

Halibut Leaders remain the same as Silver Salmon Head to Port

VALDEZ- Halibut are moving in with the pink salmon runs so halibut fishing has really picked up in close to Port Valdez. Anglers are picking up sizeable halibut, but none were large enough to knock the derby leaders out of contention. Karl Heinz of Glennallen came the closest this week with a 192.7 pound flatfish he caught aboard No Excuses. While Heinz didn't get into the overall standings, he did win the weekly 1st place prize for week number nine in the derby. Heinz takes home a Fish Derby jacket and other prizes, while James Bower of Modesto, California takes home a bevy of prizes for his 2nd place weekly finish. Bower reeled in a 171.6 pound halibut aboard the Orion.

Derek Nahinu of North Pole is still leading the derby with a 262.3 pounder. Steven Fitch of Fairbanks is currently in 2nd place overall with a 220.5 pounder and George Thul of Tucson, Arizona is hanging onto 3rd place with a 216.1 pounder.

Outside the Port, anglers found excellent Lingcod action in the area around Seal Rocks. Within the Port, it's all about the pink salmon. Anglers are catching their limit of pinks at Allison Point in under an hour at high tide and halibut anglers fishing in the Port are having a hard time getting their lines down without a pink salmon taking the bait.

This Saturday, July 29th, marks the start of the Valdez Silver Salmon Derby. The silvers are coming into the Port and derby clerk Wendy Farlin said she's been putting together prize packages for the daily 1st and 2nd place prizes. "We've just updated our website", Farlin said. "There's a lot of good stuff on there. Prize lists, standings, rules, pictures of weekly winners and more". The Valdez Fish Derbies website is:

www.valdezfishderbies.com.

HALIBUT DERBY – OVERALL LEADERS – WEEK #9

	Name /address		Weight	Date	Charter
1st	Derek Nahinu	North Pole, AK	262.3 lbs.	7/7	North Country
2nd	Steven Fitch	Fairbanks, AK	220.5 lbs	6/19	Lady Luck
3rd	George Thul	Tucson, AZ	216.1 lbs	6/29	North Country

HALIBUT DERBY- WEEKLY WINNERS – WEEK #9

1st	Karl Heinz	Glennallen, AK	192.7 lbs.	7/17	No Excuses
2nd	James Bower	Modesto, CA	171.6 lbs.	7/18	Orion

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