

## *Information Bulletin*



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### **WANTED!!**

#### INFORMATION ON JAPANESE HOOKS

Halibut fishermen are asked to assist the International Pacific Halibut Commission in studying the effects of the Japanese blackcod fishery on the halibut stocks of the northeast Pacific.

The Japanese are fishing for blackcod with longline gear but regularly catch halibut as well. Because their gear is light, halibut often break the gangion but retain the hook and then are recaptured by North American fishermen.

Fishermen are asked to measure each halibut that has a Japanese hook attached, and to record the date and location of capture. If possible, the fish should be stored separately from the rest of the catch or marked with a gangion so Commission personnel can examine the fish and collect the Japanese hooks at the landing dock. If Commission personnel are not available, fishermen are asked to send the information to the Commission at the end of the season. The information requested is the same as that for halibut tagged by the IPHC, but no reward will be offered for the Japanese hooks. Fishermen are asked to cooperate on a voluntary basis.

This study will allow the Commission to estimate the number and size of halibut that are hooked and escape from the Japanese gear.

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