



Halibut Terminology – What You May Hear

IPHC uses many scientific terms, acronyms, and plain ol' jargon in managing the halibut resource and fishery. Some are unique to halibut management, whereas others are more common in the fisheries management business. Here's a list of some of the most common terms you may hear involving Pacific halibut.

- Archival tag... A type of tag which measures and stores environmental data while attached either internally or externally to a fish.
- BAWM..... Bycatch and wastage mortality.
- Biomass..... Weight in net (head off, eviscerated) pounds.
- Bycatch Halibut caught by fisheries targeting other species. 'Bycatch' is often used interchangeably with 'bycatch mortality' but technically, bycatch represents fish caught, whereas bycatch mortality represents the amount of halibut bycatch that is killed.
- Catchability... Fraction of total available fish caught per unit of effort.
- CEY Constant Exploitation Yield. IPHC measures CEY in terms of Total CEY, which is the total amount of yield available for harvest in an area, and Fishery CEY, which is the amount of yield available for the halibut fisheries.
- CLR..... Catch Limit Recommendation.
- CB Conference Board. An advisory body composed of representatives of the fishing industry which meets during the IPHC Annual Meeting to review regulatory proposals and provide recommendations to the Commission.
- CSP Catch Sharing Plan. A management program, subject to approval by the IPHC but generally administered by the domestic management body, which allocates available yield among specific user groups, sectors, or within a management area.
- DFO Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada. The federal agency in Canada which manages marine fisheries and determines domestic allocation programs.
- Ebio..... Exploitable biomass. Ebio is the fraction of the Total biomass which is catchable by hook and line gear.
- GHL Guideline Harvest Level. Part of a management program designed by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in 2003 to manage the sport charter halibut fishery in Areas 2C and 3A.
- NPFMC..... North Pacific Fishery Management Council, a federal agency which oversees management of marine fisheries in the federal waters off Alaska. With halibut, the NPFMC's role is to decide on allocations between user groups and development of programs to manage and reduce halibut bycatch.

- NPUE.....Number (of fish) per unit effort. Effort is usually measured in terms of a standard skate of fishing gear, which is defined by IPHC as 100 hooks at 18-foot spacing.
- PAGProcessor Advisory Group. An advisory body composed of halibut buyers and processors which meets during the IPHC Annual Meeting to review regulatory proposals and provide recommendations to the Commission.
- PFMC.....Pacific Fishery Management Council. A federal agency which oversees management of marine fisheries in federal waters off Washington, Oregon, and California. With halibut, the PFMC's role is to decide on allocations between user groups and development of programs to manage and reduce halibut bycatch.
- PHI.....Prior hooking injuries. A type of injury incurred by a halibut that was caught previously on hook and line gear and subsequently returned to the sea.
- PIT tag.....Passive Integrated Transponder tag. A type of tag used by IPHC in a coastwide tagging study conducted in 2003-2004.
- ProfilerOceanographic equipment used by IPHC to collect surface to bottom environmental data and currently deployed from IPHC chartered survey vessels.
- RABResearch Advisory Board. An advisory body that provides advice to the Commission staff on its research programs and proposed projects. The RAB is composed of representatives of the halibut fishing and processing industries.
- SbioAn abbreviation for female spawning biomass, measured in weight, which is comprised only of sexually mature female halibut. Sexual maturity begins as early as age 8. IPHC estimates that 50% of the females are mature by age 13, and 100% at age 20.
- SelectivityThe relative probability of a fish being retained by the fishing gear as a function of its size (or age).
- SSA survey....Standardized Stock Assessment survey. The survey is a coastwide grid of stations that have been fished annually by IPHC since 1996.
- SWHSStatewide Harvest Survey. SWHS is a mail-based survey used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to estimate sport harvests of fish and wildlife in Alaska.
- SUFastD.....Slow Up/Fast Down. A harvest control rule used by the Commission which has been generally applied since 2001 and formally adopted as policy in 2007. Modified to SUFullD (see below) in 2011. SUFastD works in the following manner: if the current FCEY is greater than the previous year's catch limit, the staff's CLR would be the previous year's Catch Limit PLUS one third of the difference between the two; if the Fishery CEY is less than the previous year's Catch Limit, then the CLR is equal to one-half of the decrease from the previous year's catch limit to the current Fishery CEY.
- SUFullD.....Slow Up/Full Down. See the above description of SUFastD. Operates the in the same manner as SUFastD, except that the CLR is equal to the Fishery CEY if the current year's Fishery CEY is less than the previous year's Catch Limit.
- Tbio.....Total biomass. Tbio, measured in weight, is the biomass of all halibut, generally for ages 8 and older.
- Wastage.....The amount of pounds killed and discarded by the commercial halibut fishery, either from the release of undersize halibut, or from lost and abandoned fishing gear.
- WPUEPounds of fish per unit effort. Effort is usually measured in terms of a standard skate of fishing gear, which is defined by IPHC as 100 hooks at 18-foot spacing.

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