

# **ADVISORY**

## ***Canada's Pacific Halibut Fishery Signs Up to MSC***

THE COMMERCIAL HALIBUT FISHERY OFF THE WEST COAST OF CANADA HAS OFFICIALLY JOINED THE MSC EVALUATION PROJECT FOR NORTH PACIFIC HALIBUT.

Scientific Certification Systems Inc. (SCS) is pleased to announce that the Pacific Halibut Management Association has contracted to have Canada's Pacific Halibut fishery undergo a full Marine Stewardship Council assessment process. SCS will conduct this evaluation in parallel with the Alaska halibut evaluation and assess the fishery against the MSC's Standard for sustainable and well-managed fisheries.

The Pacific Halibut Management Association represents almost 90% of the 435 licensed halibut license holders in Canada. The fishing is mainly conducted with longline operations using vessels that range from 35 - 80 feet. The fishery is open almost 9 months of the year with an average annual catch from 1983 - 2002 of around 10 million pounds (11.75 million lbs in 2003). In 2001 the export value of the catch was \$72 million, with 95% of it exported to markets in the United States..

The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) manages the Canadian Halibut fishery through an international convention between Canada and the United States. After the IPHC sets annual harvest limits, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for managing the halibut in Canadian waters.

All communications regarding this project, including recommendations for qualified experts, should be directed to Dr. Chet Chaffee, Scientific Certification Systems at:

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