

FLAT OUT FACTS: WILD PACIFIC HALIBUT

ONE OF THE BEST MANAGED
AND MONITORED FISHERIES
IN THE WORLD

Several measures are in place to monitor and manage the Canadian wild Pacific halibut fishery and they continue to evolve to ensure sustainability.



INDIVIDUAL TRANSFERABLE QUOTA (CATCH SHARE)

Each season, vessels are allocated an Individual Transferable Quota (ITQ) - their share of the annual total allowable catch.

Vessels that catch more than their ITQ have the overage deducted from their ITQ in the following year.

Vessels that catch less than their ITQ in one season are permitted to carryover a limited amount of the uncaught ITQ to the next season.

These measures combine to create the right incentives so that the total harvest never exceeds the total allowable catch.

LOGBOOKS

Vessel masters **MUST** document:

EVERY FISH THEY CATCH:

Halibut and other species | Retained and released at sea

ANY LOST OR FOUND FISHING GEAR:

Type | Amount | Date | Time | Location

ALTHOUGH VERY RARE, ANY INTERACTIONS WITH:

Seabirds | Marine Mammals

ALL FISHING DETAILS:

Date | Time | Location | Gear | Bait



100% AT-SEA MONITORING

All fishing trips are **100% MONITORED** at-sea by a government approved video-based electronic monitoring system.

HAILS

For each fishing trip, vessels must **"HAIL OUT"** before heading out to sea and **"HAIL IN"** before coming into port.



100% DOCKSIDE MONITORING

All vessels land at approved ports and **100% OF THEIR CATCH IS VALIDATED** by a government-designated observer.

TAGGING

At the dock, the government-designated observer **TAGS EVERY SINGLE HALIBUT** with a unique serial number for enforcement and traceability.



TRANSFERABILITY

Quota transferability has addressed overcapacity in the fishery as it allows the fleet to adjust fishing capacity so it aligns with the available harvest. This means:

- reduced** number of vessels
- reduced** amount of gear being deployed
- reduced** carbon footprint
- reduced** bycatch
- reduced** chance of encounters with seabirds or marine mammals
- reduced** impact on the ocean floor

WINTER SPAWNING CLOSURE

The commercial wild Pacific halibut fishery is closed during the winter months when mature halibut spawn.