

Information Bulletin

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FISHERMEN NEEDED FOR TAGGING STUDY WITH USSR

Pacific halibut occur throughout the Bering Sea and IPHC tagging studies have shown that they make extensive migrations within the Bering Sea and to the eastern North Pacific Ocean. Halibut usually concentrate in deep offshore waters during the winter and disperse over the shallow continental shelf during the summer. They also migrate along the coast for distances up to 2,000 miles.

IPHC has tagged and released over 22,000 halibut in the Bering Sea but only 2,000 of these were released west of 175°W longitude and none were released near the USSR coast. The need for additional tagging in the western Bering Sea was discussed at a Canada-U.S.-USSR meeting in June, 1974. Plans for a joint tagging study during the summer of 1975 were developed at subsequent bilateral meetings (U.S.-USSR) and IPHC agreed to participate for Canada and the U.S. IPHC will provide tags, longline gear and technical advice on tagging and fishing methods. Soviet authorities have agreed to provide the vessel, trawl gear and the crew for trawl and longline fishing. The purpose of the project is to study the relationship of halibut between the eastern and western Bering Sea.

IPHC will contract for a qualified halibut fisherman for a period of about 3 months (May through July) to provide technical advice and to assist with longline fishing. Preference will be given to persons having experience as a fishing captain. The person selected will accompany IPHC staff members to USSR where the vessel is based and his living and travel expenses will be furnished. Persons interested in the job should apply to IPHC by April 7, 1975. Each applicant should provide a summary of his fishing experience and state the minimum remuneration (monthly rate) he would accept.

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