



New in 2026: Help IPHC better understand sand flea damage to Pacific halibut

In 2026, the IPHC is starting a **fishermen-initiated data collection trial** to better understand how often sand fleas are the cause of damage to Pacific halibut.

When you are already reporting **damaged Pacific halibut** in your log, you can optionally note how many of those fish were damaged **specifically by sand fleas**.

This is not mandatory, but providing this information will help improve our understanding of the issue and guide future research.

How to record sand flea damage

- Continue recording the total number of damaged Pacific halibut as usual.
- If any of those fish show sand flea damage, **record the number damaged by sand fleas in brackets after the total.**
- If no sand flea damage occurred, please **record 0 in brackets.**
- Example is provided on the right.
- **The option to record sand flea damage will also be available in the electronic logbook.**

NUMBER DAMAGED	
200-P. Hal 10 (3)	
710-Sable ____	
Other fish ____	
307-Hooks ____	
200-P. Hal 2 (0)	
710-Sable ____	
Other fish ____	
307-Hooks ____	

What counts as sand flea damage?

Sand flea damage to Pacific halibut occurs when sand fleas have penetrated the body via the eyes, fins or anus. The membrane surrounding the eye may be partially or completely missing. The dorsal and/or anal fin membranes may be eaten away, leaving the fin rays exposed. The skin on the body is separated from tissue where sand fleas have eaten.

Thank you for your cooperation!