



## **Atlantic Halibut**

Atlantic, common or white halibut are one of the largest of the flatfish. They live on the ocean bottom in varied depths of water and take on protective coloration to match the sand, mud or gravel where they are sitting on the bottom. When they move to a different area, like a chameleon, they change their color to match that of their new area. This species is slow growing and late to mature making it vulnerable to over-fishing.

### Where they live

Atlantic halibut are found in the North Atlantic Ocean. In the eastern Atlantic, they occur from the Barents Sea in northern Europe to the Bay of Biscay off France, and around Iceland. In the western Atlantic, they range from Greenland and Labrador to Virginia.

### How they're caught

Halibut is caught using a variety of destructive fishing methods including bottom trawling, gill netting and longlining, all of which are associated with high bycatch including marine mammals.

### Why they're in trouble

Atlantic Halibut in U.S. and Canadian waters crashed in the 20th century due to overfishing and remain depleted today. Atlantic halibut is now listed as Endangered by the IUCN.

There is no directed commercial fishery for Atlantic Halibut in the U.S. Although, they are still caught as bycatch in other fisheries. Atlantic halibut sold in the U.S. market are primarily from Canada, the Russian Federation, Iceland and Norway.