CURRENT ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

State enforcement representatives on the Council Enforcement Consultants—Lt. David Anderson (Oregon State Police), Deputy Chief Mike Cenci (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Captain Robert Farrell (California Department of Fish and Game)—will provide a tri-state report that will include a review of recent joint efforts.

Council Task:

Discussion.

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item B.1.b, Washington Enforcement Report, Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) 2012-2013 Final Report.

Agenda Order:

a. Agenda Item Overview

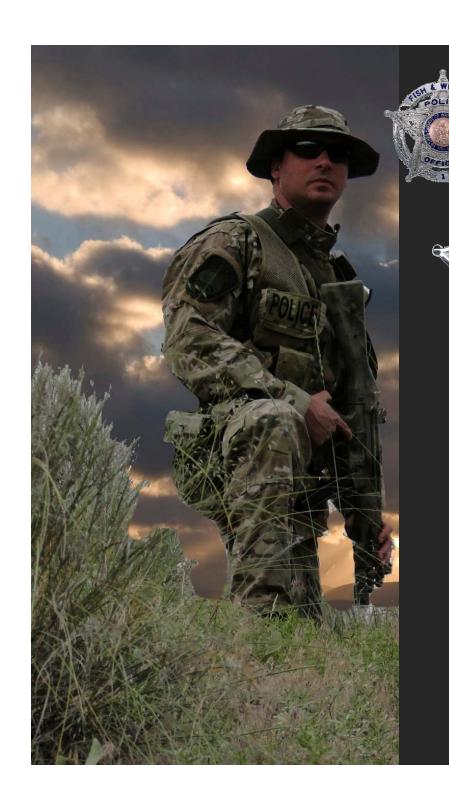
Jim Seger

b. Tri-State Enforcement Report

Mike Cenci, David Anderson, and Bob Farrell

- c. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- d. Public Comment
- e. Council Action: Discussion and Guidance, as Needed

PFMC 08/22/12



Forces of Nature 2012 **Achievements**

WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Oregon State Patrol
CA Dept. of Fish & Game

http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/careers/

Who Are We?

- General authority police agencies
- Statewide jurisdiction
- Focus is on natural resource protection
- Highly trained
- 600 community based uniformed officers
- Investigative units
- Special Operation Groups
- Enforce federal regulations adopted through state law incorporation

Joint Enforcement Agreement

- The Magnuson Stevens Management and Conservation Act authorized NOAA to enter into Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEAs) with participating states marine enforcement agencies
- JEAs provide the authority for the states to enforce federal fishery management regulations and to receive funding for such efforts



JEA History

- 30-Year working relationship with NOAA as ex officio NOAA agents
- NOAA Law Enforcement commissions
- A uniformed patrol arm of NOAA OLE, state officers provide a presence in areas of federal fishery protection interests

Vessel Assets

Patrol vessels are deployed throughout the west coast states where a federal fisheries nexus exists, ranging in size and purpose (offshore, near-shore, and river boats)

- WDFW 67 vessels, the Corliss is the largest at 56'
- OSP 47 vessels, the Guardian is the largest at 50'
- CADFG 126 vessels, the largest is the Blue Fin at 65'



West Coast Federal Fisheries Enforcement Model

Pacific Fishery Management Council

Enforcement Consulting Committee

State F&W Agencies

NOAA

USCG

JEA

JEA Priorities

Washington

Endangered Species
Groundfish
WOC Salmon
North Pacific Halibut
International Fisheries
Marine Mammals
Marine Sanctuaries

Oregon

Groundfish/HMS
Halibut
Endangered Species
International Fisheries
Marine Mammals

California

Groundfish
Salmon/Steelhead
Marine Sanctuaries

West Coast Enforcement Data

JEA 2010 west coast enforcement data summary

Hours:

Dockside Hours: 20,0937

• At-Sea Personnel: 9,655

• Air-Personnel: 93

Enforcement Actions:

• Warnings: **3,197**

• Citations: **2,102**

Custodial Arrests: 28

• Referrals: 47

Contacts:

• Commercial Contacts: 7,170

• Recreational Contacts: **48,007**

ESA Salmon/Steelhead (gravel to gravel protection)

Land Area Affected by Endangered Species Act Listings of Salmon & Steelhead

- * 28 distinct population segments: 5 endangered, 23 threatened
- * 176,000 sq. miles in Washington, Oregon, Idaho & California
- * 61% of Washington's land area, 55% of Oregon's, 26% of Idaho's, & 32% of California's







ESA (juvenile out-migrations)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjC_plVqefE



Endangered Species Act

(Brood Stock Protection)



Other ESA Species





ESA Enforcement Data

(West Coast Enforcement Actions for JEA 2010)

Contacts:

■Commercial: 974

Recreational: 24,035

Enforcement Actions:

■ Warnings: 1,471

Citations: 1,193

Custodial Arrests: 12

Referrals: 16



Illegal Undocumented or Unreported fish or shellfish

Two approaches to enforcement:

- On the water
- Market place/shipper inspections









2012 Tri-State Emphasis (IUU)

- All three WC States participated, along with NOAA
 OLE NW and SW Divisions
- Wholesale inspections
- Retail inspections
- Interstate and international shippers







Mislabeling/Misbranding

http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist =false&id=141603845&m=141641331



IUU Enforcement Data

(West Coast Enforcement Actions for JEA 2010)

Contacts:

■ Commercial: 922

■ Recreational: 397

Enforcement Actions:

■ Warnings: 42

• Citations: 26

Referrals: 2



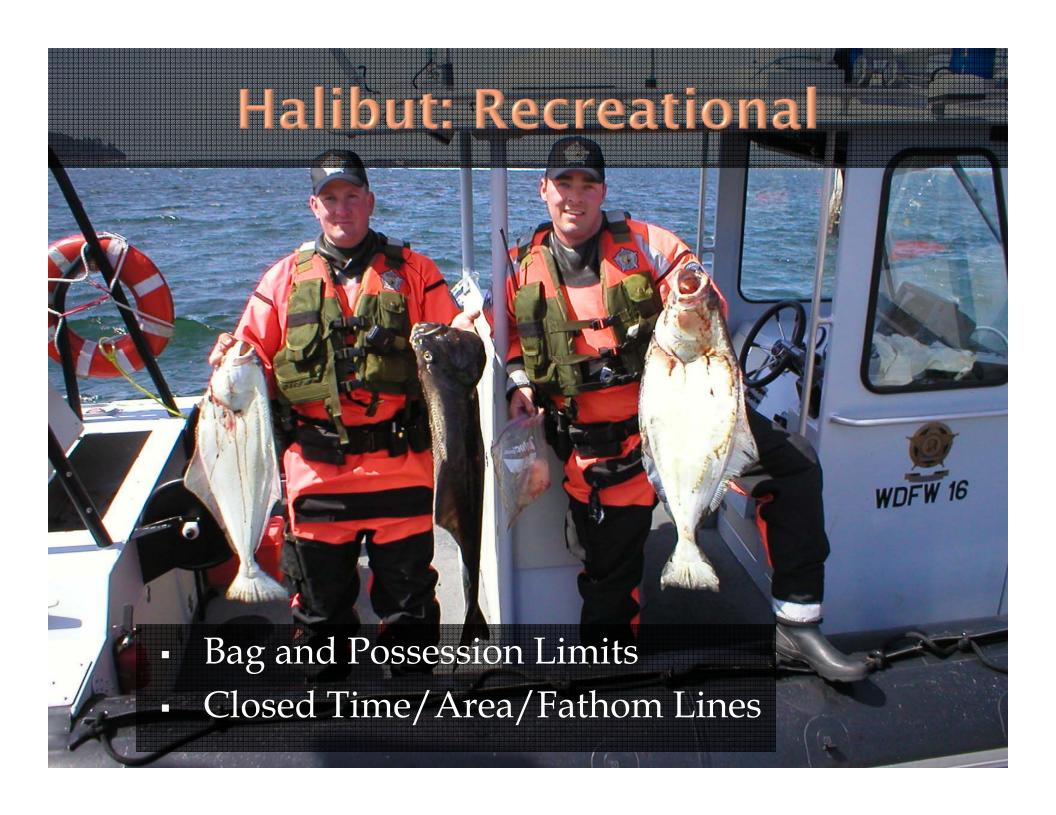




Halibut: Commercial

- Possession violations (season/size/ratio limits)
- Exceeding vessel limits
- Fishing closed areas
- Catch accounting





Halibut Enforcement Data (WA and OR data for JEA 2010)

Contacts:

■ Commercial: 1,033

■ Recreational: 1,079

Enforcement Actions:

■ Warnings: 141

Citations: 51



WOC Groundfish: Commercial

- RCA Enforcement
- Catch Accounting
- Open Access Limits
- Gear
- Catch Shares







WOC Groundfish: Recreational

- Bag Limits
- Area Closures/RCA's
- Season







Groundfish Enforcement Data

(West Coast Enforcement Actions for JEA 2010)

Contacts:

■ Commercial: 3,621

Recreational: 17,870

Enforcement Actions:

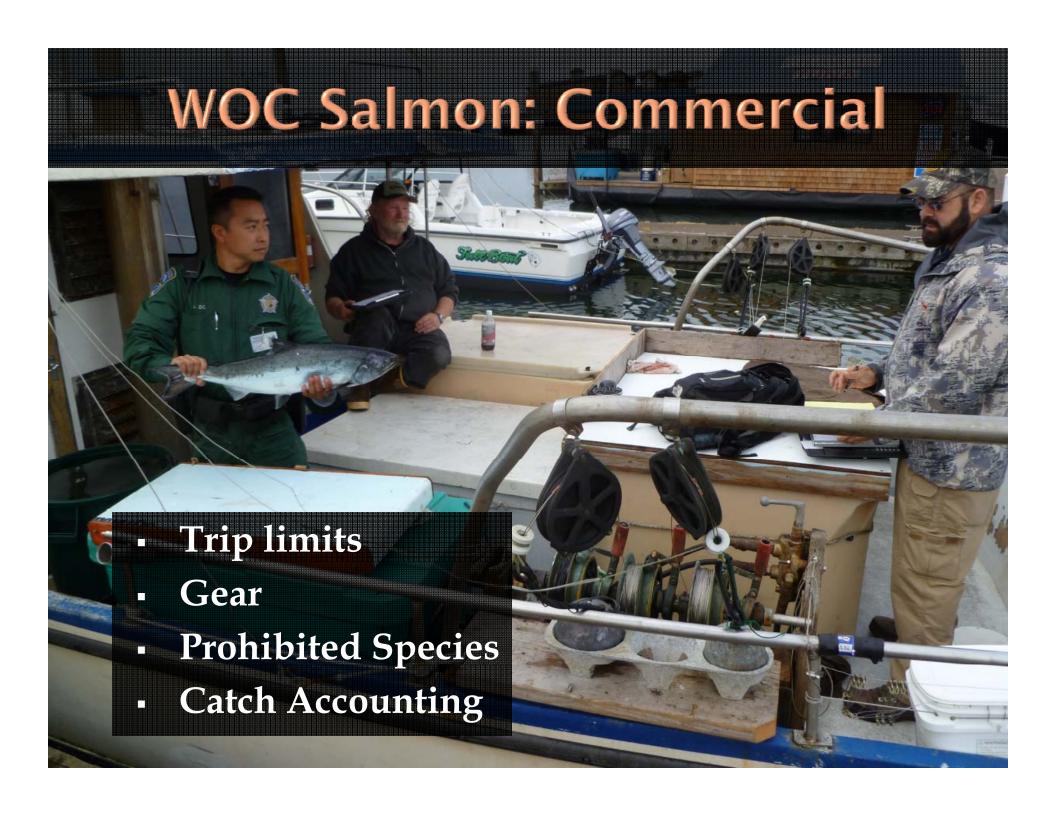
■ Warnings: 1,231

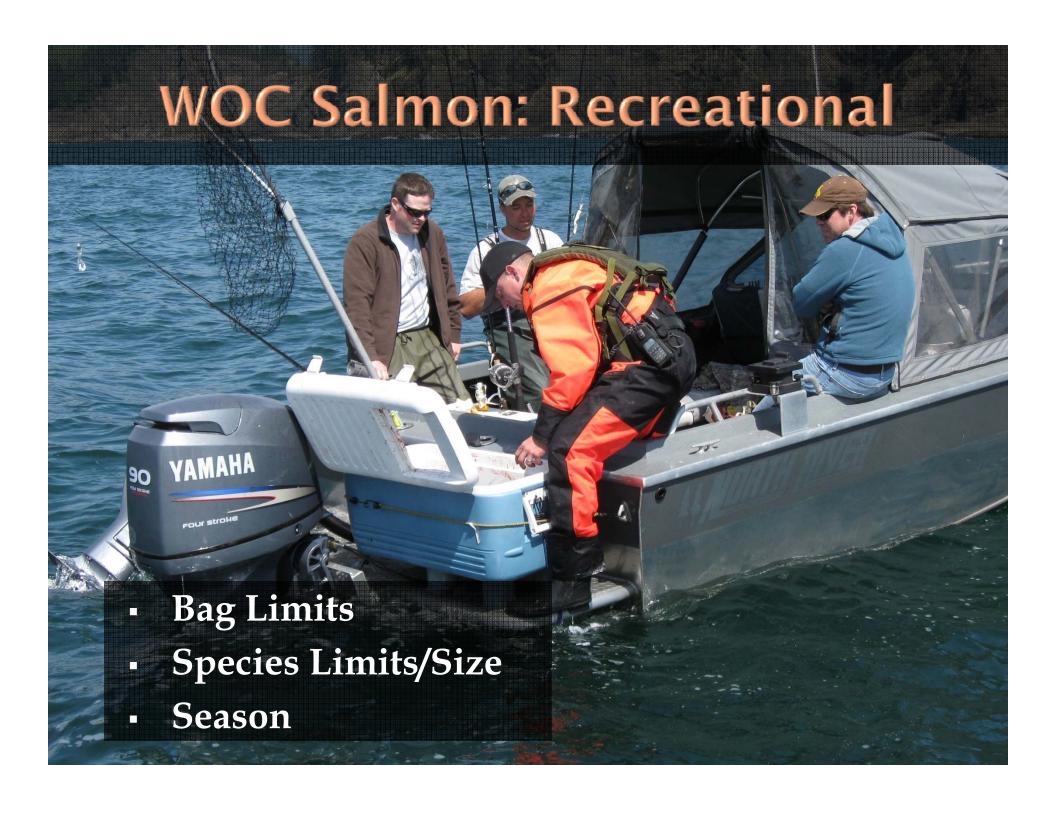
■ Citations: 531

Arrests: 5

Referrals: 17







Coastal Salmon Enforcement Data

(WA Enforcement Actions for JEA 2010)

Contacts:

■ Commercial: 501

■ Recreational: 5,058

Enforcement Actions:

■Warnings: 377

■ Citations: 319

Custodial Arrests: 11

■ Referrals: 12





Marine Mammal Enforcement Data

(West Coast Enforcement Actions for JEA 2010)

Contacts:

Recreational: 222

Enforcement Actions:

Warnings: 9

• Citations: 13





Marine Sanctuaries

Contacts:

■ Commercial: 73

■ Recreational: 155

Enforcement Actions:

Warnings: 21

■ Citations: 10



Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary





Agenda Item B.1.b Washington Enforcement Report September 2012

Cooperative Enforcement Program (CEP) agreement between:

WA Department of Fish & Wildlife - Police and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration - Office of Law Enforcement

Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) 2010-2012 Final Report











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ESA Salmon Habitat Violation



Southern Resident Killer Orca Whale Violation

JEA 2010-2012 Enforcement Action Highlights

ESA LISTED SPECIES PROTECTION

The State of Washington arguably supports an ecological diversity found nowhere else in the lower 48 States. However, resource conservation faces many local challenges. For instance, rapdly growing human populations compete with species that rely on declining or sensitive habitats. In some cases, species that are naturally slow to reach reproductive maturity haven't recovered from impacts of overfishing, marine conditions, or both. Marine waters provide habitat for 14 distinct population units of salmon, steel-head trout, and Puget Sound rockfish listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). A Northwest symbol is also in trouble. ESA listed Southern Resident Killer Whales struggle to survive in a climate of salmon run declines, marine pollution, and vessel harassment. Add to the list Eulachon (smelt) and Green Sturgeon.

Since many of Washington's marine resources travel through a variety of habitats and jurisdictions at some point in their life cycle, a comprehensive approach is necessary if true protection is to be achieved. Whether it's the networking effort with other natural resource protection agencies, or going beyond enforcing illegal take, the Washington Fish & Wildlife Police Officer is engaged at all levels.

Prosecuting Washington State fisheries in the face of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), managers have developed a number of strategies to provide access to healthy stocks while protecting weak stocks involving season structure, selective harvest, gear restrictions, and closed areas. The result is a very complex set of regulations. For Example, distinguishing between protected fish and hatchery fish is important if selective fishing can occur. This is accomplished by clipping adipose fins prior to release from the hatchery. Fisheries are then opened with special gear restrictions and mandatory wild fish release requirements. Sometimes wild salmon of a certain species can be retained, while others occupying the same waterway cannot. In areas closed to the retention of protected fish, the presence of an adipose fin is probable cause that unlawful ESA take occurred.

ESA Trafficking Hundreds of ESA listed species illegally harvested...



Fall Chinook spawning in a river bed.

Officer Cook concluded an investigation into a Burlington couple selling sport-caught salmon. The male half bragged about catching 982 salmon last year, most from the Skagit River when ESA listed salmon were present. The female half admitted they had caught over 450 salmon. Either way, they were major players who smoked their sport-caught fish and then sold them. Business cards had been distributed throughout the county. A search warrant served on the residence by Officers Lee, Ludwig, Lantiegne, Kirsch, and Sheriff Officer Peters yielded many pounds of illegal salmon, deer, trout, and a mounted bobcat without a tag. Charges are pending.

NOAA & WDFW Joint Investigation:

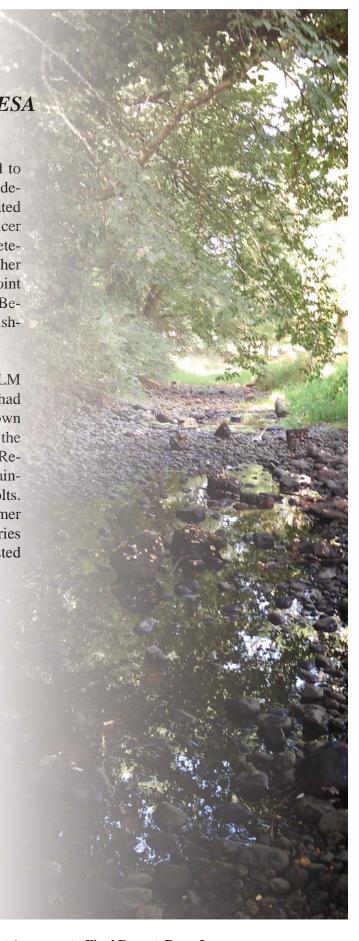
Habitat Destruction to creek that is home ESA Listed Species

On September 16, 2011 Officer Maschhoff responded to a complaint that Muck Creek, in Roy, WA, had been dewatered. The reporting party stated that as the water retreated hundreds of fish had become stranded. Once on scene, Officer Maschhoff found large stretches of creek that were completely dry with thousands of dead trout and other species. Further investigation revealed that a water control structure on Joint Base Lewis McCord (JBLM) had been recently closed. Because the stream contains ESA listed Steelhead, NOAA Fisheries was notified and a joint investigation began.

Agent Schneider and Officer Maschhoff interviewed JBLM and Pierce County officials and determine that the water had been "shut off" so that a bridge could be replaced in the town of Roy. Samples of the trout that were collected from the streambed were tested to determine their species origin. Results came back to show that approximately 10% of the Rainbow Trout smolts were in fact ESA listed Steelhead smolts. State charges are being finalized and will be filed this summer for violations of the State Hydraulic Code. NOAA Fisheries is also considering charges for unlawful take of an ESA listed species.



Stranded ESA listed Steelhead from creek diversion



Hidden ESA Listed Fish

fficers Anderson and Scherzinger provided enforcement presence during the ever popular Spring Chinook season on the Columbia River. The officers followed up on information given to Sergeant Chadwick about a man attempting to exceed the daily limit of Salmon. A citizen had stated that he had observed a man catch a salmon in the morning and the same man had returned in the afternoon to continue fishing in an effort to exceed limits. Officers located the suspect's camp and waited for him to return. When he arrived, he decided to lie and tell the officers he didn't catch anything. A Wild Spring Chinook was removed from the suspect's boat (only hatchery fish can be kept due to ESA listings).



Illegal Netter Gets Away

Agill net was set in the Columbia River above Bonneville Dam in broad daylight and during the closed season at a time when ESA species are present. Officers conducted surveillance into the wee hours the next day. The extremely tired Officers finally passed on the stake-out responsibility to a tribal officer, who essentially blew the many hour investment by parking a marked truck in the path of any approaching suspects. As you would anticipate, the suspects arrived, saw the heat, and fled. The case remains unresolved......as

Orca Whale Protection

Southern Resident Orca Whales are listed under the ESA as endangered. A group of whales from J-Pod was actively foraging near the Turn Pt area. A large group of whale watch vessels were in the area and following the 200 yard exclusion zone rules quite well. Unfortunately, a recreational vessel in the area decided it would be a good idea to run directly into the middle of the pod and take some pictures. After watching several whales surface well within the 200 yard limit the Officers contacted the vessel. The first infraction of the year was issued for violating the newly revised State law which adopted federal regulations in 2012. Numerous warnings for violations of federal and state anti-vessel harassment laws were also issued.





Officer Rosenberger with a Wild Chinook salmon



Seized Green Sturgeon (ESA listed species)

Green Sturgeon Protection

The Southern Distinct Population Segment of Green Sturgeon was listed as threatened under the ESA. The state of Washington followed suit by prohibiting the take or possession of green sturgeon. While not commonly found in sport catches, a few are caught in the intertidal areas incidental to the white sturgeon fishery. Officer Jacobson found an angler in possession of a green sturgeon in the 2012 spring fishery and cited him under state law.

CASE HIGHLIGHTS

Tenacity and ESA Protection

Three Fish & Wildlife Police Officers responded to a report of a subject who had unlawfully retained a large fish from a catch-and-release area near the town of Methow. The Methow River is home to three federally protected species including Steelhead, Spring Chinook, and Bull Trout, all of which were present in the system at the time of the incident.

After interviewing the witness, Officers contacted the home where the suspect was observed driving to in his Arctic Cat utility vehicle, along with his 80 year-old father. Upon contact, the suspect was identified as someone who possesses a rather colorful history with WDFW enforcement, including several hunting violations. The experienced poacher repeatedly denied having caught any fish from the Methow River, and refused any searches of his vacation home. Officers immediately began writing a search warrant affidavit for the residence while securing the exterior of the house. Aiding Officers noticed an Okanogan County Road sign hanging on the garage.

Fortunately, Officer Christensen, who as a former Okanogan County Sheriff's deputy, had helped estab-

lish a county-wide marking system for all county signs; an embedded emblem that helps to identify stolen property. The markings found on the sign allowed the officers to add an additional charge of theft to the warrant.

While waiting for a judge to review and sign the warrant, the suspect's 80 year old father began to feel faint and requested emergency aid. An ambulance was dispatched from Pateros and the subject taken to Brewster Hospital for treatment. Upon execution of the search warrant, fishing gear and blood was located corresponding to the witness' statement; however the missing fish was nowhere to be found. A functioning garbage disposal, two toilets, and numerous other means of making evidence disappear probably resulted in the absence of the actual fish before the residence could be secured. However, blood samples were recovered and will be sent to the lab for genetics testing.

For now, charges for possession of a closed season fish, failing to submit catch for inspection, and possession of stolen property will be filed with the prosecutor's office in the coming weeks. Possession of an ESA listed fish may be added to the menu.



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TYPICAL CLOSED SEASON SMELT PATROL

Opular as fishing bait and table fare, silvery little forage fish known as smelt became listed under the Endangered Species Act on May, 2010, closing recreational and commercial harvest opportunities. Eulachon smelt annually return to the Columbia River, at three to five years of age, to spawn in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries downstream of Bonneville Dam. The fish typically enter the Columbia River in early to mid-January, though a small 'pilot' run may occur in December. Smelt typically spawn every year in the Cowlitz River, with inconsistent runs and spawning events occurring in the Grays, Elochoman, Lewis, Kalama, and Sandy rivers. Peak tributary abundance is usually in February, with variable abundance through March, and an occasional showing in April.

Smelt migrated up some Washington State tributaries, drawing interest in closed season poaching. Officers have been patrolling the closure, finding closed season dippers, among other violations.

Officers were on such a patrol when dispatch reported three people dipping in the area of North Kelso. Kelso PD was in the area and responded to assist. KPD found two men matching the suspect's descriptions heading for a house when they detained them for WDFW Police. A female was allowed to leave with a backpack.

When our Officers showed up to sort this all out, they were faced with two drunken men who were deep in denial...they didn't know anything about any smelt. Officer Anderson went to the house with a KPD Officer and interviewed the woman, who was now at home.

Add to the drunken men a very angry girlfriend. She admitted to being with the guys, but denied having any smelt. After officers pressed her for the truth, she became fed up with the Game Warden tenacity. She marched into the house, returned with a backpack loaded with smelt, and pitched the whole works out into the yard. This action was followed by some very bad words I am not allowed to use here. Once the information was relayed to Sergeant Chadwick, the two drunken dippers who wouldn't even admit to drinking a beer confessed to closed season smelt dipping.

But that wasn't the end of the night as the officers spotted some people dipping smelt in the area of the Carnival Market. They contacted a family with a five gallon bucket full of smelt in the rear of their vehicle. After those citations were issued, they bumped into a man who reportedly drove all the way from Washougal just to see if there were any fish running. The two smelt nets in his car didn't give him any credibility. A few more minutes and the officers undoubtedly would have pinched another closed season dipper.

On the Lewis River, Officers were on a similar mission, but found something different than closed season smelt dippers. When they pulled into the WDFW Access area, they saw a car full of young adults parked at the boat ramp. They didn't really need the night vision to see them light up a dope pipe. They were greeted by a strong odor of marijuana and no access permit on the vehicle when they made their approach. One of the occupants



Continued from page 6:

about the second hand smoke escaping the open window, "watch out, the smoke's coming out."

A data check determined one of the passengers had a no bail arrest warrant out of Cowlitz County. He was arrested as well as the driver for drug charges. Woodland Police overheard the police radio traffic when the officers asked for a vehicle registration and realized the car was connected to a recent burglary case. They had been looking for that car all day. Woodland Officers arrived on scene to question all four sub-

jects. The driver of the vehicle was then arrested on burglary charges and transported to county jail. The vehicle was impounded and towed.



Catch Accounting Nightmare

Things have gotten interesting with an investigation of catch accounting practices involving a tribal fish buyer, a non-Indian wholesale fish dealing company, and a pile of sturgeon, salmon and steelhead all taken from the Columbia River. The case began with a WDFW Police and Oregon State Police seizure of a truck transporting sturgeon to the border. None of these fish had been documented on treaty Indian fish receiving tickets; the primary management tool for reporting harvests. Both parties pointed at one another when investigators work to figure out who's responsible for failing to account for thousands of sturgeon, along with salmon and steelhead. More importantly, this case likely involves numerous ESA listed fish harvested that fisheries biologists were unaware of. Verifying reported harvests and conducting audits remains a daunting challenge for investigators where tribal harvests are concerned. NOAA OLE is collaborating on the joint investigation.

ESA STEELHEAD PROTECTION



Above: Three rods and illegal netting seized during an ESA fish closure.

The Nooksack River is home to endangered species act steelhead and Chinook salmon and has been a focus of closed season patrol efforts for officers stationed in that area.

Officers know that the allure of catching one of the few returning fish is a draw for some poachers. Such was the case when they surprised a fisherman with three rods trying to catch closed season fish. The fisher took off over the bank when he observed the officers, but the fleet of foot Officer Jones ran him down and took him into custody. The suspect is fighting to stay clean of his heroin addiction, but was cited for the

fisheries violation. In addition to deterring impacts from closed season sport angling, officers are also on the lookout for illegal netting. Sometimes nets are left over from a legal tribal fishery ghost fishing for ESA listed fish, or they have been simply placed in the river by a poacher. In either case, the nets are seized.

GILLNET PATROL: ILLEGAL NETTING OF ESA LISTED SPRING CHINOOK SALMON

The arrival of prized Spring Chinook to the Columbia River means open commercial net seasons. Due to the presence of fish listed under the Endangered Species Act, a number of regulations meant to reduce mortalities of these non-target fish are in place and strictly enforced. Some regulations are associated with gear, while others are tied to what can be kept.

The Spring Chinook net fishery is accomplished with a tangle net and intended to do what the name implies—that is entangle fish (rather than catch them by the heads and gilling them), allowing for greater survival upon release. The mesh size restrictions are meant to minimize gilling. In other words, larger mesh than allowed can have a negative impact on fish survival. Another tool used in conjunction with a tangle net is a recovery box, which is supposed to be operational with aerated water where fish can recuperate prior to release. In this fishery, steelhead and wild Chinook must be released

Officers boarded a boat and found the captain with two violations, an improperly stowed oversized net onboard and the recovery box stopped working while the boarding was being conducted. The operator was warned for both offenses and the corrections were completed before the end of the contact. Sergeant Chadwick checked another boat at a fish buying station and found a wild Chinook and an illegal sized net onboard. The difference between the contact Officer Hopkins made and this one was that the net had been used, versus was simply an extra net onboard and not being used. With the help of fellow Officers, 50 fathoms of net was seized for evidence along with the 30 salmon he caught with it on board. The wild salmon was documented and donated to charity.



GROUNDFISH

As the West Coasts seven overfished rockfish species continue to recover, commercial and recreational fisheries operate under a number of constraints, to include area or fathom curve closures, season restrictions, gear restrictions and possession limits.

JOINT ENFORCEMENT PATROL: INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL GROUNDFISH



Sergeant Chadwick and Officer Apple worked with NOAA Agents on a Canadian Vessel whiting landing at a Westport buyer/processor. Multiple Canadian vessels have been fishing outside the Territorial waters of Canada (outside their 12 miles) and then delivering fish to the Westport buyer for the last couple of years.

This is a violation of Nicholson Act. The provision relating to the landing of fish or fish products in the United States in the Nicholson Act has not been changed since its enactment in 1950. Under the Nicholson Act, no foreign-flag vessel shall land in a port of the United States its catch of fish taken on board the vessel on the high seas, or fish products processed there from, or any fish or fish products taken on board the vessel on the high seas from a vessel engaged in fishing operations or in the processing of fish or fish products.

However, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has held that the proscription against using a foreign-flag vessel set forth in 46 U.S.C. App. § 251(a) does not prohibit its landing in the United States of fish or fish products taken on board the vessel while the vessel is within the territorial jurisdiction of a foreign country, including its territorial sea, inland waters, and ports.

Through investigation, Sergeant Chadwick and Officer Apple found the Westport Buyer was the original receiver and the Canadian Vessels did not have delivery licenses, nor was the Westport buyer completing state fish tickets. One of the Canadian Vessels came into port while officers were present and their 140,000 pounds of whiting was seized by officers.







Trawl Rationalization

Acomplicated fishery involving over 90 species of groundfish, Fish and Wildlife Police Officers have been addressing everything from illegally fishing in the rockfish conservation closure, on-board observer harassment, discarding of catch at-sea, and ensuring proper catch accounting. In addition to dockside and at-sea monitoring efforts, Washington State developed and adopted regulations to compliment the federal electronic catch reporting system in an effort to streamline multi-jurisdictional reporting obligations.

Closed Area Groundfish Protection

Officers Miller and Fairbanks observed what appeared to be a recreational boat returning to Neah Bay from outside the 20 fathom bottomfish closure. The closure is meant to protect overfished rockfish species. Officers contacted the vessel and found they were in possession of two dogfish and four rockfish. The fishermen could not seem to recall where the fish were caught, and held the line that no more fish were onboard.

Office Miller noticed the operator of the vessel appeared to be covered with too much slime for the fish they produced and Officer Fairbanks became suspicious of their story. The Officer searched further and found they had failed to submit approximately 68 rockfish and four lingcod...they could legally possess no fish given they fished in a closed area.







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HALIBUT PROTECTION

Commercial and recreational halibut fisheries overlap with other JEA priorities given common habitats and by-catch concerns, to include:

- Patrolling the rockfish conservation area bottomfish closures
- Enforcing non-retention of overfished Canary and Yellow-eye Rockfish
- Monitoring and maintaining compliance with Canadian caught halibut possession and landing restrictions
- Enforcing rules of the Olympia Coast National Marine Sanctuary
- Enforcing the 20-Fathom / 12' bottomfish restrictions
- Ensuring compliance with general halibut and groundfish regulations

Cheating Offshore:

Sixty illegal Halibut discovered on one commercial fishing vessel

Patrolling offshore commercial fisheries usually means a long day and a bumpy ride, especially when officers find violations. It was that kind of day when Student Officer Smith was inducted into the world of the halibut long-line fishery. Smith, his training Officer Hopkins, and Officer Anderson were 27 miles offshore of Long Beach when they boarded a boat skippered by a well known offender.

Right away, the officers discovered numerous violations. The vessel had just finishing pulling the last of its gear, and was running undersized halibut through a crucifix, effectively ripping their jaws open. While an efficient way of removing fish from the hooks, it doesn't do much for long term survivability. But then

the skipper didn't have any intention of releasing them anyway. More illegal sized fish were found stashed on the deck.

Officers stayed on the vessel for the four-hour escorted trip back to port while our patrol boat followed. Never idle, the two officers continued to search through the hundreds of fish and found an additional 40 undersized and illegally possessed halibut. Once back in port the officers climbed into the hold and dug through the ice and slime looking for more. And they found thembringing the total to 60 illegal halibut. A number of serious charges will be levied. NOAA is also interested in the case.





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Halibut Conservation:

Coastal Halibut Opener Enforcement

The recreational halibut season opened in Marine Areas 3 & 4, and as expected, angler participation was high as this delicious table fare was pursued with a vengeance. There were well over 100 boats out of La Push and 250 plus boats out of Neah Bay each day of the three-day, ten-officer patrol emphasis. While compliance was comparatively good, Officers still issued citations to a number of deserving souls for a variety of violations. Here's a snap shot of what officers found:

On day one...

The ocean was less than pleasant and many fishermen stayed in the strait of Juan de Fuca. One boat was found in possession of three closed season canary rockfish. Other violations included possessing fish in an unlawful condition (mutilating to hide closed season species, fish under minimum length, etc), failing to record halibut, and possession of closed season rockfish east of the Tatoosh–Bonilla line.

On day two...

The directed Halibut season was closed, but nice weather and calm seas had everyone out fishing for bottom fish instead. Officers worked a remote resort area from shore, monitoring boats with limits of fish coming in, with some filleting fish and going back out for another illegal limit. All Officers can do at this point is to keep track of the first limit, and hope to get a second check in without tipping off the violators.

Late in the afternoon, the first double tripper came in and Officers won the lottery. Sergeant Chadwick and Officer Marthaller made contact while Officer Anderson kept track of everyone. Over the next three hours, two citations were issued for exceeding the limit for rockfish, one citation was issued for possession of six under-size lingcod and warnings were given to others for over limit rockfish. Their was one citation issues for a hidden closed day halibut.

On the third day of the emphasis...

The Halibut season was open again. The offshore weather was good and Officers located a vessel 1.5 miles inside an area closed to halibut fishing, known as the Yelloweye rockfish conservation zone. Citations were issued for closed area fishing.

Officers later stopped a vessel for a routine inspection. They found five mutilated ling cod filets (to avoid size restrictions) and one halibut. The ling cod was hidden underneath filleted halibut in plastic baggies, with the fisherman claiming the halibut was a friend's, and the cod fillets were from a previous day's fishing (sure they were). Officers pointed out to the men that the ling cod fillets were suspiciously supple and not cold to the touch, indicating that fish had recently been landed. The men were cited for Unlawful Fishing 2nd for the over limit amount of ling cod on the vessel, and for possessing mutilated fish (ling cod).

Halibut Conservation Officers on Patrol





Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

Bad guys can easily ignore borders, while local cops are often hobbled by them. Fortunately, the playing field can be leveled out with two tools: the Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) between NOAA OLE and the West Coast States, and the federal Lacey Act. Simply put, the Lacey Act can be used to pursue those that illegally harvest natural resources and place them into interstate or international commerce. JEAs provide federal funding so that we can focus on the cross-border movement of poached seafood and address illegal competition with industry. Many violations of the Lacey Act are discovered in the market place which is a funnel for seafood products that enter the state from around the world.

Consumer fraud is also detected in the market place. A number of federal and state laws protect legitimate fishing industry as well as the consumer from false labeling and branding. Labeling issues are discovered at the fixed retail establishment, at the border, airport, cold storage facilities, and even mobile businesses.



Foreign (Canadian) fishing vessel incursions in us waters

WDFW PARTNERS WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:

Current state laws are dated and require improvements in enforceability along with stronger penalties. While these laws are under the purview of the Washington Department of Agriculture, WDFW Police enforce the criminal provisions of the labeling chapter. Both agencies collaborated on draft legislation that will be introduced as a "good idea" bill next legislative session.



SHELLFISH HEIST CHARGED:

This particular case wasn't just about introducing poached shellfish into local and out of state markets, it also involved putting the public's safety at risk. The investigation began with a tip from a shellfish shipper in 2010...his supplier was up to no good.

At the center of the stage was Rodney Clark, who orchestrated the theft of more than \$700,000 worth of oysters and clams from public and private beaches in the Hood Canal area. The product was then laundered with the aid of falsified paperwork and widely marketed.

In the shellfish industry, the paperwork or records keeping practices are crucial. In order to commercially harvest shellfish, proof of beach or product ownership must be provided to the Department of Health. That agency issues an operator's license and a certification number unique to the beach you wish to harvest–provided of course that tested shellfish are free from contaminants or pollutants. The issued certification number tracks the product back to origin and follows each sack or container of shellfish through the entire market place. If an illness or outbreak occurs, the product is pulled from shelves and the offending beach is shut down. But



if you falsify the paperwork, shellfish traceability is effectively defeated, sending health officials on a potential goose chase. Clams and oysters in this case came from beaches that could have been certified if there was a lawful claim. Since it was all stolen, an alternate certification number associated with a played out lease was used instead. Shellfish don't have to come from unsanitary waters to be toxic to humans. Handling and refrigeration is also critical to ensuring people don't get sick. Our observation was that these guys didn't care.

The poachers took advantage of the cover of darkness, stealing from whatever beach held enough product for a profitable outing. Law enforcement personnel from NOAA, USCG, and WDFW were forced to spend many long nights tracking their movements. Some of those nights involved weather so bad, nobody in their right mind should have been out in it. But then the poachers weren't in their right mind. Greed and money almost forced the surveillance team to go into search and rescue mode when they watched a barge full of stolen shellfish flip over during a storm. But the thieves were able to swim to shore...wet, cold, and lucky.

That luck ran out as investigators closed in. Armed with probable cause painstakingly developed under challenging conditions, WDFW Police served a search warrant at the home and business of Rodney Clark, owner of Quilcene Bay based G&R Quality Seafoods. Clams and oysters were found on the property with false certification tags, sitting in the back of a van with no refrigeration. It was not his first run-in with the law, having served a ten year prison sentence in the Montana Penitentiary for manufacture of narcotics.

Clark was carted away to jail for possession of firearms as a convicted felon as the investigation really only began. Reams of files were analyzed, other suspects interviewed, and markets identified and contacted. After months of work, the King County Prosecutors Office charged Clark and 11 employees with theft and trafficking in stolen property. On Tuesday, November 22, 2011, Clark faced 17 felony charges and a potential of seven years in prison if convicted. The case is still alive in the state court system in at the time of this report.



Nation Building?

Well, not that we really have an effect on U.S.–Canada relations on a national level, our Officers do work well with our Northern neighbors while patrolling border waters. Officers were patrolling commercial and recreational fisheries offshore when they met up with their neighbors at sea on Swiftsure bank, about 20 miles offshore. Our guys, Officers from Oceans Canada, the RCMP Marine Patrol, and Parks Canada discussed a number of common cross boundary issues.





Officer Fairbanks shaking hands with our Canadian partners

Market Place Emphasis:

After months of preparation, a massive commercial market inspection emphasis took place involving California Game Wardens, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Troopers, WDFW Police, and NOAA Agents. The object was to trace fish and shellfish backwards from the market place to origin. The ultimate goal was to determine if it was harvested and marketed legally. By coordinating inspections in all three states at the same time, Officers were able to dissolve borders and use one another as an investigative resource.

On the first day of the operation Officer Kim led training on wholesale dealers, markets, cold storage facilities, freight forwarders, and airports in preparation for the event. The next two days were spent in the field. One inspection turned up 18 cans of illegal shark fin and 22 pounds of live invasive crayfish. The trade in shark fins was banned by the Washington legislature in 2011, consistent with laws in other West Coast States. Although the soup cans were labeled as shark fin soup and one of the main ingredients listed was shark fin, the manager of the store insisted the soup was not real shark fin. False labeling? He might get to pick one.

Invasive crayfish are omnivores and aggressive, resulting in numerous ecological and evolutionary impacts manifested across entire food webs. The invasion of crayfish has been associated with negative effects on aquatic plants, invertebrates, snails, and fishes, in addition to displacing and hybridizing with native crayfish. There are numerous reports of established population of invasive crayfish in Washington State, but not well documented due to limited resources. The live crayfish were seized from a refrigeration unit, but quickly sprang to life when Officer Day inadvertently left them in the sun on the tail gate of the patrol truck. Several of the escapees made a crawl for it and illustrated just how easily they could be released into state waters to compete with native crayfish already under siege by their invasive cousins.

Overall, Officers, Sergeants, Detectives, a Captain, and the Deputy Chief inspected 73 businesses within Pierce, King, Snohomish, Whatcom and Spokane Counties. A total of seven citations were issued for no wholesale dealers license, comingling of shellfish, no DOH certification tags, possession of aquatic invasive species, and fish ticket violations. A total of ten written warnings were issued with at least seven businesses requiring follow-up for future possible violations. Then it was off to the airport for cargo inspections until midnight. Large volumes of geoduck were inspected.







IT DOESN'T WALK LIKE A DUCK, OR TALK LIKE A DUCK BUT IT'S STILL A DUCK "GEO-DUCK" THAT IS.

Pound for pound, this king of all clams is Washington State's most valuable natural resource. Ringing in between \$100 to \$160 per pound on the Asian retail market for top grade animals, this slow growing long lived (up to 140 years) mollusk is both gross and beautiful. Shipped out of state usually the same day it's plucked from the waters of Puget Sound, WDFW Police and resource managers are concerned that sustainability of the commercial Geoduck fishery is at risk.

The current Geoduck Environmental Impact Statement estimates a recovery rate of 39 years for a tract following harvest. Recovery for tracts monitored from 2000-2011 is now estimated at 93 plus years on average. Historical and recent survey information, coupled with law enforcement activity, strongly suggests that poaching and overharvest are significant factors in the declines of geoduck and a failure of tracts to meet management expectations. Unless controlled, continued losses through illegal activity may put an end to this sushi bar delectable.

Stepping up patrols on the harvest grounds can be challenging given the amount of territory to cover, so a number of monitoring strategies are used, to include airport inspections. Enter a late night emphasis at Seatac airport where officers made a surprising discovery. While the primary object is to ensure all commercial catch has been accounted for, ensuring public health and safety is just as important. Health and Safety? What's that got to do with Geoduck? Plenty. Some animals are poached from areas that are unsanitary, like in front of sewer outfalls.

Geoduck, just like other shellfish, must be properly labeled and certified as coming from a safe and sanitary harvest area. So when officers began this inspection (late at night), they were surprised to find large quantities of clams failing to meet shellfish health certifications. Approximately 3,500 pounds of "ducks" were seized in this single event, and were eventually destroyed upon orders from the Washington Department of Health. As state officers employ strategies to battle ongoing poaching, the federal Lacey Act will be one of the regulatory tools we use to deal with those that don't care about the fisheries future, or the publics health.



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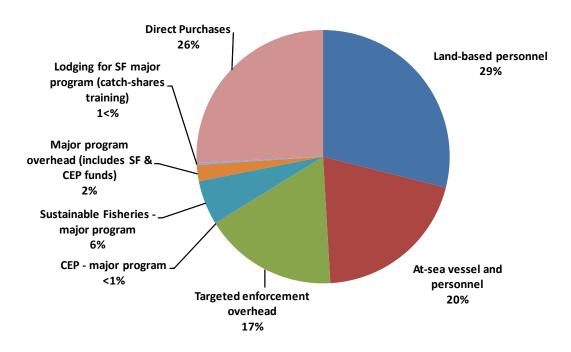
JEA Time Period:

Open Date	Closing Date	Duration	
May 1st, 2010	April 30th, 2012	Two years	

JEA 2010-2012 Finances:

Category	Cost (\$)
Land-based personnel	277,053
At-sea vessel and personnel	193,016
Targeted enforcement overhead	163,757
CEP-major program	346
Sustainable Fisheries - major program	54,255
Major program overhead (includes SF & CEP funds)	19,869
Lodging for SF major program (catch-shares training)	1,966
Direct Purchases	247,404
Total amount of agreement	957,666

The above funding table includes \$72,666 in Sustainable Fisheries funding for Trat training, in addition to the \$885,000 in CEP funds awarded for JEA 2010-2012. Also note that the figures have been adjusted to reflect fund shifts due to amendments.



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Amendments:

Amendment One

The first amendment and revised enforcement and financial plans implemented the West Coast Trawl Rationalization (TRat) Plan (Catch Shares). TRat funding was provided for the agency to perform program dockside, training, and outreach commitments.

The separate enforcement plan revision reallocated Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) dockside hours to at-sea sanctuary hours. In addition, enforcement and protection responsibilities for Southern Resident Killer Whale (SRKW) were added into the Endangered Species Priority.

Amendment Two

The second amendment revised their agreement direct purchase spend plan due to unexpected dedicated vessel repairs, increased procurement costs, and changes to mission requirements.

Amendment Three

The third amendment transferred remaining Catch Shares Program hours to the Groundfish Priority, due to catch share efforts coinciding with Groundfish responsibilities.

Amendment Four

The fourth amendment reallocated excess administrative hours, remaining OCNMS at-sea hours, and remaining direct purchase funds to at-sea and dockside operations focusing on ESA and other previously identified federal priorities.



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JEA Enforcement Work Priority Assessment/Overview:

Priority One: Groundfish (Inclusive of Catch Shares (TRat))

Dockside

Officers monitored offloads and ensured total catch accounting at all offload sites that received groundfish taken from the EEZ. Specific areas of work included:

- Monitoring the whiting fishery to ensure by-catch is documented on catch reports, work with shoreside catch monitoring program, and investigate violations.
- Detect and investigate overage violations.
- Detect and investigate fish receiving ticket fraud.

Catch Shares (TRat): Actively monitored commercial vessel off-loads, permits authorizations, record keeping, and interfacing with vessel crews, observers, and shoreside catch monitors. In addition, officers also provided assistance to vessel crews, observers, and shoreside catch monitors, to ensure all enforcement questions are addressed promptly, providing clarification of program operations, regulatory compliance, and regulatory guidance.

At-sea

Coastal at sea enforcement activities were conducted outside three miles. The following were atsea enforcement priorities:

- RCA enforcement to include: Yellow-eye Rockfish Conservation Area for recreational vessels, Non-trawl RCA, Trawl RCA, commercial and recreational fathom curve closures, VMS compliance.
- Open access groundfish fleet boardings for VMS compliance.
- Gear regulation enforcement.
- Fish possession rule compliance.

Catch Shares (TRat): Officers patrolled the Pacific Ocean within the EEZ for Commercial Groundfish activity, actively monitoring commercial trawl operations, performing at-sea boardings of trawl vessels, and interfacing with vessel crews and observers to ensure compliance in federal waters with federal regulations.



Priority Two: ESA Protection

Dockside

Officers patrolled selected rivers during times when ESA listed salmon and steelhead are present. Closed season and area and possession regulations were enforced. Special attention was given to habitat related to ESA listed species at all times during the year. Emphasis was given to enforcement of screening diversions.

Rivers receiving priority ESA patrol emphasis (Recreational fishing enforcement and respective habitat enforcement) included:

<u>River</u> – history of illegal gill-netting for high value ESA listed Spring Chinook, <u>Skagit River</u> – history of illegal netting and recreational fishing during ESA listed Chinook runs, <u>Puyuallup River</u> – ESA listed Chinook concern, <u>Carbon River</u> – ESA listed Chinook concern, <u>White River</u> – ESA listed Chinook concern, <u>Entiat River</u> – listed Chinook, <u>Okanagon River</u> – listed steelhead, <u>Wenatchee River</u> – listed steelhead and Chinook, <u>Cedar River</u> – listed Steelhead/Chinook, <u>Columbia River</u> – listed Steelhead and Chinook, <u>Snake River</u> – listed Steelhead and Chinook, and <u>Methhow River</u> – listed Steelhead and Chinook.

At-sea

Washington State has over 50 evolutionary significant units (ESU) ESA listed salmon and steelhead stocks. These populations are protected through either closed seasons and closed areas (depending on run timing) or selective harvest. Hatchery fish may be targeted (and identified with clipped adipose fins) and during the presence of protected fish-wild fish must be released. Selective fishery harvest strategies have been implemented in both the commercial and recreational sector. Depending on the run timing/cycle, ESA listed fish are present in both saltwater and freshwater (spawning grounds) environments. Enforcing season and possession laws were the priorities.

- Columbia River ESA steelhead and salmon-Officers patrolled the Columbia River by vessel to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Snake River ESA steelhead and salmon-Officers patrolled by vessel to ensure against illegal recreational fishing while listed species are present.
- **Puget Sound ESA Chinook and Steelhead**-Officers patrolled Puget Sound and tributaries to ensure compliance of regulatory requirements to reduce take of listed species.
- **Hood Canal**-Officers patrolled by vessel marine waters when ESA Chinook and Puget Sound Steelhead and Summer Chum are present to ensure against illegal harvest.

Additional emphasis was given to ESA listed Marine Mammal Populations (such as Steller Sea Lion, and Southern Resident Orca populations, etc.).

Southern Resident Killer Whale Population: Officers actively patrolled in areas frequented by this population of whales. Officers monitored recreational, tourism, and other commercial vessels that had the occasion to encounter the whales. Officers ensured compliance of safe protection limits and boating practices established for species protection and follow-up or interceded as required. Officers ensured completion of required WDFW and NOAA documentation as directed, not limited to specific Killer Whale monitoring documentation.

Priority Three: WA, OR, CA Salmon				
Dockside	At coastal ports of landing, such as Westport, Ilwaco, LaPush, and Neah Bay, Officers inspected primarily commercial landings of salmon taken from offshore waters and delivered dockside. Bag limits, species, and size restriction regulations were enforced. Note that coastal fisheries are selective and that wild salmon must be released. Catch accounting regulations pertaining to commercial landings were strictly enforced.			
At-sea	Coastal commercial salmon troll fisheries were monitored at sea to ensure compliance with gear, area, seasons, and catch regulations. Secondarily, coastal recreational salmon fisheries were monitored at sea to ensure compliance with gear, season, and catch regulations. Emphasis was applied during commercial fishing season.			

	Priority Four: International Fisheries						
Dockside	•	Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries Products: Officers conducted truck and					
		cargo inspections at the U.SCanada border crossings. The primary mission was the detection					
		of undocumented domestic and foreign fish and shellfish. Officers worked directly with					
		NOAA, ICE, and Canada Oceans and Fisheries to coordinate efforts to detect both inbound and					
		outbound fisheries products taken contrary to law. Cold storage facilities, shippers (including					
		international airports), and marine ports were inspected for undocumented, mislabeled, or					
		otherwise illegal fish and shellfish.					
		International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC): Officers monitored and ensured					
		accountability of enforce IPHC regulations.					
		Fraser River Sockeye Fishery: Officers monitored at the dock to enforce possession					
		regulations (Chinook possession prohibited in non-Indian fishery). Officers ensured full catch					
		accounting at fish dealers and cold storage facilities with respect to any ESA salmon.					
		Albacore Tuna: Officers inspected permits and logbooks ensuring compliance of regulatory					
		requirements.					
44	<u> </u>	•					
At-sea	•	Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries Products: Officers conducted border					
		patrols by vessel to inspect, detect, and investigate smuggling and trans-shipments of IUU					
		fisheries products along the U.SCanada Border.					
	•	Albacore Tuna: Officers inspected permits and logbooks ensuring compliance of regulatory					
		requirements.					
	•	Fraser River Sockeye: Officers patrolled by vessel to ensure compliance with commercial					
		sockeye regulations (International fishery near the U.SCanada Border). Focus was on gear					
		and fishing strategies meant to reduce catch of ESA listed Chinook. Officers monitored					
		possession limits, closed seasons, and perform area management. Closed areas to further					
		protect Chinook from being intercepted during this fishery was a priority.					

	Priority Five: Marine Mammal Protection Act				
Dockside	Marine mammal protection was a year-round effort. Most time involved responses to calls for service where marine mammals were being harassed or were stranded.				
At-sea	Marine Mammal at-sea activities focused predominantly on non-ESA listed species, with increased emphasis during peak tourism periods in high vulnerability areas in addition to providing an at-sea response capability for emergency intervention for harassments or entanglements.				

Outreach and Education Activities

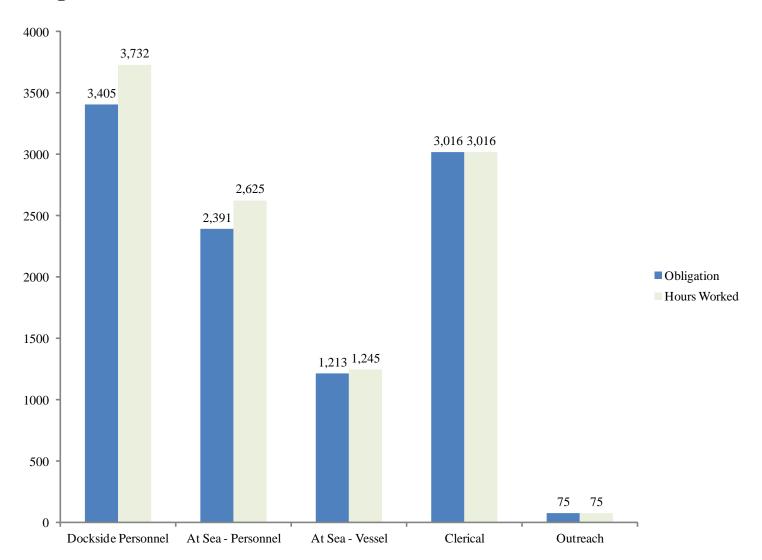
Outreach and education activities involved setting up booths and using the TIP trailer to interact and educate the public at sports and recreation shows targeting marine activities and fishing (Sea Fair, Seattle Boat Show, Issaquah Salmon Days, etc.).

Administrative/Clerical Activities

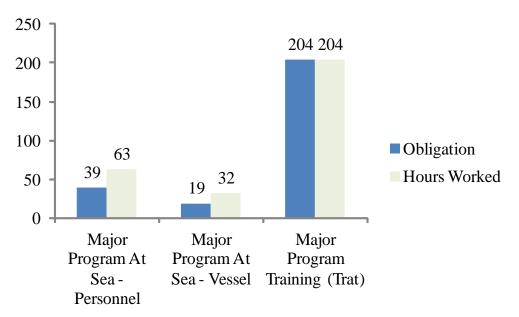
WDFW JEA Tech provided accurate and timely monthly reports, statistics, and analysis on JEA progress using prescribed formats as determined by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, Cooperative Enforcement Program Staff; produced annual reports on JEA progress and analysis; produced close-out reports for completed JEAs; tracked and monitored all JEA statistics and analysis such as but not limited to: arrests, warnings, citations (including citation number), patrol hours, and contacts, and other essential reporting criteria; ensured all JEA purchases were made within prescribed time limits, documented, and reported to NOAA in a timely manner with validation of purchase; amended agreements when necessary, ensuring prompt documents preparation and coordination with NOAA OLE; maintained hard copies of boarding forms for audit purposes; participated in quarterly JEA progress meetings with NOAA regional leadership, including program manager and coordinator; maintained active liaison with NOAA counterpart.

At-sea Officers conducted at-sea patrols within the OCNMS to ensure compliance with regulations designed to protect the natural resources of the area. Officer presence was used to deter prohibitions that involve violations including: The taking and/or possession of any marine mammal, sea turtle or seabird in or above the Sanctuary that may also be in violation of the MMPA, ESA, or MBTA. Flying motorized aircraft at less than 2,000 feet both above the Sanctuary within one NM of the Flattery Rocks, Quillayute Needles, or Copalis National Wildlife Refuge, or within one NM seaward from the coastal boundary of the Sanctuary. Discharging or depositing any material. Moving, removing or injuring a Sanctuary historical resource, or any attempt thereof. Drilling or dredging of the Sanctuary seabed. Exploring for, developing or producing oil, gas or minerals within the Sanctuary.

Targeted Enforcement Commitment:



Major Program Commitment:



JEA Item Purchases:

Purchase Item:	Purchase	Quantity	Cost Per	Total
	Date		Unit	Cost
27' Vessel Rigid Hull Twin 200 HP 4-Stroke	11/1/2010	1	171,394.55	171,394.55
Anti-fowl bottom paint	12/15/2010	1	2,818.30	2,818.30
Fuel tank and misc. supplies for vessel # 21	12/31/2010	1	401.73	401.73
JEA Vessel (Corliss) misc. repairs	12/13/2010	1	7,239.35	7,239.35
Webasto Diesel Heater for JEA vessel #21	12/9/2010	1	1,937.67	1,937.67
Ubiquiti Bullets & Networks	11/17/2010	1	213.61	213.61
Camera (Panasonic)	10/21/2010	1	698.92	698.92
JEA Printer	12/1/2010	1	215.92	215.92
Toshiba Camera	12/1/2010	1	1,004.12	1,004.12
nav. Equipment	8/18/2010	1	851.73	851.73
nav. Equipment	8/18/2010	1	721.10	721.10
Megawide Charts	8/26/2010	1	3,837.00	3,837.00
* Lodging/Meals ref. TRAT Training		17		1,966.33
OmniScout GPS Tracker	1/24/2011	1	643.00	643.00
*(1 Year) OmniScout Tracker Service	1/31/2011	2	495.00	990.00
Two deep-cell batteries	3/1/2011	2	100.00	200.00
Nightvision monoculars	3/22/2011	9	2,993.55	2,6941.95
Goggles	3/22/2011	4	3,487.44	13,949.76
Remote control device for nightvision	4/28/2011	5	18.75	100.75
Nightvision adapters	3/15/2011	5	55.00	293.00
Forensics computer	4/16/2011	1	8,712.83	8,712.83
Sirus Server & Monitor	1/10/2011	1	4,239.10	4,239.10
			Total:	249,370.72

The total direct purchase amount for this JEA was \$247,404. Lodging for Trat training, for the amount of \$1,966 was included under direct purchases, increasing the total purchase amount to \$249,370.

NOTE: Due to there being overlapping JEA agreements during the years of 2010-2012, the number of enforcement activities shown below represent only a fraction of the activities conducted from the May 2010-April 2012 time period.

Enforcement Actions:

Federal Enforcement Actions					
Priority/Enforcement Activity	Warnings	Citations	Arrests	Civil Referrals	
1: Groundfish (inclusive of Catch-Shares)	105	54	1	2	
2: ESA Protection	112	99	0	0	
3: WA,OR, CA Salmon	157	122	9	1	
4: International Fisheries	14	5	0	0	
5: Marine Mammal Protection Act	0	5	0	0	
Olympic National Marine Sanctuary	12	2	0	0	
Total:	400	287	10	3	

Combined Federal and State Enforcement Actions					
Priority/Enforcement Activity	Warnings	Citations	Arrests	Civil Referrals	
1: Groundfish (inclusive of Catch-Shares)	241	133	2	2	
2: ESA Protection	420	515	4	0	
3: WA,OR, CA Salmon	377	319	11	1	
4: International Fisheries	37	20	0	1	
5: Marine Mammal Protection Act	2	13	0	0	
Olympic National Marine Sanctuary	12	2	0	0	
Total:	1,089	1,002	17	4	

The above "combined" totals include both federal enforcement actions and state-only enforcement actions

Market Inspections				
Processors	Wholesalers	Dealers		
18	90	115		

Contacts:

Fishery/FMP	Commercial:	Recreational:
1: Groundfish (inclusive of Catch-Shares)	105	1,161
2: ESA Protection (Salmonids, Non Salmonids, and Orca whales)	521	5,539
3: Washington/Oregon/California Salmon	249	4,271
4: Interdicting Domestic and International, Illegal, Unreported, Unregulated Fisheries Products	317	397
5: Marine Mammal Protection Act	0	82
Olympic National Marine Sanctuary	18	10
Total:	1,210	11,460

WDFW Police would like to thank NOAA - Department of Fisheries - Office of Law Enforcement for all of their financial aid and other support.

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