

REPORT ON THE 2012 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES IN AREA 2A

(10/11/2012)

The 2012 Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) of 989,000 lbs set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was allocated as sub-TACs as follows:

Treaty Tribes	346,150 lbs (35%)
Non-Tribal Total	642,850 lbs (65%)
Non-Tribal Commercial	203,783 lbs
Washington Sport	214,110 lbs
Oregon/California Sport	203,783 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 sub-TAC of 203,783 lbs (31.7% of the non-tribal share + 21,173 lbs for incidental halibut catch in the sablefish primary fishery) 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 21,173 lbs were allocated to an incidental catch fishery in the sablefish primary fishery for vessel 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 comes 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 30,568 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. 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 salmon troll fisheries until the quota is taken. The final catch ratio established pre-season by the Council at the April 2012 meeting 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 20 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 from May 1-July 3, 2012. As of July 3, 2012, it is estimated that 35,255 lbs were taken.

Directed fishery targeting on halibut

A quota of 173,216 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 the U.S./Canada border and 46°16' N. lat., the boundary is the shoreline. 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 27, 2012. 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 in the incidental catch salmon troll fishery, nor operate in the recreational fishery.

2012 fishing period limits (dressed weight, head-off without ice and slime in pounds) by vessel size.

Vessel Class/Size	June 27 Opening	July 11 Opening
A 0 - 25 ft.	755 lbs	200 lbs
B 26 - 30 ft.	945 lbs	200 lbs
C 31 - 35 ft.	1,510 lbs	250 lbs
D 36 - 40 ft.	4,165 lbs	695 lbs
E 41 - 45 ft.	4,480 lbs	745 lbs
F 46 - 50 ft.	5,365 lbs	895 lbs
G 51 - 55 ft.	5,985 lbs	1,000 lbs
H 56+ ft.	9,000 lbs	1,500 lbs

- The June 27 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of about 150,000 lbs, leaving approximately 23,000 lbs.
- The July 11th directed commercial opening resulted in an approximate catch of 29,000 lbs. The fishery closed following the July 11th opening.

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

A quota of 21,173 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 May 1. Properly licensed vessels were permitted to retain up to 50 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 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.

- Through September 16, this fishery is estimated to have taken 4,861 lbs.

SPORT FISHERIES (Non-tribal)

A sub-TAC of 417,894 lbs (68.3% of non-tribal share, minus 21,173 lbs allocated to the sablefish primary fishery from the Washington sport allocation) was allocated between sport fisheries in the Washington area (36.6%) and Oregon/California (31.7%). The allocations were further subdivided as quotas among six geographic subareas as described below. Unless otherwise notes the daily bag limit in all subareas was one halibut of any size, per person, per day.

Washington Inside Waters Subarea (Puget Sound and Straits 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 Puget Sound eastern sub-area, east of Low Point, was open May 3-19, 3 days per week, Thursday-Saturday. May 24-28, 5 days, Thursday-Monday. May 31-June 2, 3 days per week, Thursday through Saturday. The Puget Sound western sub-area, west of Low Point, was open May 24-28, Thursday-Monday, and May 31-June 23, 3 days a week, Thursday-Saturday.

- 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 seven days (May 10, 12, 17, 19, and 31, June 2 and 14, 2012). 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 105,479 lbs, leaving 2,551 lbs.

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 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, and closed after the 20th. The nearshore fishery was open 7 days a week between May 6 and June 8, 2012.

The nearshore fishery occurs 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 lbs (40,739 lbs) to the primary fishery. The nearshore quota was reduced by the 33 lbs overage in the primary fishery for an adjusted quota of 1,967 lbs.

- The primary season was open from May 6 through May 20 with an estimated catch of 40,772 lbs.
- The northern nearshore area was open May 6 through June 8 with an estimated total catch of 1,695 lbs

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 21,173, (which is the amount allocated to incidental take in the sablefish primary fishery), and an equal amount from the Oregon/California sport allocation. This is a change from previous years, when the Oregon/California contribution to the Columbia River subarea was 5% of the Oregon/California sport allocation or an amount equal to the Washington contribution, whichever was greater.

The fishery opened May 3 and continued 3 days per week until July 14, 2012. The fishery reopened on August 3 and is currently open, through September 30, 2012.

- The early fishery was open May 3 to July 14 with an estimated catch of 6,499 lbs.
- Catch during the early season resulted in underage of 3,017 lbs, which was added to the late season quota, for a revised late season quota of 5,396 lbs.
- The late season fishery opened August 3 and continues until September 30, with an estimated catch of 1,351 lbs.

Oregon Central Coast Subarea (Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain).

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 191,780 lbs (92% of the Oregon/California sport allocation).

Three seasons were set for this subarea: 1) a restricted depth (inside 40-fm) fishery commenced on May 1 and continued 7 days a week until July 22; 2) a fixed Spring season in all depths that was open on May 10-12, 17-19, 24-26, May 31-June 2, 14-16, and 29-30, and; 3) a Summer season in all depths that was open on August 3, 4, 17, 18.

- The inside 40-fathom fishery closed on July 22 with an estimated total catch of 32,872 lbs. This was an 4,858 lbs overage.
- The fixed Spring all-depth season closed on June 30 with an estimated total catch of 111,269 lbs. This resulted in an underage of 9,552 lbs.
- The spring all depth underage was allocated 5,000 lbs to the inside 40-fathom fishery and 4,552 to the summer all depth fishery. However, because the final inside 40-fathom fishery landed 4,858 lbs over the revised quota this amount was taken from the summer all depth.
- The initial Summer all-depth season quota was 47,639 lbs, which was revised by the inside 40-fathom overage. The Summer all-depth fishery was open August 3, 4, 17, 18, and resulted in an estimated catch of 42,853 lbs. The fishery was closed on August 18.
- This resulted in a 4,786 lbs underage for the central coast fishery. This amount is not enough for one day in the nearshore fishery at this time.
- The remaining Central coast quota was allocated to the nearshore fishery which reopened on September 24 and is currently open.

South of Humbug Mountain, Oregon and off the California Coast Subarea

This sport fishery was allocated 6,056 lbs (3.0% of the Oregon/California quota). This area had a pre-set season of 7 days per week from May 1 to October 31.

- This season is scheduled to remain open through October 31. No total catch estimates are available for this fishery.

TRIBAL FISHERIES

A sub-TAC of 346,150 lbs (35% of the Area 2A TAC) was allocated to tribal fisheries. The tribes estimated that 24,500 lbs would be used for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries and the remaining 321,650 lbs were allocated to the commercial fishery. The 2012 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 fishery or mop-up fishery that can be set up to have no landing limits or with limits, toward the end of the season.

The restricted fishery began at noon on March 17 and lasted 55 hours. This fishery was managed with a landing limit, set at 500 lbs/vessel/day. The restricted fishery landed 66,952 lbs in 269 landings.

The unrestricted fishery began at noon on March 24 and lasted 48 hours. There was a total of 155,517 lbs taken in 225 landings during the unrestricted fishery.

A late season fishery (mop-up fishery) took place beginning at noon on May 2 and continued for 13 hours. The late season fishery was set up with no landing limits. The fishery landed 132,592 lbs in 121 landings.

In all, treaty tribal fisheries harvested 355,061 lbs in 615 landings. This was an overage of 33,411 lbs above the commercial allocation. The C&S fishery will continue through December 31 and tribal estimates of catch will be reported by the tribes in January 2013.

Fishery	Dates Held	Pounds Landed	# of Landings
Unrestricted	March 24-28 (48 hr.)	155,517 lbs	225 landings
Restricted, 500 lbs/vessel/day	March 17-19 (55 hr.)	66,952 lbs	269 landings
Mop Up	May 2 (13 hr.)	132,592 lbs	121 landings
Total		355,061 lbs	615 landings

2012 Area 2A TAC and Catch (in pounds)					
	Quota	Inseason Revised Quota		Catch	% of Quota Taken
TRIBAL INDIAN	346,150			355,061	102.6
Commercial	321,650			355,061	110.4
Ceremonial and Subsistence	24,500				% 0.0
NON-TRIBAL	642,850			570,332	88.7
COMMERCIAL	203,783			219,116	107.5
Troll	30,568			35,255	115.3
Sablefish incidental	21,173			4,861	% 23.0
Directed	173,216			179,000	103.3
SPORT	419,412			343,366	81.9
WA Sport	214,110			147,946	69.1
OR/CA Sport	203,783			187,570	92.0
WA Inside Waters	57,393				* 0.0
WA North Coast	108,030			105,479	97.6
WA South Coast	42,739			42,467	99.4
Columbia River	11,895			7,850	% 66.0
Early Season	9,516			6,499	68.3
Late Season	2,379	5,396		1,351	25.0
OR Central Coast	203,783			187,570	92.0
Inside 40 fathoms	23,014	37,800		33,448	88.5
Spring (May-June)	120,821			111,269	92.1
Summer (August- October)	47,945	47,639		42,853	90.0
OR S. of Humbug/CA	6,056				% 0.0
TOTAL	989,000			925,393	93.6
\$ Assumed					
* Complete data not available					
% This fishery is ongoing					