

Not Just Big Halibut Brought Into Port - Sharks Make a Splash

VALDEZ – Pink salmon are starting to make their way into Port Valdez, but it's the salmon shark being pulled from the icy waters of Prince William Sound drawing crowds at the fish cleaning tables in Valdez. While sizeable shark are monopolizing time on the hanging racks, a fair share of halibut are being hung as well.

Steven Fitch of Fairbanks reeled in a 220.5 pound halibut aboard the *Lady Luck* to take the lead in the overall standings for the Valdez Halibut Derby. Fitch won the 1st place prize for week number five in the derby and Curt Johnson of Orondo, Washington won the 2nd place weekly prize with a 119.8 pound flatfish he caught aboard *No Excuses*. Rich Piech of North Pole is currently 2nd place in the overall standings with his 195 pounder and Duane Person of Copper Center is hanging onto 3rd place with his 182 pound halibut.

King salmon are still being caught in the Port of Valdez. "The run of King salmon is not strong enough for a derby yet", said Dave Cobb of the Valdez Fisheries Development Association, "but I would estimate there are about 500 king salmon out there this year".

It might be early for a king salmon derby, but a pink salmon tournament is in the works for July 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th. The *Eagle's Rest RV Park Pink Salmon Fishing Challenge* requires pre-registration and boasts cash prizes for anglers catching the largest fish in a 4-day period. There will be an adult division, women's division and children's division for kids twelve and under. Participating anglers can weigh in two fish each day of the tournament and the person with the top eight heaviest pink salmon will win a cash prize. For more information on the *Eagle's Rest RV Park Pink Salmon Fishing Challenge*, call 835-2633.

The first place prize for the largest Halibut and Silver Salmon caught in the Valdez derbies is \$15,000. The second place prize for both derbies is \$5,000 and third place will take home \$2,000 in cash. Derby tickets for both the salmon and halibut derbies are \$10 each and are good for one day of fishing in the derby. A season ticket for either species is \$50. Participants of the derby will also get their names put into a drawing for a truck from Seekins Ford. For more information on the Valdez Halibut Derby or upcoming silver salmon and women's derby, go to www.valdezfishderbies.com.

HALIBUT DERBY – OVERALL LEADERS - WEEK#5

	Name /address		Weight	Date	Charter
1st	Steven Fitch	Fairbanks, AK	220.5	6/19	Lady Luck
2nd	Rich Piech	North Pole, AK	195	5/30	No Excuses
3rd	Duane Person	Copper Center, AK	182	6/13	No Excuses

HALIBUT DERBY- WEEKLY WINNERS – WEEK #5

1st	Steven Fitch	Fairbanks, AK	220.5	6/19	Lady Luck
2nd	Curt Johnson	Orondo, WA	119.8	6/21	No Excuses

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