

Price of Halibut Reaches One Dollar Per Pound

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) announced that halibut landings through July 31 were nearly 18 million pounds, about 70% of the 25 million pound catch limit.

The average landing per vessel and the average catch per unit effort (CPUE) continue to be slightly higher than last year. If landings continue at the present rate, the 1975 catch will exceed the 1974 catch of 21 million pounds and will reach the catch limit by the mandatory closure date of September 6 for areas 2 and 3.

However, Canadian fishermen and dock workers went on strike on July 25 and, if the strike is prolonged, the catch and landing rates will be reduced. IPHC will announce the closing dates for halibut fishing by August 15.

Landings in Area 2 (south of Cape Spencer, Alaska) were 9.4 million pounds and, at the present rate of catch, the quota of 13 million pounds will be taken before September 6. Canadian vessels have landed 60% and U.S. vessels 40% of the Area 2

catch thus far.

Landings in Area 3 (Cape Spencer, Alaska and west to the Aleutians) were 8.3 million pounds and the fishing seasons will probably last until the September 6 closing date. U.S. fishermen have taken 65% of the Area 3 catch and Canadian fishermen 35%.

Prices paid to fishermen for halibut continue to rise and exceeded \$1.00 per pound for the first time in the history of the fishery. This price was reached in late July in Vancouver, Kodiak, and Seward.

Average prices in July from all ports ranged from \$0.86 to \$1.00, well above the previous record prices paid for halibut in 1973.

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