



**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

2000 WASHINGTON COASTAL SELECTIVE SALMON FISHERY

The following report is a synopsis of enforcement activities by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Officers, for the coastal selective salmon fishery. Enforcement presence in the four salmon management areas was accomplished by vessel, dock patrols, special investigations, and joint operations with Oregon State Police, National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Coast Guard and Canada Oceans and Fisheries.

Developing compliance rate estimations for fish and wildlife violations are difficult. When compliance is estimated by comparing the number of contacts to violations discovered by WDFW officers, the data can be confounded by having a uniformed officer present. Users who are violating fish and wildlife laws change their behavior when an officer is present. Often the contact- to -violation percentage is a reflection of the effectiveness of the officer at discovering a violation.

Efforts to apprehend intentional violators resulted in some notable cases and severe penalties. For example, three individuals each faced \$1,596 in criminal fines after they were cited for fishing violations. An at-sea boarding revealed the possession of 11 unmarked coho salmon, one undersized chinook and evidence that barbed hooks were being used. The suspect vessel was seized and eventually released after the operator paid \$2,500 in separate civil penalties. In other instances, people were caught attempting to sneak over limits of salmon out of town. Close inspections of catches this season also revealed that some anglers had mutilated coho salmon in an effort to pass them off as marked fish .

The WDFW Enforcement Program elevated the coastal salmon season to a priority issue. Officers worked in concert with other enforcement entities and assigned WDFW officers from other areas of the state to achieve a visible presence throughout the peak of the season. WDFW Officers enjoy an excellent working relationship with fish management personnel and again relied heavily on their input this year in order to be in the right place at the right time. The results are summarized by catch area on the following pages.

Area One (Ilwaco, WA):

Enforcement Hours:

Docks -	133
Vessel -	114
Investigative -	3
Interagency -	<u>1</u>
Total -	251 hours

Contacts: 1,077 total

Violations:

License (no license / fail to record salmon catch) - 36 warnings; 19 citations.

Gear (more than one line / barbed hook) - 8 warnings; 4 citations.

Unmarked coho possession - 1 warning; 12 citations.

Overlimit salmon - 1 warning; 2 citations.

Season / area (conservation zone closure / closed day / closed season) - 31 warnings; 23 citations.

Boater safety (gear / registrations) - 2 citations; 37 vessel safety inspections.

No limited entry charter license - 2 citations.

Other offenses (shellfish/ bottom fish limits / warrants/ narcotics) - 3 warning; 15 citations.

Total Warnings: 80

Total Citations: 79

Estimated compliance with salmon rules was 87.3 %.*

The estimated compliance for possessing unmarked coho was approximately 98.8% .**

Season/ area violations, primarily vessels fishing in the control zone, accounted for 39 % of the total salmon rule violations compared to 81.5% in 1999***

1999 / 2000 comparison of unmarked coho release compliance: down by .5%.

Area Two (Westport, WA):

Enforcement hours:

Docks -	80
Vessel -	159
Investigative -	<u>06</u>
Total -	245

Contacts: 560 total

Violations:

License (no license / fail to record salmon catch) - 19 warnings; 6 citations.
Gear (more than one line / barbed hook/ fail to submit gear for inspect.) - 4 warnings, 2 citations.
Unmarked coho retention - 11 citations.
Season / area (conservation zone closure / closed day / closed season) - 4 warnings; 1 citation.
Overlimit salmon- 4 citations.
Boater safety (gear / registrations) - 0.
Other offenses (shellfish/ warrants/ narcotics) - 4 citations.

Total Warnings: 27
Total Citations: 28

The estimated compliance rate with salmon rules was 91 %*.
The estimated compliance rate for possessing unmarked coho was approximately 98.1%.**
1999 / 2000 comparison of unmarked coho release compliance: down by 1.4%.

Area Three (LaPush, WA):

Enforcement Hours:

Docks -	53
Vessel -	12
Interagency -	0
Investigative -	<u>03</u>
Total -	68

Contacts: 364 total

Violations:

License (no license / fail to record salmon catch) - 3 warnings; 2 citations.
Gear (more than one line / barbed hook/ fail to submit gear for inspect.) - 0.
Unmarked coho retention - 4 citations.
Retention of chinook - 1 citation.
Season / area (conservation zone closure / closed day / closed season) - 0.
Charter license violation - 1 warning.
General groundfish violations - 7 warnings; 2 citations.
Halibut closed season - 5 warnings.
Boater safety (gear / registrations) - 1 warning.
Other offenses (shellfish/ bottom fish limits / warrants/ narcotics) - 2 citations.

Total Warnings: 17

Total Citations: 11

The estimated compliance with salmon rules was 97 %.*

The compliance rate for possessing unmarked coho was approximately 99%.**

1999 / 2000 comparison of unmarked coho release compliance: down by .9%.

Area Four (Neah Bay, WA):

Enforcement Hours:

Docks -	161
Vessel -	341
Investigative -	<u>10</u>
Total -	512

Contacts: 866 total

Violations:

License (no license / fail to record salmon catch) - 19 warnings; 19 citations.

Gear (more than one line / barbed hook/ fail to submit gear for inspect.) - 19 warnings; 8 citations.

Wild coho retention - 2 warnings; 8 citations.

Possession of Canada caught salmon in violation of Port rules - 5 citations.

Season / area (conservation zone closure / closed day / closed season) - 2 warnings.

Boater safety (gear / registrations) - 10 warnings; 1 citation.

General groundfish - 12 citations.

Other offenses - 1 citation.

Total Warnings: 52

Total Citations: 54

The estimated compliance with salmon rules was 90.6%.*

The estimated compliance for possessing unmarked coho was 98.9%.**

1999 / 2000 comparison of unmarked coho release compliance: up by 3.5%.

* % compliance with salmon regulations = total salmon rule violations (license, gear, possession, season and area) / total contacts

** % compliance for possession of unmarked coho = total unmarked fish violations / total contacts

*** % of salmon violations in Control Zone = area, season violations / total salmon rule violations