

## Wasilla Anglers Breaks Into Derby Standings With 157.9 Pound Halibut

**VALDEZ** – John Conant of Wasilla and Aaron Shewman of Anchorage took top honors for week #3 in the Valdez Halibut Derby. The 157.9 pound halibut Conant caught aboard the *Dan Orion* June 15<sup>th</sup> won him the first place weekly prize in the derby, and catapults him into 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the overall standings. Shewman reeled in a 117.9 pound flatfish aboard *No Excuses* June 12<sup>th</sup> to win the 2<sup>nd</sup> place prize for the week.

Donald Pearson of Emery South Dakota is currently leading the Valdez Halibut Derby with the 162.7 pound halibut he caught aboard the *Faithful* May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Beautiful weather allowed halibut anglers to get out this week and fair catches were reported by Bligh Reef and Galena Bay. Most charters are finding productive fishing grounds by Hinchinbrook Island and Montague Island. Charter captains are reporting good catches of rockfish along with halibut.

The Valdez Silver Salmon Derby is slated to begin July 28<sup>th</sup> and run through September 2<sup>nd</sup> at noon. The first Big Prize Friday is August 3<sup>rd</sup> and the person catching the largest silver salmon on that day will win an inflatable raft in addition to the daily prizes.

The Valdez Fish Derbies truck is now on display by the Highway turnoff for Eagles Rest RV Park. Each ticket purchased for the Halibut or Silver Salmon Derbies is an entry to win the Valdez Fish Derbies truck. A Season ticket for either species gives the purchaser five entries for the drawing to be held at the Spawn ‘til Dawn Party Labor Day weekend. Anglers should keep their derby tickets as entry to the popular awards party is free with a derby ticket.

The weigh-in station for the Valdez Fish Derbies is open 3pm to 9pm. For more information on the Valdez Halibut Derby or upcoming silver salmon and women’s derby, go to [www.valdezfishderbies.com](http://www.valdezfishderbies.com).

### Halibut Derby - Overall Leaders

1 <sup>st</sup>	Donald Pearson	Emery, SD	162.7 lbs.	May 27	Faithful
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John Conant	Wasilla, AK	157.9 lbs.	June 15	Dan Orion
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Robert Peca	Valdez, AK	135.7 lbs.	June 9	Private

### Halibut Derby - Weekly Winners - Week #2 (June 10 - June 16)

1 <sup>st</sup>	John Conant	Wasilla, AK	157.9 lbs.	June 15	Dan Orion
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Aaron Shewman	Anchorage, AK	117.9 lbs.	June 12	No Excuses

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