

Pan-Seared Marinated Halibut Fillets

By Alex Witchel

YIELD 4 servings

TIME 20 minutes

INGREDIENTS

6 tablespoons olive oil
3 small garlic cloves, peeled and minced
1 teaspoon dried basil
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons lemon juice
4 6-ounce halibut fillets, skin removed
1 tablespoon light olive oil or vegetable oil
Chopped parsley, for garnish, optional

PREPARATION

Step 1

In a large sealable plastic bag, combine the 6 tablespoons olive oil, garlic, basil, salt, pepper and lemon juice. Add fish, seal bag, and turn to coat. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes or up to 2 hours.

Step 2

In a large flat skillet (do not use a ridged pan), pour light olive oil or vegetable oil, tilting pan to spread evenly. Warm over high heat until smoking, then add fish fillets. Brush top and sides with marinade. Cook until seared, about 3 minutes; turn and sear other side, about 3 more minutes. Brush top and sides with marinade again. Reduce heat to medium. Cook until centers of fillets are just opaque, 2 to 4 minutes more on each side depending on thickness, brushing with marinade as before. Garnish with parsley, if desired, and serve.

PRIVATE NOTES

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Adapted from “James Beard’s Theory and Practice of Good Cooking” (Alfred A. Knopf, 1977)