



# Carefully Release Short California Halibut

## And You Can Greatly Increase Their Chance of Survival



### Recreational Regulations

✓ **22 in.** minimum total length.

- ✓ **2 fish** bag and **possession limit north** of Pt. Sur, Monterey County
- ✓ **5 fish** bag and **possession limit south** of Pt. Sur, Monterey County

**The 22 in. minimum size limit protects immature CA Halibut from fishery take.**

No more than **one** daily bag limit may be taken or possessed by any one person, regardless of whether the fish are fresh, frozen, or otherwise preserved. See CCR Title 14 sections 1.17, 7.00, 7.50(a), 27.60(c) and 195.

For more information see: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/regions/marine](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regions/marine).

### Best methods for handling short Halibut:

If the Halibut is obviously undersize (AKA a 'shaker') and does not need to be measured:

- Leave the fish in the water or dangling over the water, and shake the fish off the hook. If necessary, hold the leader line and use pliers to unhook the fish without touching it.
- If handling the fish is necessary to remove the hook, gently clamp down on the gill cover with one hand. Remove the hook using your other hand, while the fish is held over the side of the boat.



If the Halibut is close to the minimum size and it must be brought onboard to be measured:

- Wet your net/measuring device/hands/cloth before handling the fish.
- Use a soft, knotless landing net with small-mesh and avoid contact with the deck.
- Handle the fish by supporting both the head and tail. Place the fish *on top* of the measuring device.
- Ease the fish back into the water if it is short.



### What to avoid when handling short Halibut:

- Do **not** allow the fish to come into contact with the deck or any other rough surface. This can cause boat rash, which makes the fish more susceptible to infection.
- Do **not** let fingers or pliers come into contact with the gills.
- Do **not** hold the fish only by the tail without supporting the head or body.



**Tip:** If the Halibut is gut-hooked, cut the leader line and leave the hook. Attempts at hook removal may increase the chance of death. However, if the Halibut is mouth-hooked attempts should be made to remove the hook instead of cutting the line.



- Do **not** use large-mesh nets to land short Halibut. These nets cause tail-splitting which makes the fish more susceptible to infection.



Photo Credits: Kristine Lesyna and Travis Tanaka, CDFW

### PROJECT CONTACTS

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# Flatfish Identification

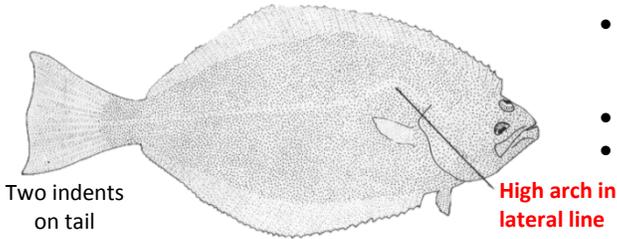


## California Halibut

- Eyes can be on either left or right side of head
- Max length: 5 ft.
- Range: Washington to Baja, Mexico



Photo Credit: Kristine Lesyna, CDFW

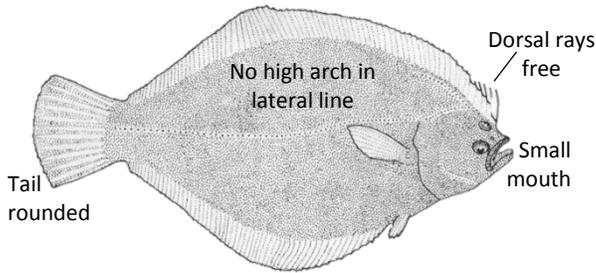


## Sand Sole

- Always right eyed
- Max length: 24 in.
- Range: Alaska to Redondo Beach, CA



Photo Credit: Kristine Lesyna, CDFW

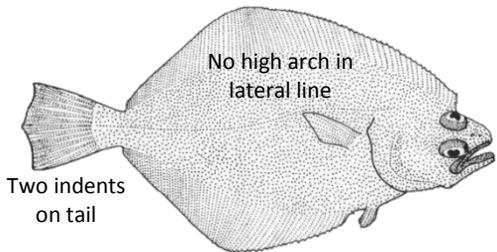


## Petrale Sole

- Always right eyed
- Max length: 27 in.
- Range: Alaska to Baja, Mexico



Photo Credit: Kristine Lesyna, CDFW

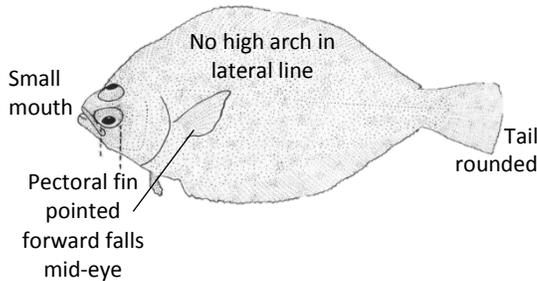


## Pacific Sanddab

- Always left eyed
- Max length: 16 in.
- Range: Alaska to Baja, Mexico



Photo Credit: Bill Power, LA County Sanitation Districts



## Hornyhead Turbot

- Always right eyed
- Max length: 14 in.
- Range: Point Reyes, CA to Baja, Mexico

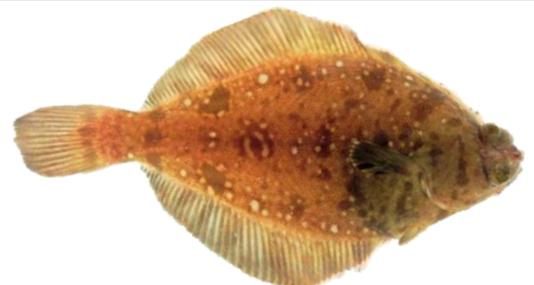


Photo Credit: Bill Power, LA County Sanitation Districts

