



Bottomfish

'Bottomfish' are fishes normally caught on or near the ocean floor: halibut, rockfish, and lingcod.

HALIBUT—the most popular bottomfish in area marine waters, these white-fleshed fish are delicious prepared in any of a variety of ways. Pacific halibut is a toothy flatfish that resembles flounder but grows much larger—adult halibut over 400 pounds have been

caught locally. Halibut live over 20 years and are usually harvested at 15 to 100 pounds. Their preferred habitat is along fairly uniform sandy, rocky, or muddy bottoms near abrupt dropoffs or rocky points of land.

Peak fishing is in summer. Though normally caught on or near the ocean floor at depths below 80 feet, halibut are sometimes caught at shallower depths by anglers trolling or mooching for salmon.

Check regulation book for halibut seasons!

Halibut will strike a number of offerings—whole or chunked herring, salmon heads or tails, octopus, squid,

and chrome or lead-head jigs with a variety of optional rubber tails or skirts.

Heavy, conventional tackle is standard for halibut. Use caution when landing and handling halibut!

ROCKFISH—at least 10 species are commonly harvested in area marine waters. These light-fleshed fish have a distinctive, appealing flavor. Most rockfish species weigh between 1 and 6 pounds (2 lb. on average). Yelloweye (red snapper) are the largest species; they can reach weights of 30 pounds, but average about 6 pounds. Rockfish are long-lived and, depending on species, may live 30 to 100 years or more.

Rockfish are often caught incidentally by anglers fishing for salmon or halibut. Although rockfish are available year-round, the best sport fishing is in the warmer months. All resident rockfish species can be caught with herring or various jigs, spoons, or flies, anywhere from near-surface to bottom. If you are planning to release the rockfish you catch, reel it up slowly to the surface, to avoid rupturing its swim bladder.

LINGCOD—popular marine fish renowned for their prominent teeth and aggressive and territorial nature. Lingcod prefer irregular rocky formations such as caves, particularly in exposed areas with heavy tidal movement.

cont'd . . .