

# \$1500 Reward

## For the Recovery and Return of Oceanographic Research Equipment



In 2009, the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) launched a program to collect oceanographic data alongside survey fishing data to better understand Pacific halibut distribution and abundance in relation to climate. Since then, oceanographic profilers have been routinely launched from the decks of the fishery-independent setline survey vessels and in most cases, safely retrieved. However, over time, three profilers were not retrieved safely and remain on the fishing grounds. The instruments weigh about 60 pounds each and are housed inside a steel cage that measures approximately 11" width x 9" depth x 42" height.

### **Missing profiler 1**

Lost: 30 July 2009 off the east side of Kodiak Island

56°49.95N latitude/153°09.12W longitude in 45 fathoms

Details: When lost, the profiler had a 40-pound anchor attached to the bottom and no floats attached on top. The instrument is thought to be sitting hard on bottom and may be snagged by fishing or other gear.

### **Missing profiler 2**

Lost: 11 June 2011 on the south side of Adak Island

51°29.785N latitude/176°53.543W longitude in 247 fathoms and moderate currents

Details: When lost, the instrument had a 60-pound weight attached to the bottom via 15 m of buoy line, and orange hardball floats attached to the top. If the anchor/float assembly remains intact, the profiler will be suspended approximately 15 m off bottom. The instrument is attached to the anchor line via a weak link that is designed to pull loose if forced, sending the instrument and float configuration to the surface. It may be possible to snag the assembly with fishing or other gear.

### **Missing profiler 3**

Lost: 26 August 2017 off the northern coast of Washington

48°07.1007N latitude/125°26.9019W longitude in 68 fathoms

Details: When lost, the profiler had a 40-pound weight attached to the bottom, and no floats attached on top. The instrument is thought to be sitting hard on rocky bottom. It may be possible to snag the assembly with fishing or other gear.

**The IPHC is offering a reward of \$1500 for the retrieval and return of each profiling instrument. No reward is offered for floats and anchor only. If found, please contact Lauri Sadorus (x7677) or Michael Larsen (x7671) at the IPHC (206-634-1838).**