

ALASKA Trip to Bering Sea

1. Purposes of the Trip

- (1) To tag halibut of legal size (66 cm and larger) in Bering Sea.
- (2) To collect length frequency data on halibut in catch.
- (3) To collect viability data.
- (4) To collect information on nature of catches (by species and weights) in each location fished.
- (5) To collect sex and otolith samples from dead halibut unsuitable for tagging.

2. Catch Records

Using the haul sheets, record:

- (1) Date.
- (2) Haul number.
- (3) Exact geographic location.
- (4) Depth of haul or set net.
- (5) Total weight of each species.
- (6) Number of halibut (tagged + dead retained + undersized discarded).

All of these data (except #6 may be kept by Mr. King and you may be able to secure it from him at your leisure, after you have taken care of the halibut.

3. Tagging

- (1) Place halibut in livebox as soon as brought on deck.
- (2) Mark those in good condition, using small tags for those below 80 cm. Do not tag many undersized fish and not far below the 66 cm size limit.
- (3) Record on tagging sheets:
 - (a) Date
 - (b) Haul Number
 - (c) Tag numbers
 - (d) Lengths of fish
 - (e) Whether released fish swims away.
- (4) Make stroke tallies of marked fish (as time permits) for calculating the weight of tagged fish.
- (5) On way into port use above stroke tallies and length-weight table to compute weight of tagged fish at each length. Add those together (excluding those below 66 cm) and take 86.24 per cent of this weight to correct for removal of heads (12%) and slime (2%).

4. Dead Fish and Undersized

- (1) Measure all dead fish including undersized, record them by hauls if possible and at least by groups of hauls in separate locations. If large catches of dead fish are taken, it may be necessary to record them as a stroke tally instead of individually.
- (2) Take otoliths from as many of these as possible, storing those from each fish in a separate envelope with a record of length and sex on outside. Number the otoliths consecutively, marking the first and last envelope of the haul or location for identification.
- (3) Measure and return live undersized fish (below 66 cm) to the water if you have a sufficient number of undersized dead to give a good sample of otoliths and sexes. Observe and record whether these swim away or not.

5. Reporting

Wire summary of results weekly or possibly oftener if have anything of particular interest to report - to International Fisheries Commission.

Send any wires via Alaska Communication as government message - no charge for them.

Things of interest - number of hauls and sets . Send approximate location since last report; number of halibut caught; number tagged; if mostly undersized. Any difficulties.