

BC's fishing lodges and charters threatening livelihoods of Canadian commercial fishermen

Fishing lodges and charter vessel owners want to take halibut from our province's commercial halibut fishermen. Doing so would reduce the ability of the average Canadian consumer to enjoy commercially-caught halibut at home or in a restaurant.

The fishing lodges and charter businesses want fisheries Minister Gail Shea to alter a long-standing allocation policy, which has been upheld by four fisheries ministers.

BC's commercial halibut fishermen have been carefully developing the resource for more than 100 years. Over the last 30 years, our commercial fishermen have invested in reforms to meet conservation needs, and have achieved the globally-recognized Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification. As a David Suzuki Foundation fisheries analyst remarked, "There is probably not a fishery anywhere in the world that is more accountable for its catch than the Canadian commercial halibut fishery."

The Pacific coast is experiencing a cyclical period of low halibut abundance. BC's commercial halibut fishermen have seen their allowable catch levels – and therefore incomes – reduced by approximately 43 percent over the past five years. Fishing lodges and charter vessel owners want to increase their catch – at a time when caution is necessary.

We all must bear the cost of conservation. Maintaining the current halibut quota allocation is fair to everyone.

To learn more, please visit www.phmana.org



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