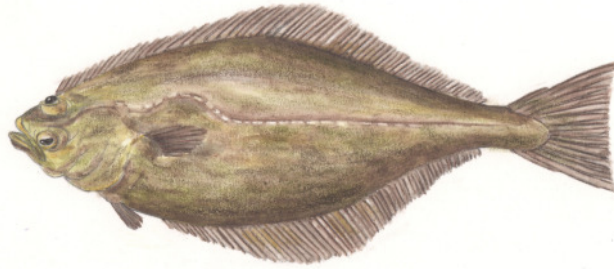


# Halibut



## Biology facts

<b>Depth Range</b>	demersal, 50-2000 m (Atlantic Halibut) demersal, 10-3000 m (American Plaice) demersal, 0-1200 m (Pacific Halibut) benthopelagic, 0-2000 m (Greenland Halibut)
<b>Max Age</b>	50 years (Atlantic Halibut) 30 years (American Plaice) 42 years (Pacific Halibut) 30 years (Greenland Halibut)
<b>Maturity Age</b>	10 years (Atlantic Halibut) 7-12 years (Greenland Halibut) 5-20 years (Pacific Halibut) 2-11 years (American Plaice)
<b>Max Size</b>	470 cm (Atlantic Halibut) 83 cm (American Plaice) 260 cm (Pacific Halibut) 80 cm (Greenland Halibut)
<b>Max Weight</b>	320 kg (Atlantic Halibut) 6.4 kg (American Plaice) 360 kg (Pacific Halibut) 7 kg (Greenland Halibut)
<b>Prey</b>	mainly on other fish (Cod, Haddock, Sand-eels, Herring, Capelin), but also takes cephalopods, large crustaceans and other bottom-living animals (Atlantic Halibut) invertebrates and small fishes (American Plaice) ishes, crabs, clams, squids, and other invertebrates (Pacific Halibut) crustaceans, fishes, eelpouts, capelin, redfishes, deep sea prawns and other bottom invertebrates (Greenland halibut)
<b>Other</b>	Eastern Atlantic: Bay of Biscay to Spitsbergen, Barents Sea, Iceland and eastern Greenland. Western Atlantic: southwestern Greenland and Labrador in Canada to Virginia in USA (Atlantic Halibut)

### Spendenkonto

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Eastern Atlantic: off eastern Greenland and from the English Channel to the coast of Murmansk. Western Atlantic: southern Labrador in Canada and western Greenland to Rhode Island in USA (American Plaice).

North Pacific: Hokkaido, Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk to the southern Chukchi Sea and Point Camalu, Baja California, Mexico. (Pacific Halibut)

Circumglobal: In arctic and temperate waters; northern hemisphere (Greenland Halibut).

### Fishery Facts

<b>Latin Name</b>	<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i> (Atlantic Halibut) <i>Hippoglossus platessoides</i> (American Plaice) <i>Hippoglossus stenolepis</i> (Pacific Halibut) <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i> (Greenland Halibut)
<b>Fishing Method</b>	Bottom otter trawl, bottom longline, Norwegian fishery: long line and ground net; Greenland as by-catch in the trawler and gillnet fishery (Atlantic Halibut) bottom trawling, seines (American Plaice) bottom longline, troll lines and bottom trawl nets (Pacific Halibut) bottom and otter trawler. long-line, gill net and set lines (Greenland Halibut)
<b>Annual catch</b>	21 609 t (FAO 1999), 7 362 t (FAO 2006) (American Plaice) 43 557 t (FAO 1999), 39 833 (FAO 2006) (Pacific Halibut) 115 326 t (FAO 1999), 99 703 t (FAO 2006) (Greenland Halibut)
<b>Main fishing nations</b>	Russian Federation 7 878 t and Iceland 3 833 t (FAO 1999) (American Plaice) USA 36 515 t and Canada 7 040 t (FAO 1999) (Pacific Halibut) Grenland 34 481 t and Norway 18 810 t (FAO 1999) (Greenland Halibut)
<b>Certification</b>	not certified

### Main Concerns

- Atlantic Halibut were heavily overfished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and there are no signs of recovery to date. It is classified as „endangered“ by the World Conservation Union (IUCN).
- Atlantic Halibut is a high priority candidate species, which has not yet been assessed but identified by COSEWIC as potentially being at risk as of October 2007 and a NOAA species of concern since 2004.
- Also other Halibut-species are overfished: e.g. Greenland Halibut stock levels are at an historic low in water around Iceland, West Scotland, North Azores, East and Southeast Greenland and scientists have advised that fishing should be reduced.

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- Low growth rate and late onset of sexual maturity makes halibut populations inherently vulnerable to fishing pressure.
- Halibut is often caught by bottom trawling. This fishing method unintentionally catches high numbers of unwanted species that are thrown back into the sea, dead or dying. The long line fishery on the other hand captured a huge number of non-target species (by-catch) as sub-legal sized halibut (38%), spiny dogfish (18%), sablefish (13%), longnose skate (9%), arrowtooth flounder (5%), big skate (4%) and lingcod (4%).
- Halibut is also threatened because of capture in bottom trawl fisheries for other fish species. Small, immature Halibut is caught and killed in this way and there is concern that this is further inhibiting the recovery of stocks.

### Main Sources

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