ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT ON 2021 CATCH SHARING PLAN AND ANNUAL REGULATIONS – FINAL ACTION

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

Supplemental CDFW Report 1

The EC has no concerns with California Department of Fish and Wildlife's request to move the end date of the California sport fishery within the Halibut Catch Sharing Plan (CSP) to no later than November 15.

Supplemental WDFW Report 1

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.

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's) 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.

Supplemental 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 acknowledges this will create some complexity to the regulations but has worked with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to address those concerns. As previously mentioned, the list of rockfish species allowed to be retained with longleader gear would be consistent with what is proposed by WDFW.

PFMC 11/12/20