

News Release

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HALIBUT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2014 CATCH LIMITS AND SEASONS

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) completed its Ninetieth Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA on January 17, 2014. More than 250 halibut industry stakeholders attended the meeting, with over 60 more participating in web broadcasts of the public sessions.

The Commission is recommending to the governments of Canada and the United States catch limits for 2014 totaling 27,515,000 pounds, displayed in the following table by regulatory area.

2014 Catch Limits

Regulatory Area	Catch Limit (pounds)
Area 2A (California, Oregon, and Washington)	960,000
Non-treaty directed commercial (south of Pt. Chehalis)	168,137
Non-treaty incidental catch in salmon troll fishery	29,671
Non-treaty incidental catch in sablefish fishery (north of Pt. Chehalis)	14,274
Treaty Indian commercial	307,500
Treaty Indian ceremonial and subsistence (year-round)	28,500
Sport – North of Columbia River	214,110
Sport – South of Columbia River	197,808
Area 2B (British Columbia) (includes sport catch allocation)	6,850,000
Area 2C (southeastern Alaska) (combined commercial/guided sport) ¹	4,160,000
Commercial fishery	3,318,720
Guided sport fishery	761,280
Area 3A (central Gulf of Alaska) (combined commercial/guided sport) ¹	9,430,000
Commercial fishery	7,317,730
Guided sport fishery	1,782,270
Area 3B (western Gulf of Alaska)	2,840,000
Area 4A (eastern Aleutians)	850,000
Area 4B (central/western Aleutians)	1,140,000
Areas 4CDE	1,285,000
Area 4C (Pribilof Islands)	596,600
Area 4D (northwestern Bering Sea)	596,600
Area 4E (Bering Sea flats)	91,800
Total	27,515,000

¹The combined total includes estimated mortality from regulatory discards of sublegal halibut and lost gear in the commercial fishery, plus discard mortality in the guided sport fishery, as mandated in the U.S. Catch Sharing Plan.

The Commission approved a season of **March 8 – November 7, 2014** for the U.S. and Canadian Individual Quota fisheries. The Treaty tribal commercial fisheries and the incidental halibut fisheries in Area 2A will occur within these dates. In Area 2A, seven 10-hour fishing periods for the non-treaty directed commercial fishery are recommended: June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6, August 20, September 3, and September 17, 2014.

A subsequent IPHC News Release will provide more details of the Annual Meeting, including the regulatory and other issues decided by the Commission.

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