

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON THE 2017 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND
ANNUAL REGULATION CHANGES

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the Agenda Item I.1.a, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reports and have the following comments.

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 the 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.

WDFW is proposing allowing the retention of lingcod during the all depth fishery north of the Washington-Oregon border (46-15N), while ODFW is proposing status quo (no lingcod retention). This will require on the water enforcement for Oregon to regulate if the two states have different regulations. Both states are able to adequately enforce this proposed regulation at the dock.

The EC would note the implementation of this regulation will further the continued inconsistency of groundfish regulations in the Columbia River area, and exacerbates angler confusion.

PFMC
09/16/16