Rapid stock status summary

Exploratory personal project. Not an official assessment.

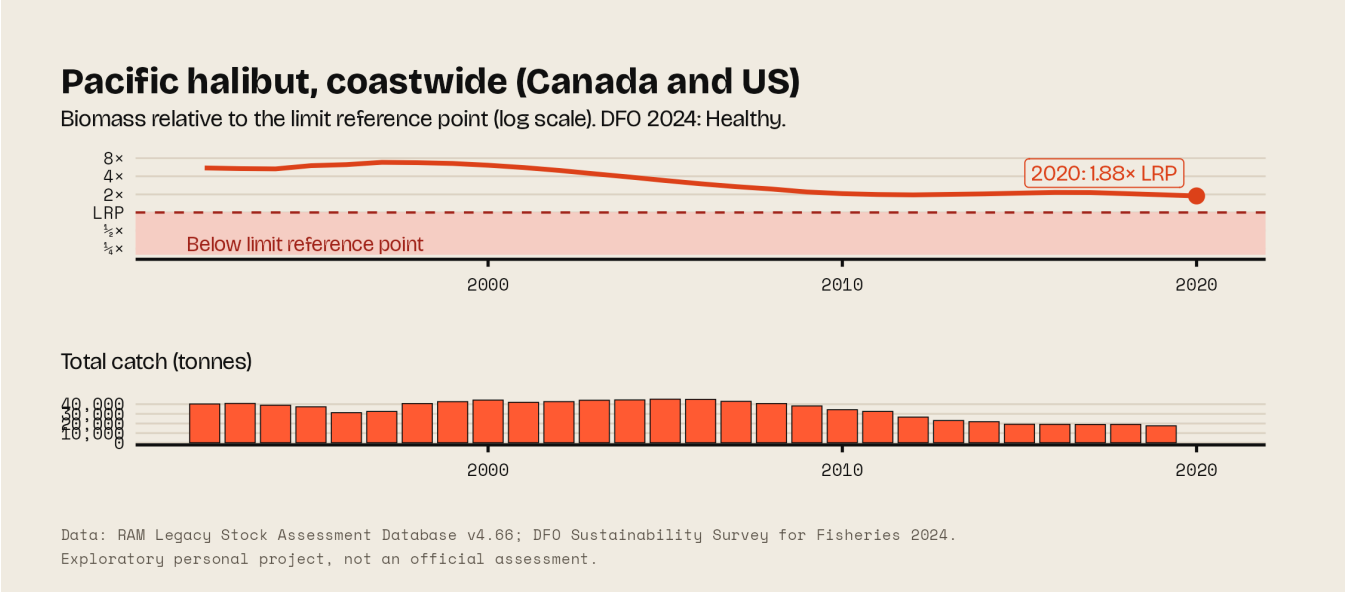
Emma Branch. Generated 24 November 2026 from open data.

> **Note**
>
> This summary was generated automatically by an exploratory personal project. It does not reproduce DFO's methods or any seafood recommendation program, and it makes no recommendations.

Pacific halibut, coastwide (Canada and US)

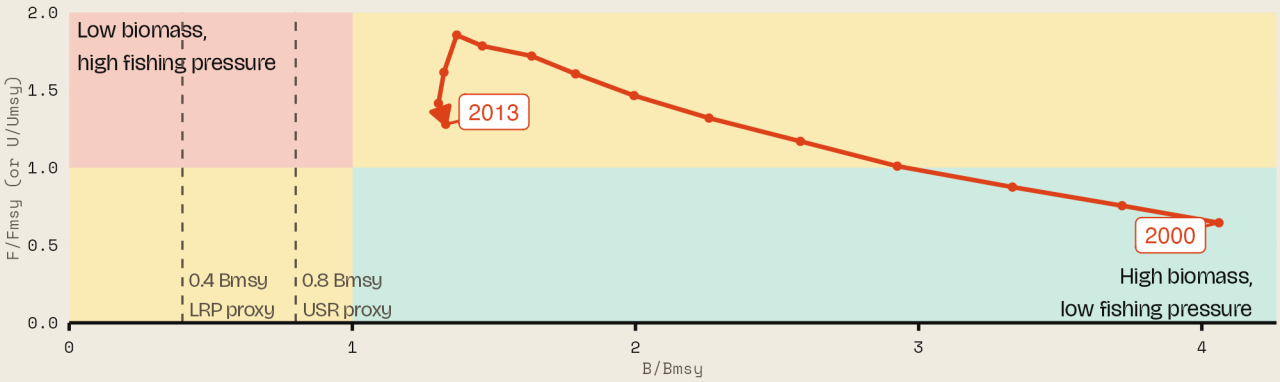
DFO's 2024 Sustainability Survey for Fisheries places this stock in the **Healthy** zone (method recorded: scientific peer review process). In 2020, the last year of the assessment series in RAM Legacy, estimated biomass was 1.88 times the limit reference point used in this project, which is above the limit. Between 1992 and 2020, biomass was below the limit in 0 of 29 years. The lowest value was 1.88 times the limit, in 2020.

Item	Detail
Species	Pacific halibut
DFO 2024 status zone	Healthy
Data tier	A: Biomass and fishing pressure relative to MSY
Latest biomass / limit	1.88× (2020)
Assessment years	1992-2020
Managed by	DFO, co-managed with United States of America via the International Pacific Halibut Commission
Management plan	Pacific Integrated Fisheries Management Plan - GROUNDFISH - Effective Feb 21, 2024 - Feb 20, 2025 (Current Pacific Integrated Fisheries Management plan - GROUNDFISH - Effective Feb 21, 2025 - Feb 20, 2026)



Kobe plot

Biomass and fishing pressure relative to MSY levels. The arrow points to the latest year.



Data: RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database v4.66; DFO Sustainability Survey for Fisheries 2024.
Exploratory personal project, not an official assessment.

Management context

- **Limit reference point, as described by DFO:** LRP set at 0.2 of the equilibrium un-fished female spawning biomass (SB20). At the end of 2023, SB was estimated to be 174,000,000 net lbs. From this, SB20 = 34,800,000 net lbs.
- **Upper stock reference, as described by DFO:** USR set at 0.3 of the equilibrium un-fished female spawning biomass (SB30). At the end of 2023, SB was estimated to be 174,000,000 net lbs. From this, SB30 = 52,200,000 net lbs.
- **Limit used for this project's indicator:** SSBlim from RAM (IPHC limit; the 2024 survey describes the LRP as 0.2 x unfished female spawning biomass)
- **Management plan:** Pacific Integrated Fisheries Management Plan - GROUNDFISH - Effective Feb 21, 2024 - Feb 20, 2025 (Current Pacific Integrated Fisheries Management plan - GROUNDFISH - Effective Feb 21, 2025 - Feb 20, 2026)
- **Managed by:** DFO, co-managed with United States of America via the International Pacific Halibut Commission

Science documents cited by DFO in the 2024 survey: https://www.iphc.int/uploads/2023/12/IPHC-2024-AM100-10-Data-overview-and-stock-assessment.pdf; https://www.iphc.int/uploads/2023/12/IPHC-2024-AM100-12-Projections-and-harvest-decision-table.pdf

Data gaps and uncertainty

- Time series ends in 2020; the DFO zone is from the 2024 survey.
- Fishing-pressure ratio available only to 2013.
- Limit reference point taken or derived from RAM Legacy; DFO's current value may differ.

Status is based on model estimates of biomass and fishing pressure relative to MSY. These estimates carry statistical uncertainty that is not shown here; the published assessment reports it.

Sources

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Sustainability Survey for Fisheries, 2024 results (Open Government Licence, Canada). RAM Legacy Stock Assessment Database v4.66, assessment-only (Zenodo, 2024); Ricard, D., Minto, C., Jensen, O.P. and Baum, J.K. (2012), Fish and Fisheries 13(4): 380 to 398. Code and data dictionary: github.com/emmabranch/bc-fish-stock-status.