

# 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.*

## 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 either cameras or a  
government-designated observer  
on-board every vessel.



## 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 COUNTED**  
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.



## 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.

## 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.