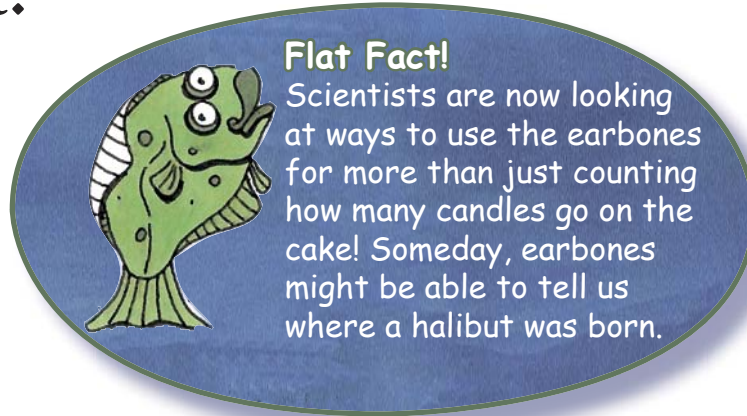


How Old Do Halibut Get?

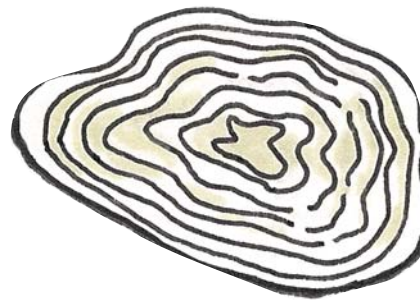
You now know how big halibut can grow. So you may have guessed already, that they can get pretty old too.



The oldest halibut on record — both females and males — are 55 years old. That means those fish are probably older than your parents and maybe even as old as your grandparents!

Can scientists tell how old a halibut is just by looking at it?

Well, not exactly, but close. All fish have earbones, called otoliths. Halibut otoliths are about the size of a small coin, and grow one ring each year, like a tree. Biologists can look at the earbones under a microscope, count the rings, and determine the age of the fish.



This is a drawing of a halibut otolith. Can you tell how old this halibut is? Look below for the answer.

Answer: 8 years old

