

REPORT ON THE 2010 PACIFIC HALIBUT FISHERIES IN AREA 2A
(10/14/2010)

The 2010 Area 2A total allowable catch (TAC) of 810,000 lbs set by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) was allocated as sub-TACs as follows:

Treaty Tribes	283,500 lbs (35%)
Non-Tribal Total	526,500 lbs (65%)
Non-Tribal Commercial	166,900 lbs
Washington Sport	192,699 lbs
Oregon/California Sport	166,901 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 166,900 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. According to the Area 2A Catch Sharing Plan (CSP), incidental halibut retention is allowed in the primary directed sablefish fishery north of Pt. Chehalis, WA when the 2A TAC is above 900,000 lbs and the Washington sport allocation is above 224,110 lbs. Because the overall TAC was 810,000 lbs in 2010 no halibut retention was allowed in the primary directed sablefish fishery.

Incidental halibut catch in the salmon troll fishery

A quota of 25,035 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 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 preseason by the Council at the April meeting was one halibut (minimum 32") per three Chinook 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 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 beginning May 1. The fishery closed on June 16 with 28,627 lbs landed.

Directed fishery targeting on halibut

A quota of 141,865 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; 46E53.30' N. lat.). In addition, between 46E53.30' N. lat. and 46E16' N. lat., the fishery was confined to an area seaward of a boundary line approximating the 100-fm depth contour and, between 46E16' N. lat. and 40E10' N. lat., to an area shoreward of a boundary line approximating the 30-fm depth contour and seaward of a boundary line approximating the 100-fm depth contour. One-day fishing periods of 10 hours in duration were scheduled every other week by the IPHC starting June 30, 2010. A 32" 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.

2010 fishing period limits (dressed weight, head-off without ice and slime in pounds) by vessel size.

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

- The June 30 directed commercial fishery resulted in a catch of about 132,560 lbs, leaving only 9,305 lbs. This amount was not enough to permit any further openings and the fishery was closed on July 7, 2010.

SPORT FISHERIES (Non-tribal)

A sub-TAC of 359,600 (68.3% of non-tribal share) was allocated between sport fisheries in the Washington area (36.6%) and Oregon/California (31.7%). The allocations were further subdivided as quotas among seven geographic subareas as described below.

Washington Inside Waters Subarea (Puget Sound and Straits of Juan de Fuca).

This area was allocated 50,542 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 pre-season 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 1-22, 3 days per week (Thursday-Saturday) and open May 28-30, 3 days per week (Friday-Sunday). The Puget Sound western sub-area, west of Low Point, was open May 28-30, 3 days per week (Friday-Sunday) and open June 3-19, 3 days per week (Thursday-Saturday). The daily-bag-limit was 1 halibut of any size per day per person.

- Landings for this fishery 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 101,179 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 opened May 13 and continued 2 days per week (Thursday, and Saturday) through May 22, then reopened on June 3, 5 and 19, 2010. The "C-shaped" North Coast Recreational YRCA, southwest of Cape Flattery, was closed to sport halibut fishing. The daily-bag-limit was one halibut of any size per person.

- This two-day per week fishery opened May 13 through 22 and again June 3, 5 and 19, with an estimated total catch of 95,014 lbs.

Washington South Coast Subarea (landings in Westport)

The area from the Queets River to Leadbetter Point was allocated 35,887 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). The fishery opened May 2, 2 days per week (Sunday and Tuesday). During the fourth week in May the fishery was open Sunday only (May 23).

The fishery was also open 7 days per week 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. (northern nearshore fishery). The south coast subarea quota was allocated as follows: 2,000 lbs to the nearshore fishery and the remaining lbs (33,887 lbs) to the primary fishery. The primary fishery closed on May 23, 2010. Following this closure, the remaining 2,079 lbs were added to the nearshore quota. The daily-bag-limit was one halibut of any size per person.

- The primary season was open from May 2 through May 23 with an estimated catch of 31,808 lbs.
- The northern nearshore area was open May 3 through September 30 with an estimated total catch of 2,746 lbs

Columbia River Subarea (Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon)

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 13,436 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 the pounds needed for the incidental sablefish fishery, which

did not occur in 2010), and 5.0% of the Oregon/California sport allocation or an amount equal to the contribution from the Washington sport allocation, whichever is greater. The fishery opened May 1 and continued 3 days per week until June 19, 2010. The fishery was reopened on June 24 and 25. The fishery then reopened on August 6 and continued 3 days per week (Friday through Sunday) until September 26. The daily-bag-limit was one halibut of any size per person.

- The early fishery was open May 1 to June 25 with an estimated catch of 8,552 lbs.
- Catch during the early season resulted in underage of 853 lbs, which was added to the late season quota.
- The late season fishery was open 3 days per week, August 6 to September 26 and resulted in a catch of 2,259 lbs.
- The cumulative catch for this area was 10,811 lbs leaving 2,625 lbs when the fishery closed on September 26.

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

This sport fishery subarea was allocated 153,548 lbs (92% of the Oregon/California sport allocation less any amount needed to contribute to the Oregon portion of the Columbia River subarea quota).

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 October 31 or until the allocation was reached; 2) a fixed Spring season in all depths that was open on May 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 and June 3, 4, 5 with a catch allocation of 105,948 lbs (the Spring season was to reopen for additional days if quota remains), and; 3) a Summer season in all depths that was scheduled to be open on August 6, 7, 20, 21, and September 3, 4, 17, 18, and October 1, 2, 15, 16, 29, 30. The daily-bag-limit was one halibut of any size per person, unless otherwise specified.

- The inside 40-fathom fishery was open May 1 through July 17 and is estimated to have taken 12,927 lbs.
- The fixed Spring all-depth season was open May 13 through July 2, and is estimated to have taken 105,948 lbs. The overage of 6,552 lbs was subtracted from the pounds available to the Summer all-depth fishery.
- The initial Summer all-depth season quota of 35,316 lbs was revised by the 6,552 lbs overage from the Spring fishery. As a result, 28,765 lbs was initially available to the Summer all-depth fishery. The Summer all-depth fishery was open August 6-7 (Friday-Saturday) and resulted in an estimated catch of 30,140. The fishery was closed on August 7.

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

This sport fishery was allocated 5,007 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 and a daily-bag-limit of one halibut of any size per person.

- This season is scheduled to remain open through October 31. No catch estimates are available for this fishery, but it is unlikely that this subarea quota will be taken.

TRIBAL FISHERIES

A sub-TAC of 283,500 lbs (35% of the Area 2A TAC) was allocated to tribal fisheries. The tribes estimated that 30,428 lbs would be used for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries and the remaining 253,072 lbs were allocated to the commercial fishery. The 2010 management plan was based on a previous court-ordered plan, originally in place during the 2000 season, updated to reflect the current allocation. It contains provisions for both unrestricted fisheries with no landing limits and restricted fisheries with limits¹.

The first unrestricted fishery began at noon on March 6 and lasted 48 hours. A second unrestricted opener on March 20 lasted 12 hours. There were a total of 164,933 lbs taken in 221 landings during unrestricted fisheries.

There were also a number of restricted fisheries openers between March 6 and April 8. These were managed with limits ranging from 500 and 250 lbs/vessel/day. The sum of all restricted fisheries landings was 86,157 lbs and 344 landings.

In all, treaty tribal fisheries harvested 251,090 lbs in 565 landings or 1,982 lbs below 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 2011.

Fishery	Dates Held	Pounds Landed	# of Landings
Unrestricted	March 6 – March 20	164,933 lbs	221 landings
Restricted, 250-500 lbs/vessel/day	March 6 – April 8	86,157 lbs	344 landings
Total		251,090 lbs	565 landings

¹ The terms restricted and unrestricted refer to whether limits were in place for a given set of landings. Mop-up fisheries as specified in tribal regulations were attributed to one or the other based on limits in place for that fishery.

2010 Area 2A TAC and Catch (in pounds)

	Quota	Inseason Revised Quota		Catch		% of Quota Taken
TRIBAL INDIAN	283,500			281,518	%	99.3
Commercial	253,072			251,090		99.2
Ceremonial and Subsistence	30,428			30,428	\$ ^	100.0
NON-TRIBAL	526,500			451,329		85.7
COMMERCIAL	166,900			161,187		96.6
Troll	25,035			28,627		114.3
Directed	141,865			132,560		93.4
SPORT	359,600			290,142		80.7
WA Sport	192,699			129,568		67.2
OR/CA Sport	166,901			160,574		96.2
WA Inside Waters	50,542				^	0.0
WA North Coast	101,179			95,014		93.9
WA South Coast	35,887			34,554		96.3
Columbia River	13,436			10,811		80.5
Early Season	9,405			8,552		90.9
Late Season	4,031	4,884	#	2,259		46.3
OR Central Coast	166,901			155,567		93.2
Inside 40 fathoms	12,284			12,927		105.2
Spring (May-June)	105,948			112,500		106.2
Summer (August- October)	36,316	28,765	*	30,140		104.8
OR S. of Humbug/CA	5,007			5,007	\$	100.0
TOTAL	810,000			732,847		90.5
\$ Assumed						
# The Columbia River late season quota was revised inseason with 853 lbs from the early season, resulting a late season quota of 4,884 lbs.						
* The summer all depth quota was revised inseason with 6,552 lbs overage from the Spring quota underage, resulting in a summer quota of 28,765 lbs.						
^ Landings for this fishery are not yet available.						

PFMC
10/18/10