

## **British Columbia Individual Quota Hook and Line Pilot Program**

In April 2006, the Hook and Line fisheries were incorporated into the three-year Pilot British Columbia Integrated Groundfish Fisheries Individual Quota Program in order to fully integrate all sectors of the groundfish fishery and better meet conservation goals. The Integrated Groundfish Fisheries include the Groundfish Trawl Individual Quota (IQ), Halibut IQ, Sablefish IQ, Hook and Line Rockfish, Lingcod, and dogfish fisheries.

The Hook and Line fisheries consist of 263 vessels that range in length from 10 to 30 feet. Landed fish are marketed as live, frozen, and fresh. An initial allocation was made to the Hook and Line fleet in 2006 and consisted of equal allocations of five rockfish species. The remainder of species caught (other rockfish species, dogfish, lingcod, halibut, and other groundfish species) are subject to monthly trip limits, do not have any regulations applied to them, or need to be covered by the individual quota holder through purchase of individual species quota. While temporary transfers can be made, at this time no permanent transfers of quota holdings are allowed by Hook and Line fishery IQ owners.

The Hook and Line vessels are required to retain 100% of all rockfish species and are required to have all trips taped with video monitoring equipment. This includes the use of two cameras. The video monitoring allows surveillance of all fish brought onboard the vessel, measurement of species with size limits, and observation of all discarded species. This information is used to ensure the accuracy of logbooks through a 10% audit policy. In this way, the system fully accounts for catch. The program also has 100% dockside landing observation conducted by certified contractors by the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Like other groundfish fisheries in British Columbia, the Hook and Line fishery has carryover allowances that allow fishermen to catch a certain percentage more than their quota holdings and subtract that overage from the following year's annual pounds allocation. The fishermen are also allowed to catch less than their quota holdings by a certain amount and to have that amount added to the following year's annual pounds allocation. The amounts allowed for underages and overages vary by fisherman and by species. In addition, these amounts can change from year to year.

Rules and fees apply to fishermen exceeding the overage allowances. If an IVQ *holdings* overage allowance is exceeded, that vessel cannot fish until a quota transfer is made to cover the overage. If an IVQ *species* overage is exceeded, the vessel is not allowed to fish for the rest of the season. If an overage exceedance is not covered, the amount of the exceedance is subtracted from the following year's quota *twice*. Therefore, there is a strong incentive to avoid going beyond the overage allowance. In this way, the sector's portion of the total allowable catch is more likely to be adhered to.