



INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION

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.

Archival tag.....A type of tag which measures and stores environmental data while attached to a fish.

AvailabilityThe relative proportion of the stock, by age or size, which is present in a given area.

BAWM.....Bycatch and wastage mortality.

Biomass.....Weight in net pounds (head-off, eviscerated).

Blue Line.....A row in the Decision Table, highlighted in blue, which provides the harvest available when the Commission's target harvest rates are applied to the current estimate of Ebio.

BycatchHalibut caught by fisheries targeting other species.

Bycatch mortality....The component of halibut caught incidentally in non-target fisheries that dies as a result of capture, measured in weight.

Catchability.....Fraction of total available fish caught per unit of effort.

CEYConstant 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 directed halibut fisheries.

CBConference Board, an advisory body to IPHC, composed of representatives of the fishing industry.

CSPCatch Sharing Plan. A management program, administered by a domestic agency, which allocates available yield among specific user groups or sectors. Allocations are often described as percentages of the whole.

Decision table...A table developed by the IPHC staff, in collaboration with external scientific review, in which the probabilities for specific metrics of stock and fishery performance are estimated for various levels of harvest.

Ebio.....Exploitable biomass. The portion of the stock to which the current harvest policy target harvest rates apply.

GHLGuideline Harvest Level; part of a management program used by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council from 2003 to 2013 to manage the harvest by the sport charter halibut fishery in Areas 2C and 3A.

MSABManagement Strategy Advisory Board. A group of 15-20 individuals appointed by the Commission, comprised of harvesters, managers, processors, academia, IPHC staff, and the IPHC science advisors. The role of the MSAB is to define clear, measurable fishery objectives and to provide technical input on the development of an operating halibut

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fishery management model that will permit evaluation of various strategies to achieve management objectives.

- MSEManagement Strategy Evaluation. A long-term process in which alternative management strategies for the halibut fishery are developed and evaluated by an advisory board.
- NPFMCNorth Pacific Fishery Management Council, headquartered in Anchorage, Alaska. A U.S. federal board 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.
- NPUENumber of fish per unit effort. Effort is measured in terms of a standard skate of fishing gear, which is defined by IPHC as an 1,800-foot skate of gear, with 100 hooks at an 18-foot spacing.
- PAGProcessor Advisory Group, an advisory body to IPHC composed of representatives from halibut processors.
- PFMCPacific Fishery Management Council, headquartered in Portland, Oregon. A U.S. federal board 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.
- PHIPrior hooking injuries. A type of injury incurred by a halibut upon being released and returned to the sea during a previous capture with hook and line gear.
- PIT tagPassive Integrated Transponder tag, used by IPHC in a coastwide tagging study in 2003-2004.
- ProfilerOceanographic equipment used to collect water column environmental data during the IPHC SSA survey.
- RABResearch Advisory Board, an advisory body to the Commission which provides input on research topics and direction. The RAB is composed of representatives of the halibut fishing and processing industry.
- SbioAn abbreviation for female spawning biomass, measured in weight, which is comprised only of sexually mature female halibut. Sexual maturity begins at age 8, reaches 50% at age 13 and 100% at age 20.
- SelectivityRelative probability of a fish being retained by the gear as a function of its size (or age).
- SRBScientific Review Board, a group of 3-6 scientists appointed by the Commission to provide independent scientific review of the halibut assessment and research.
- SSA surveyStandardized stock assessment survey, conducted annually by IPHC since 1996.
- SWHSStatewide Harvest Survey, used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to estimate sport harvests.
- TbioAn abbreviation for Total biomass, measured in weight, which is the biomass of all halibut, generally for ages 8 and older.
- WastageThe mortality (net pounds) of fish that are captured but not landed during the commercial halibut fishery. This includes discards (primarily undersize halibut), as well as fish estimated to have been captured by lost and abandoned fishing gear.
- WPUEPounds of fish per unit effort. Effort is measured in terms of a standard skate of fishing gear, which is defined by IPHC as an 1,800-foot skate of gear, with 100 hooks at an 18-foot spacing.

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