

THE ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE  
2015 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND REGULATIONS

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) has reviewed the documents associated with Agenda Item G.1, Pacific Halibut Regulations and has the following comments.

Regarding the Nearshore Fishery within the Columbia River Subarea, the EC reiterates our previous September statement:

Washington and Oregon share the Columbia River Subarea with recreational anglers fishing both sides of the state line and landing at ports in both states. Many of the regulations are aligned between states allowing for consistent enforcement.

Currently, Oregon and Washington allow retention of Pacific Halibut during recreational nearshore bottomfish fisheries during days open to the nearshore fishery. Both states also have all depth directed Pacific Halibut fisheries four days a week during which only sablefish, Pacific Cod, and most other offshore pelagic species are allowed to be retained while Pacific Halibut are onboard. This management scheme has been suitable for enforcement of regulations both at sea and dockside.

Presently, nearshore regulations allow for retention of Pacific Halibut from Monday through Wednesday. A proposed change in the WDFW report would expand retention of Pacific Halibut during the nearshore fishery to Monday through Friday creating two days of overlap between nearshore and all depth fisheries.

An option under WDFW Supplemental Report #3 offers that the nearshore fishery allow Pacific Halibut retention Monday through Friday, including overlap on Thursday and Friday, for only the month of June.

**Recommendation:**

The EC recommends the Status Quo, where the nearshore fishery is open on days not open for the all-depth fishery, currently Monday through Wednesday.

Per the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife option, allowing for retention of Pacific Halibut Monday through Friday, creating the Thursday and Friday overlap, only during the month of June, complicates regulations and in turn affects the ability to consistently enforce regulations both at sea and dockside.

Additionally, the EC recommends uniform regulations between Washington and Oregon, relating to the days of the week open to retention, as inconsistency could further complicate enforcement and angler understanding/compliance.