

ENFORCEMENT CONSULTANTS REPORT
ON PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMERCIAL-DIRECTED FISHERY REGULATIONS FOR 2022

The Enforcement Consultants (EC) have reviewed the material associated with Agenda Item G.2, Pacific Halibut Commercial-Directed Fishery Regulations for 2022, and have the following comments:

Supplemental Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Report 1

The EC have reviewed Supplemental WDFW Report 1 and noted there was mention of requiring streamer lines for all vessels participating in the directed halibut fishery. Currently, only vessels retaining groundfish during the directed halibut fishery are required to use streamer lines. During the 2021 season, officers encountered vessels that normally retain groundfish while fishing halibut were not using streamer lines. When the vessels were contacted, the officers learned the vessels were opting only to retain halibut and therefore were in compliance not using streamer lines even though they were using the exact same hook-and-line longline gear. Requiring all commercial fishing vessels participating in the directed commercial halibut fishery to use streamer lines coastwide, whether retaining groundfish or not, would help reduce confusion.

The EC supports recommending the Council propose this change for public review for all of Area 2A.

PFMC
09/11/21