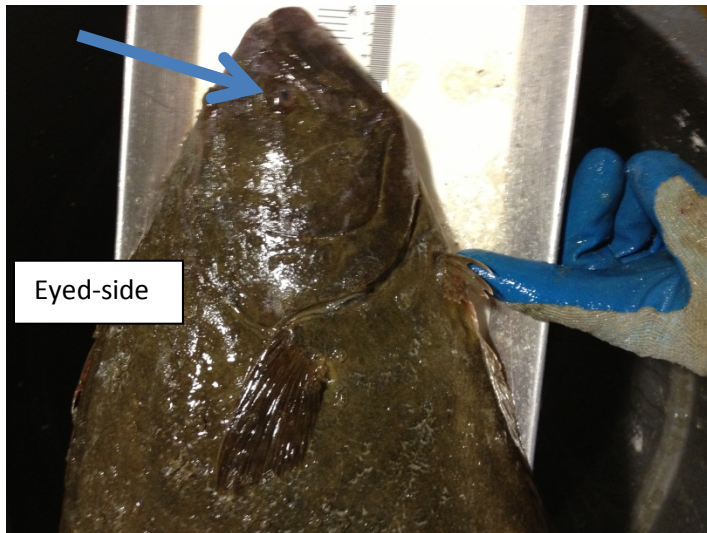


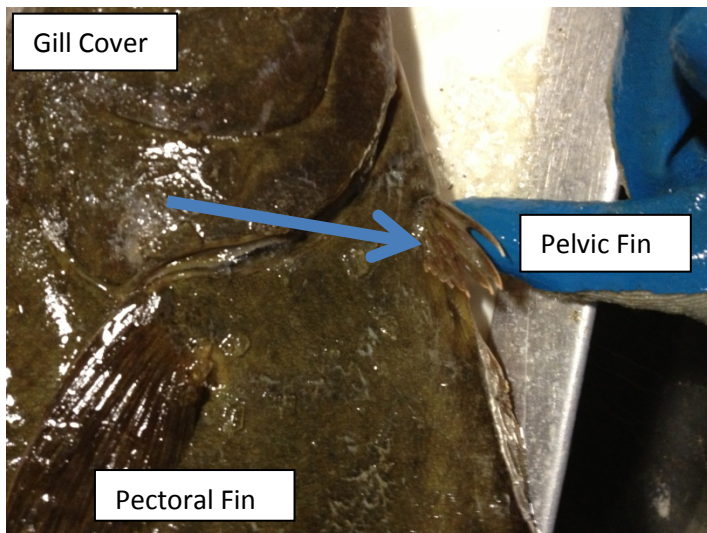
# California Halibut Sex Determination Guide: Squeeze Method

(developed by Kristine Lesyna, ES, Finfish Project, Belmont)

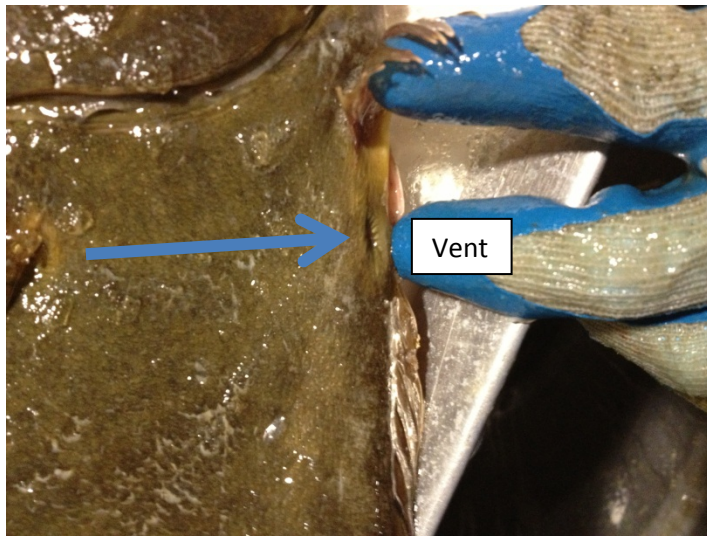
Males will release milt 100% of the time using this squeeze method. If no milt is released, the halibut is a female.



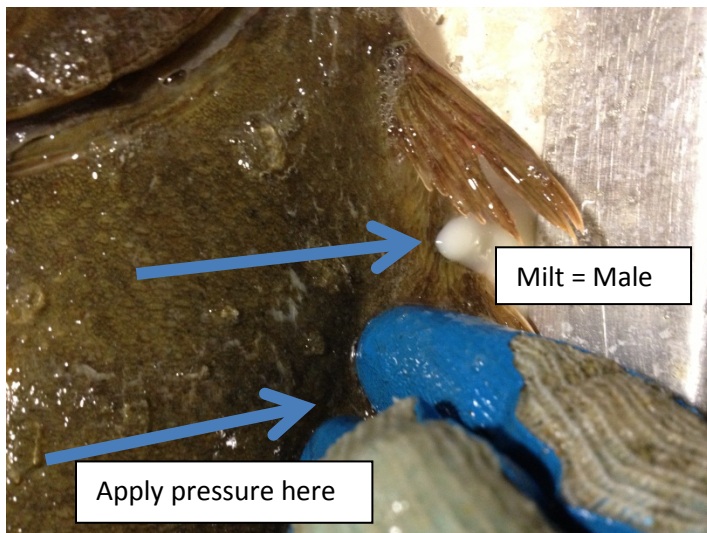
Step 1: position the halibut so that the eyed-side or pigmented-side is facing upwards.



Step 2: locate the pelvic fin, which is just posterior of the gill cover and below the pectoral fin.



Step 3: flip the pelvic fin back towards the head and locate the vent underneath where sexual products are extruded.



Step 4: apply pressure to the organ cavity just posterior to the vent. If the halibut is a male, milt will be released, as pictured in the photo to the left. If no milt is extruded the halibut is a female.



Step 5: females and males may both release clear fluid prior to sexual products. It is important to note that females and males may also release contents from other organs prior to sexual products. These contents may appear off-white in color and chunky (see photo). This halibut was not a male! Milt is pearly white, opaque, and never chunky. If you see this, keep applying pressure. If milt is released after this then the halibut is a male, if no milt is released it is a female.