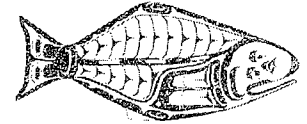


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HALIBUT TAGS

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) has tagged halibut throughout the range of the fishery. Large numbers of fish were recently tagged off Kodiak Island, southeastern Alaska, and in Hecate Strait. Most of these tags are made of orange plastic with wire inside and are twisted around a bone near the cheek on the dark side of the fish. The information obtained from the return of tags will allow the IPHC to determine the migration and mortalities of halibut.

Fishermen and dock workers are urged to watch for tagged halibut and to report any that are found, including those smaller than the legal size limit. IPHC regulations permit the landing of any halibut bearing a tag, regardless of season, size of fish, or gear used in its capture; provided the fish, with tag in place, is made available for inspection.

When a tagged halibut is captured, we suggest that a ganging or piece of line be tied around the tail of the fish. Then, when the fish are unloaded, the tagged fish is easily located. During the fishing season the IPHC has employees in many of the ports where halibut are sold and they should be notified of the tagged fish whenever possible. If an IPHC employee is not available, contact an enforcement officer of the State, Provincial, or Federal Government. When none of the above are available, the tag should be mailed directly to the IPHC office at the above address with as much recovery information as possible. Recovery information desired is location, date, depth, and gear of capture and the length and sex of the fish.

The finder of a tag will receive a letter indicating when and where the fish was released. There is a standard reward of \$5.00 for each tag returned. In addition, persons returning the first 12 tags bearing preselected numbers will receive a premium reward of \$100.00.