



National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region  
 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115  
[www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/index.html)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

For Information Contact:  
 Kathryn Blair: [kathryn.blair@noaa.gov](mailto:kathryn.blair@noaa.gov)  
 (503) 231-6858  
 NMFS Hotline: (800) 662-9825

NMFS-SEA-19-11  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 April 29, 2019  
**UPDATED MAY 3, 2019**

### 2019 Commercial and Recreational Pacific Halibut Fisheries in Washington, Oregon, and California

NOAA Fisheries announces publication of the 2019 Pacific halibut Area 2A (Washington, Oregon, and California) Catch Sharing Plan and annual management measures [final rule](#). The rule is effective on April 29, 2019. You can access Pacific halibut information on the NOAA Fisheries website [here](#).

The NOAA Fisheries halibut hotline at (800) 662-9825 has the most up-to-date information for both the commercial (directed and incidental) and recreational Area 2A fisheries. State-specific Pacific halibut fishery information is available at the following websites:

**Washington:** <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/halibut>

**Oregon:** <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/finfish/halibut/>

**California:** <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Pacific-Halibut>

	Pounds	Metric Tons
Area 2A TCEY	1,650,000	748.4
Area 2A Catch Limit	1,500,000	680.4
<b>Tribal</b>		
Tribal commercial	497,000	225.4
<b>Non-Tribal</b>		
<i>Commercial</i>		
Incidental sablefish primary	70,000	31.8
Directed commercial	254,426	115.4
Incidental salmon troll	44,899	20.4
<i>Recreational</i>		
Washington Puget Sound	77,550	35.2
Washington North Coast	128,187	58.1
Washington South Coast	62,896	28.5
Columbia River	15,127	6.9
Oregon Central Coast	271,592	123.2
Oregon Southern Coast	11,322	5.1
California Coast	39,000	17.7

For 2019, the following regulations apply to recreational and commercial (directed and incidental) halibut fisheries:

### Recreational

- The halibut daily bag limit in Washington, Oregon, and California is 1 halibut of any size per person per day.
- Check state regulations for information on rockfish retention allowances.
- For information on retaining groundfish, please see “Regulations” under Resources on the NMFS groundfish [website](#).
- **Season dates are subject to quota availability, and areas will close if there is not sufficient quota for another full day of fishing.**

## National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

### Washington

Subarea	Location	Season Dates
Puget Sound	Puget Sound and Strait of Juan de Fuca	May 2, 4, 9, 11, 18, 24, and 26; June 6, 8, 20, and 22.
North Washington Coast	North of Queets River and west of the Sekiu River mouth	
South Washington Coast	Queets River south to Leadbetter Point	May 2, 5, 9, 12, and 24.
South Washington Coast nearshore	Waters between 47°31.70' N. lat. south to 46°58' N. lat. and east of a boundary line approximating the 30 fm depth contour	Quota permitting, open the Saturday after the primary fishery closure, 7 days per week.
Columbia River all-depth	Between Leadbetter Point, WA and Cape Falcon, OR	May 2, 5, 9, 12, 24, and 26. Quota permitting after May 26, reopen two days per week (Thursday and Sunday).
Columbia River nearshore		May 6, 3 days per week (Monday – Wednesday) until the nearshore allocation is taken, or September 30.

Sport fishing for halibut is closed within Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Areas off the north and south Washington coast subareas. There are additional area closures in the Puget Sound subarea for 2019. Please check state regulations [online](#).

### Oregon

Subarea	Location	Season Dates	Additional Season Dates (quota permitting)
Central Coast “inside 40-fathom”	Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mountain, shoreward of a boundary line approximating the 40-fm depth contour	June 1, 7 days a week until the quota is taken, or through October 31.	
Central Coast all-depth	Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mountain	Spring: May 9, 10, 11; 16, 17, 18; 23, 24, 25; 30, 31, June 1; and 6, 7, 8. Summer: August 2, 3; 16, 17; 30, 31; September 13, 14; 27, 28; October 11, 12; and 25, 26.	June 20, 21, 22; July 4, 5, 6; and July 18, 19, 20.
Southern Oregon	Humbug Mountain, to the OR/CA border	May 1, 7 days per week until the quota is taken, or October 31.	

A yelloweye rockfish conservation area off central Oregon, near Stonewall Bank, is closed to sport fishing for halibut. Please check waypoints [online](#).

### California

Subarea	Location	Season Dates
California	California coast	May 1-October 31, or until the subarea quota is taken.

## Commercial

### Directed Commercial Fishery

Area	Time	Date	Additional Season Dates (quota permitting)
South of Pt. Chehalis, WA	0800-1800	June 26 & July 10	<del>June 27</del> , July 24, August 7 and 21, September 4 and 18.

- NOAA Fisheries implemented annual management measures and directed commercial opening and closing dates in a [final rule](#) on March 14, 2019 (84 FR 9243).

## National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

- The deadline to [apply](#) for a directed commercial fishing license is April 30, 2019. Please contact the IPHC for quota details or further information on the directed commercial halibut fishery at (206) 634-1838 or visit their [website](#).

### *Incidental halibut in the Sablefish Primary Fishery*

Vessels with an IPHC permit fishing in the limited entry fixed gear primary sablefish fishery, north of Point Chehalis, Washington, may retain Pacific halibut, subject to a landing ratio. The ratio of 200 lb dressed weight of halibut for every 1,000 lb dressed weight of sablefish landed and up to 2 additional halibut in excess of the 200 lb per 1,000 lb ratio per landing, will remain in effect until superseded. We will announce any changes to the landing ratio in the *Federal Register* and via a separate public notice. Please check the hotline for the most current information.

Participants in this fishery are prohibited from fishing within the North Coast Commercial Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA). Additionally, the "C shaped" YRCA in the North Coast subarea off Washington is designated as an area to be avoided (a voluntary closure) by commercial longline sablefish fishermen.

### *Incidental halibut in the salmon troll fishery*

Beginning May 1, 2019, vessels with an IPHC permit fishing in the salmon troll fishery may land no more than one Pacific halibut per two Chinook, except one Pacific halibut may be landed without meeting the ratio requirement, and no more than 35 halibut landed per trip. These ratios may change throughout the season. Please check the hotline for the most current information.

Any discrepancies between this Public Notice and the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.