

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS), Alaska Region
Restricted Access Management Program

Updated: March 11, 2013

**Season Dates for Fishing under the Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ)
Program for Pacific Halibut and Sablefish and for the Community
Development Quota (CDQ) Program for Pacific Halibut ¹**

Fishing Year¹	Season Begin Date²	Season End Date³
1995	March 15	November 15
1996	March 15	November 15
1997	March 15	November 15
1998	March 15	November 15
1999	March 15	November 15
2000	March 15	November 15
2001	March 15	November 15
2002	March 18	November 18
2003	March 1	November 15
2004	February 29	November 15
2005	February 27	November 15
2006	March 5	November 15
2007	March 10	November 15
2008	March 8	November 15
2009	March 21	November 15
2010	March 6	November 15
2011	March 12	November 18
2012	March 17	November 7
2013	March 23	November 7

[1] The International Pacific Halibut Commission establishes halibut season dates under authority of the Halibut Act. The Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) establishes IFQ sablefish season dates by publishing a notice annually, in the Federal Register. Sablefish seasons have been set simultaneous with those for halibut to reduce waste and discards.

[2] "Fishing Year" is a calendar year. Fishing under the IFQ program and the CDQ halibut program started in 1995.

[3] After the season closing date: (a) IFQ and CDQ halibut may not be retained, and (b) IFQ sablefish is closed for directed fishing. However, a person fishing under IFQ permits with unused IFQ sablefish must retain sablefish, up to the maximum amount allowable in the area and using the gear type under which the person is fishing.