

Summary of Lower Cook Inlet Halibut Harvest Statistics

Each year the Alaska Department of Fish and Game summarizes halibut harvest statistics for the Lower Cook Inlet sport fishery. This includes landings made south of Anchor Point. The department samples sport-caught halibut and interviews anglers and charter boat operators in the Homer harbor. Using these data, combined with statewide harvest survey estimates, ADF&G estimates the average weight and total harvest in pounds for this fishery. These estimates are provided to the International Pacific Halibut Commission and North Pacific Fishery Management Council to ensure that the halibut stock is managed using the best available information. The tables below summarize basic data and harvest estimates since 1994. Note that all weights are expressed as net weight (headed and gutted), the standard measurement unit for halibut. Contact Scott Meyer with ADF&G in Homer 235-8191 for more information.

Table 1. Characteristics of the Lower Cook Inlet sport halibut harvest since 1994. This information was derived from on-site sampling of halibut harvest and interviews with anglers and charter boat operators.

Year	No. Fish Measured		Average Length (in)		Average Net Wt (lb) ^a		No. Interviews (vessel-trips)	Average No. Fish Kept Per Angler-Day ^b	
	Charter	Private	Charter	Private	Charter	Private		Charter	Private
1994	1,132	43	37.2	35.7	20.5	22.0	511	1.8	1.1
1995	1,161	152	37.2	34.7	20.4	17.7	327	1.8	0.8
1996	1,208	696	37.3	32.3	20.2	13.0	263	1.7	1.1
1997	850	392	38.0	33.6	21.3	15.0	479	1.9	0.9
1998	711	431	36.0	32.6	18.7	13.0	630	1.8	1.1
1999	569	392	35.3	32.8	16.5	13.8	659	1.8	1.1
2000	710	455	36.0	33.4	18.2	14.7	657	1.8	1.1
2001	688	582	37.7	33.9	20.2	15.7	697	1.8	1.2
2002	667	511	36.9	33.7	19.1	14.9	569	1.9	1.2
2003	790	464	38.3	35.0	21.7	16.3	570	1.9	1.4
2004	1,393	339	37.3	33.0	19.7	14.1	622	1.9	1.6
2005	1,236	551	35.9	33.0	17.8	13.5	781	1.9	1.4
2006	1,071	509	36.2	32.4	17.6	12.8	716	1.8	1.4

^a – Net weight is headed and gutted. The conversion is round wt = net wt x 1.33.

^b – Raw CPUE calculated from interviewed vessel-trips targeting halibut, bottomfish, or bottomfish & salmon, not standardized.

Table 2. Estimated halibut harvest in the Lower Cook Inlet sport fishery in number of fish and pounds net weight since 1994. No harvest estimate is available yet for the most recent year.

Year	Harvest in No. Fish			Harvest in Pounds ^a		
	Charter	Private	Total	Charter	Private	Total
1994	53,773	36,413	90,186	1,102	801	1,903
1995	56,114	30,719	86,833	1,145	544	1,688
1996	67,997	37,971	105,968	1,374	494	1,867
1997	67,923	37,723	105,646	1,447	566	2,013
1998	60,823	33,395	94,218	1,137	434	1,572
1999	53,321	32,931	86,252	880	454	1,334
2000	65,189	42,547	107,736	1,186	625	1,812
2001	65,130	29,734	94,864	1,329	464	1,793
2002	60,883	32,742	93,625	1,163	488	1,651
2004	63,881	48,505	112,386	1,386	791	2,177
2005	83,521	60,963	144,484	1,470	780	2,250

^a – Calculated by multiplying the average weight by the number of fish harvested. Total may not equal the sum of charter and private harvest due to rounding.