

Information Bulletin

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JAPANESE HOOKS IN HALIBUT

In 1974 IPHC asked halibut fishermen to retain the Japanese hooks found in halibut and to record information on the date and location of capture and the size of the fish. The purpose of this request was to obtain an estimate of the number and size of halibut that were hooked on Japanese blackcod gear.

Although the program was new and voluntary, the fleet responded to this request and IPHC received data on 187 halibut that had Japanese hooks attached to them. Length data was available for 50 fish. The average length was 44 inches and only 4 were below the 32-inch size limit. The location of capture was reported for 160 halibut: 10 from west of Cape Spencer, 45 from southeastern Alaska (15 from inside waters), 76 from British Columbia (35 from inside waters) and 29 from Cape Flattery. These recoveries indicate that the Japanese blackcod fishery has an effect on the inside as well as the offshore stocks of halibut and the information will be useful in the Commission's assessment of these stocks.

Though the results of the first year's observations are limited, the study has been useful and will be continued. Though no reward is offered, the Commission requests the same information on date, location and fish size as that for tagged fish. If possible the fish should be marked with a gangion so it can be readily located and can be examined by Commission representatives on the landing dock. Hooks not collected in the field should be sent to the above address with the requested information.