

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON
OREGON MID-WATER SPORT FISHERY REGULATIONS FINAL ACTION

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) has reviewed the documents pertaining to Agenda Item G.5, Oregon mid-water sport fishery regulations, and has the following comments:

Regarding management lines, the EC appreciates the council's willingness to consider alternatives which allow for a buffer between the current management line of 30 fathoms and the proposed management line of 40 fathoms. The EC feels this buffer will aid recreational anglers in their abundance to regulation as well as enforcement personnel in their ability to enforce gear specific regulations.

As referenced in our September 2015 statement related to this matter, ensuring compliance with the proposed gear regulations would require somewhat complicated at-sea inspections. While we recognize inspections at sea can be cumbersome and at times, lengthy, we also point out that regardless of the regulation established, any gear and/or area specific species regulation requires enforcement at sea.

The EC understands this regulation could possibly increase enforcement responsibilities, including more time at-sea, but ultimately the extent of such is unknown at this time. Furthermore, the Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division currently employs 24 Troopers who are based at offices along the Oregon coast, from Astoria south to Gold Beach. Along with their Federal partners and available patrol vessels, the EC feels that the level of enforcement related to this fishery would be consistent with how enforcement of other recreational gear and/or area regulations have occurred in the past.

PFMC
03/12/16