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Bleeding and Storage of Fluke (Paralichthys dentatus)

Virginia Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program

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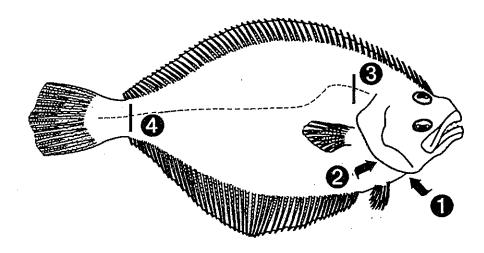
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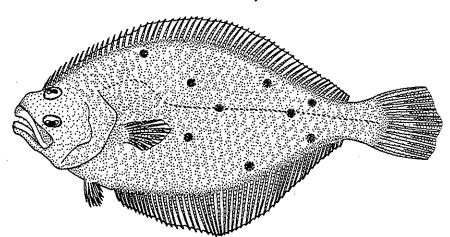
Bleeding and Storage of Fluke (Paralichthys dentatus)

- Bleed live fluke as soon as they are landed. Use two of the four cuts illustrated on the right and listed below:
 - sever the throat (the area under the gills);
 - 2 slash one or more of the gills;
 - 3 make incision across lateral line just above gill cover on the white side of the fish;
 - 4 make incision just forward of tail fin on white side of fish, only deep enough to sever major artery lying just below spine.



Cuts should be agreed upon by the buyer prior to initiation of a trip. Knives used for cutting should always be kept clean and sanitized between each haul back.

- Live, cut fluke should be placed in a large holding container filled with seawater and ice (5:1) for up to 6 hours to facilitate bleeding. Maintain a constant exchange of seawater within the container, or change the water every 1 to 1.5 hours.
- Rinse bled fluke with fresh seawater and gently transfer to ice hold. These fish should be iced within their own bin or container. Do not stow bled fluke with other catch.



- Fluke should be placed on a flat bed of ice, white side up, then completely surrounded with clean ice. The practice of boxing or short-shelving is recommended.
- ➡ Bled fluke should not be disturbed during stowage period and should be handled gently during offloading.



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