

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON  
2021 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the material associated with Agenda Item I.1, 2021 Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) and Annual Regulations, and provide the following comments:

ODFW Report 1 – Allowing All Depth Halibut and Longleader Gear Fishing on the Same Trip

The EC supports Alternative 1 to allow all-depth halibut and longleader gear fishing for rockfish on the same trip. The EC recognizes that Oregon is currently the only state that has authorized the use of longleader gear for rockfish, so this would primarily affect Oregon enforcement. The EC has reviewed the Supplemental Salmon Advisory Subpanel (SAS) Report under this agenda item regarding the enforcement concerns related to this allowance. The EC agrees with the SAS report that this will create some complexity to the regulations but is willing to work with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to further define the state regulations should there be a need.

WDFW Report 1 – Columbia River Sub-Area

Allowing Retention of Certain Rockfish Species on All Depth Halibut Days

The EC supports Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) request to allow retention of certain rockfish species on all-depth halibut days. The species listed in WDFW's report are consistent with the species proposed for retention under ODFW's longleader gear fishing proposal. The EC appreciates this proposed consistency between the states. The remaining rockfish inconsistencies would be limited to the gear used to retain those fish and the bag limit, which the EC believes to be manageable.

Allowing Retention of Lingcod on All Depth Halibut Days

The area currently proposed for the retention of lingcod is not all inclusive of the Columbia River Sub-Area. The proposal lists the line to allow retention as north of 46°10.00' N. Lat., while the southern boundary for the Columbia River Sub-Area is 45°46.00' N. Lat. This would create a difference in regulations within the sub area that isn't as well known or acknowledged as a state line. The EC had a mixed review of this proposal, some for and some against, with a long discussion. While the EC appreciates the attempt for consistency in the Columbia River Sub-Area, the majority of the EC believes that as proposed it just moves the line of inconsistency and creates another boundary line. The EC would be more supportive if this allowance included the entire Columbia River Sub-Area, which is also consistent with license reciprocity agreements between Oregon and Washington.

WDFW Report 2

Removal of the South Coast Recreational Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA) and the Westport Offshore YRCA

The EC supports the removal of both of Washington's YRCA's in the Halibut CSP.