablefish Fishery

- The allocation is set at 70,000 pounds.
- The estimated harvest to date is 31,766 pounds.
- Halibut retention is allowed during the primary sablefish fishery, from the primary sablefish season opening date of April 1 and until the commercial halibut season closure on December 7, or until the allocation is reached, whichever occurs first.
- The landing limit is 75 pounds of halibut (in dressed weight, meaning eviscerated, head on) for every 1,000 pounds of sablefish (dressed weight), plus up to 2 additional halibut.

RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Regulatory framework

The recreational fishery allocation was divided among the three states, Washington, Oregon, and California.

- 1) Washington receives 35.6 percent of the non-tribal allocation, minus the allocation made available for incidental harvest in the primary sablefish fishery;
- 2) Oregon receives 29.7 percent of the non-tribal allocation;
- 3) and California receives 4 percent of the non-tribal allocation.

State allocations were further divided into subareas and season dates were established preseason for each subarea, with additional dates added inseason for some subareas. Oregon and Washington allocations both contributed to the Columbia River subarea allocation.

Closed Areas

The "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA, southwest of Cape Flattery, is closed to recreational halibut fishing.

Fishery statistics

Washington

- The allocation is 275,297 pounds (not including the allocation for the commercial fishery incidental to the primary sablefish fishery or Columbia River recreational fishery).
- The estimated harvest to-date is 193,498 pounds.
- The bag limit is 1 halibut per person per day.
- Season dates vary by subarea. The earliest open date was April 3 and the last open date is scheduled for September 30.

Columbia River

- The allocation is 19,087 pounds.
- The estimated harvest to-date is 17,015 pounds.
- The bag limit is 1 halibut per person per day.
- Season dates vary. The earliest open date was May 1 and the last open date is scheduled for September 30.

Oregon

- The allocation is 285,024 pounds.
- The estimated harvest to-date is 138,235 pounds.
- The bag limit is 2 halibut per person per day.
- Season dates vary. The earliest open date was May 1 and the last open date is scheduled for October 31.

California

- The allocation is 39,780 pounds.
- The estimated harvest to-date is 16,176 pounds.
- The bag limit is 1 halibut per person per day.
- Season dates vary by subarea. The earliest open date was May 1 and the last open day is scheduled for December 31.

FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICES

Annual Management Measures Adopting IPHC Regulations

- [Final Rule: 2025 Annual Management Measures \(90 FR 13293, March 21, 2025\)](#)

Catch Sharing Plan and Recreational Fishery

- [Proposed rule \(89 FR 104959, December 26, 2024\)](#)
- [Final Rule \(89 FR 22966, April 3, 2024\)](#)
- [Inseason adjustment \(90 FR 38610, August 11, 2025\)](#)
- [Inseason adjustment \(90 FR 24081, June 6, 2025\)](#)

Non-Tribal Directed Commercial Fishery

- [Proposed rule \(90 FR 15129, March 8, 2025\)](#)
- [Final rule \(90 FR 26931, June 25, 2025\)](#)
- [Inseason adjustment \(90 FR 34384, July 22, 2025\)](#)

Non-Tribal Incidental Commercial Fisheries

- [Final rule \(90 FR 15940, April 16, 2025\)](#)
- [Final rule \(90 FR 20810, May 16, 2025\)](#)