

## Week 1 In The Derby - Overall Leaders All Weigh In Over 100 lbs.

VALDEZ-Anglers returned to Port Valdez with halibut and sunburns Memorial weekend. Bill Langley of Fairbanks weighed in a 133.8 pound halibut to win week number one of the Valdez Halibut Derby. Chad Greenway of Fairbanks went fishing with Langley aboard *No Excuses* and reeled in a 118.2 pound flat fish that took 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the week. Langley and Greenway are now in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall for the derby and Hugh Wingfield of Delta Junction who caught a 117 pounder is currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall.

The fishing has been good, but it was the weather that took center stage with five of the last seven days producing record-breaking temperatures in Valdez. On Saturday the mercury rose to 76 degrees shattering a previous high of 69 degrees set back in 1997.

Only seven halibut were weighed in the first week of the halibut derby according to weigh-in attendant Bonnie Woods but it's not because anglers aren't buying derby tickets and catching fish. Woods said she has sold a large number of season halibut tickets, mostly to folks from Fairbanks. "They're going fishing, they're just not going to put a small fish on the board" Woods said.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game Reports large halibut are most plentiful by South Montague and fair catches of medium-sized fish have been reported near Bligh Reef and Bull Head.

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

	Name /address		Weight	Date	Charter
1st	Bill Langley	Fairbanks	133.8	5/24	No Excuses
2nd	Chad Greenway	Fairbanks	118.2	5/24	No Excuses
3rd	Hugh Wingfield	Delta Junction	117.0	5/23	Dawn Treader

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