

Information Bulletin



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JAPANESE HOOKS AND IPHC PREMIUM TAGS

JAPANESE HOOKS

Halibut fishermen are again asked to voluntarily turn in Japanese hooks found in halibut. This study was begun 2 years ago to determine the number and size of halibut caught in the Japanese blackcod fishery. The study has been useful and will be continued in 1976. When hooks are found, fishermen should record the date and location of capture and the fish size, the same information as is requested with IPHC tags, but no reward is offered. If possible, the fish should be marked with a gangion so that it can be located readily during the unloading process for examination by Commission representatives. If a Commission representative is not available, hooks and the requested information should be sent to the above address.

Over 200 of these hooks were returned in 1975, compared to 160 in 1974. Hooks from the Cape Flattery region increased to 91 from 29 in 1974. Returns from British Columbia, southeastern Alaska, and the northern Gulf of Alaska were 70, 33, and 14 respectively, compared with 76, 45, and 10 in 1974. Many of the hooks from southeastern Alaska and British Columbia were taken from inside waters. The weights of 51 fish were reported in 1975; only 2 were under 10 pounds, 35 were mediums, and 14 were large.

IPHC TAGS

WATCH FOR AND RETURN ALL TAGS. Any IPHC tag found on a halibut could be on our premium tag list and worth \$100 to the finder in addition to the standard \$2.00 reward. Each year since 1966, the Halibut Commission has paid a premium reward of \$100 for the first 12 tags returned with numbers appearing on a randomly selected list. The purpose of the premium rewards is to stimulate interest in the return of tags from recaptured fish and the program will continue in 1976.

Twelve premium tags were returned in 1975 and \$100 rewards were paid to 9 Canadian and 3 United States fishermen; 10 were setline fishermen, 1 a troller, and 1 a trawl fisherman.