

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM
STATEWIDE MARINE PATROL DIVISION**

2003 WASHINGTON SELECTIVE SALMON FISHERY

The following report is a synopsis of enforcement activities by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officers, for the 2003 Selective Coho Salmon Fishery. Officers from Marine Stations, along with officers from other parts of the State, were utilized to meet enforcement commitments. An early and aggressive patrol presence to address compliance issues had a bearing on our successes in ensuring an orderly fishery. Support by District Court Judges and widely advertised violation penalties also added deterrence from circumventing regulations.

Developing compliance rate estimations for fish and wildlife violations are difficult. Uniformed presence on the water or at the dock provides visible deterrence to violations, thereby altering the behavior of those who may violate natural resource laws. In some instances, the contact to violation ratio may be merely a reflection of the effectiveness of the individual officer at discovering a violation. Therefore, estimated compliance rates compiled from uniformed enforcement activity may not be an accurate measure of actual compliance, but rather, serves best as an index when comparing one area to another, or one season to the next.

The average for estimated compliance with the wild coho release rule in the four Coastal Salmon Management Catch Areas (SMCA) was 98.7%. The average for compliance with overall salmon rules was 94.8%, compared to 90.9% in 2002, for these same areas.

SMCA AREA ONE AND TWO SUMMARY

The Columbia River / South Coast Marine Detachment is directly responsible for planning patrols for these SMCA's. The season started slowly, with catch rates low enough to allow for the expansion of a five day per week fishery to seven days per week. This put more demand on enforcement to cover the extra days. The presence of pink salmon complicated fish identification for some people, and undersized Chinook and unmarked Coho Salmon were sometimes mistaken for this species. Also, Buoy 10, a terminal fishery that exists at the mouth of the Columbia River, had a more liberal limit for Coho Salmon at the same time that the SMCA One fishery was underway. This resulted in some anglers exceeding ocean limits with the intent of claiming the extra fish as Columbia River caught. This fish laundering is difficult to detect and is believed to be extensive.

AREA ONE (Ilwaco, WA):

Enforcement Hours:

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|----------|------------------|
| Docks - | 390 |
| Vessel - | <u>89</u> |
| Total - | 479 hours |

Contacts: **1801 total**

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|--------------|---|--------|----|----------|----|-------|----|
| LIC VIO | | Arrest | 19 | Warnings | 43 | Total | 62 |
| GEAR VIO | A | | 2 | W | | 4 | 6 |
| OVERLIMIT | A | | 10 | W | | 4 | 14 |
| WILD COHO | A | | 18 | W | | 0 | 18 |
| CHINOOK | A | | 6 | W | | 1 | 7 |
| AREA /SEASON | A | | 9 | W | | 7 | 16 |
| GRND FISH | A | | 0 | W | | 0 | 0 |
| BOAT SAFE | A | | 4 | W | | 4 | 8 |
| OTHER | A | | 13 | W | | 4 | 17 |

Total Citations: 81
Total Warnings: 67

Estimated compliance regarding overall salmon rules was 93.2 %*

Estimated compliance regarding the possession of wild Coho was 99 %**

AREA TWO
(Westport, WA.):

Enforcement Hours:

Docks - 233
Vessel - 201
Investigative - 24
Total - **438 hours**

Contacts: 2164 total

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|--------------|--------|----|----------|----|-------|-----|
| LIC VIO | Arrest | 14 | Warnings | 90 | Total | 104 |
| GEAR VIO | A | 6 | W | 12 | T | 18 |
| OVERLIMIT | A | 5 | W | 3 | T | 8 |
| WILD COHO | A | 27 | W | 0 | T | 27 |
| CHINOOK | A | 18 | W | 2 | T | 20 |
| AREA /SEASON | A | 5 | W | 5 | T | 10 |
| GRND FISH | A | 2 | W | 2 | T | 4 |
| BOAT SAFE | A | 2 | W | 3 | T | 5 |
| WARRANT | A | 0 | W | 1 | T | 1 |
| OTHER | A | 30 | W | 33 | T | 66 |

Total Citations: 109
Total Warnings: 151

Estimated compliance regarding overall salmon rules was 97%.*
Estimated compliance regarding the possession of wild Coho was 98.7%**

SMCA AREA THREE AND FOUR SUMMARY

The North Coast / Strait Marine Detachment has primary responsibility for patrolling these SMCA's. The development of a selective Chinook Salmon fishery inland necessitated a shift in patrol commitment. The reallocation of time was also based on noticeable declining angler participation in these two fisheries.

AREA THREE
(LaPush, WA.):

Enforcement Hours:

Docks - 18
 Vessel 4
 Total - 22 hours

Contacts: 129total

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|--------------|--------|---|----------|---|-------|---|
| LIC VIO | Arrest | 1 | Warnings | 0 | Total | 1 |
| GEAR VIO | A | 0 | W | 0 | T | 0 |
| OVERLIMIT | A | 0 | W | 0 | T | 0 |
| WILD COHO | A | | W | 0 | T | 1 |
| CHINOOK | A | 2 | W | 0 | T | 2 |
| AREA /SEASON | A | 0 | W | 1 | T | 1 |
| BOAT SAFE | A | 1 | W | 0 | T | 1 |

Total Citations: 5
Total Warnings: 1

Estimated compliance regarding overall salmon rules was 96.2%*
 The estimated compliance regarding the possession of wild coho was 99.3 **

AREA FOUR
(Neah Bay, WA.):

Enforcement Hours:

Docks - 31
Vessel - 122
Interagency - 8

Total - **161 hours**

Contacts: 518 total

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|--------------|--------|----|----------|---|-------|----|
| LIC VIO | Arrest | 11 | Warnings | 9 | Total | 20 |
| GEAR VIO | A | 15 | W | 1 | T | 16 |
| OVERLIMIT | A | 0 | W | 0 | T | 0 |
| WILD COHO | A | 6 | W | 0 | T | 6 |
| CHINOOK | A | 0 | W | 0 | T | 0 |
| AREA /SEASON | A | 2 | W | 0 | T | 2 |
| BOAT SAFE | A | 2 | W | 3 | T | 5 |
| OTHER | A | 1 | W | 0 | T | 1 |

Total Citations: 37
Total Warnings: 13

Estimated compliance regarding overall salmon rules was 91.5%*.
The estimated compliance regarding the possession of wild Coho was 98.8%**

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

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