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Informational Report 6
(Electronic Only)
November 2023

Tri-State Enforcement Report to: Pacific Fisheries Management Council

November 2023 Meeting Report



The Tri-State is made up of the Westcoast States of Washington, Oregon, and California's Fish and Wildlife Enforcement and are the primary protectors of our natural resources. Collectively we have over 600 Officers, Troopers and Wardens who provide gravel to gravel protection of our fish and wildlife.

We appreciate the connection we have with managers and industry through the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and our enforcement advisory body. This advisory body Includes senior Law enforcement command staff from the Tri-States, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA OLE), and United States Coast Guard (USCG) focused on advising the PFMC council on proposed regulatory actions. Through the PFMC process, federal regulations are commonly adopted as state law, which provides consistency for law enforcement and fishery participants.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act authorizes Joint Enforcement Agreements. The purpose of these Joint Enforcement Agreements between the U.S. Department of Commerce, and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement is to facilitate the operations, administration, and funding of the Westcoast states to enforce federal laws and regulations under the statutes set forth in the Cooperative Enforcement Agreement (CEA) between OLE and the Westcoast States.

The JEA provides a framework for the enforcement of Federal and State fisheries regulations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) offshore of the West Coast. Central to this JEA is the prevention and detection of violations by officers from the states who are deputized to enforce Federal laws and regulations. Key features of this jointly administered plan include an increased overt presence by officers of the states to achieve higher levels of voluntary compliance with federal regulations, and the processing through resolution of certain specified cases, which could be handled under either federal or state law.

This report details enforcement efforts from the Tri-States over the past two years.

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Oregon State Police

Captain Dan Chadwick
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Police

Captain Jason Kraus
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon State Police - Fish & Wildlife

Violations Involving Federally Managed Fisheries

Commercial Halibut Season Patrols

MFT Troopers conducted multiple patrols for the three-day Commercial Halibut season in conjunction with a targeted NOAA enforcement operation. Troopers did on-water and shore-based patrols to ensure compliance with season start and end times, gear markings, seabird avoidance measures, vessel monitoring and declarations and dockside offload checks.

Troopers conducted an ocean patrol out of Newport to ensure vessels did not start prior to the 8 am start time as well as utilize the required seabird avoidance gear. Several vessels did not display the required seabird avoidance gear as required when landing groundfish. Vessels out of compliance were referred to NOAA for enforcement action.

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper determined during a dockside check out of Charleston that a vessel failed to have required seabird avoidance gear while he was fishing. The captain failed to convey the same information to a NOAA officer. Enforcement action is pending by NOAA.

The Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper also detected a vessel landed sablefish without the required Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS). The case was referred to NOAA for enforcement action.

A Newport Sergeant contacted a wholesale dealer buying halibut. Dealers are required to “tare” or get an accurate weight of totes so that weight can be subtracted from the weight of the fish. The dealer assured the Sergeant that all tare weights were accurate and all the same. When the dealer was asked to weigh the totes to be sure, it was determined the weights the dealer claimed were accurate were not. The dealer was warned and was required to tare all of the totes before they could continue to offload halibut.

A limited fish seller was contacted selling fish off of his boat. He was selling crab but was not weighing them. The seller was just charging a flat rate per crab and estimating that the crab each averaged a certain weight. He was warned and instructed to make sure each and every crab was weighed for each sale.

Commercial Fishing Violations

MFT Troopers conducted an investigation on a commercial fisherman who was selling albacore tuna without the proper licenses. MFT members observed the subject make two sales of tuna, and also located evidence of advertising on Craigslist. Upon contact Troopers determined the subject had sold and given away fish without a limited fish seller license and had not recorded anything on fish tickets. It was also determined a wholesale fish dealer had created a fish ticket for some of the fish that had been given away, without weighing or removing any fish from the boat, in an effort to cover for the subject.

The subject was **cited for No Limited Fish Seller License**. The wholesale dealer was cited for **Failure to Properly Complete Fish Receiving Ticket**

Groundfish Boat Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant and Sergeant conducted an ocean patrol out of Newport. They contacted numerous recreational and commercial groundfish anglers, including the in-compliance anglers in above photo. One boat was contacted and was found to be in possession of a Cabazon that they thought was a lingcod. The season for cabazon was closed at the time.

The fish was seized and the subject who caught it was **cited for Possession of Marine Fish Closed Season**. A commercial boat was contacted fishing for lingcod. One of the fishermen did not possess his individual commercial fishing license and was **cited for No Individual Commercial Fishing License**.



Yelloweye Rockfish Retained

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers followed up on information received from an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fish checker. She checked a group of subjects at the South Beach Marina who were returning from angling in the ocean. Upon inspecting their catch, the fish checker observed that they were in possession of two Yelloweye Rockfish. Yelloweye Rockfish are a prohibited species, and no retention of these fish is allowed. When the fish checker advised the men, they were in possession of a prohibited species of fish, they became rude and uncooperative. Two of the subjects quickly removed the fish from the boat, put them in a cooler in their vehicle, and then left the marina, even after the fish checker advised them she was calling the Oregon State Police and wanted to take possession of the two illegal fish. All three subjects were eventually tracked down and cited **criminally for Possession of Prohibited Species: Yelloweye Rockfish**. One of the three subjects went to great lengths to avoid contact with the Troopers, even parking in a neighbor's driveway when he knew the Trooper was coming to his residence.

Fish Seller Cited for Multiple Violations

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper had been trying to locate a commercial tuna limited fish seller who had turned in fish tickets the previous year almost 150 days late. A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant observed the boat in Garibaldi advertising tuna for sale and contacted the seller. The seller possessed a limited fish seller license that allowed fish to be sold off the boat. The seller had made sales from that load of fish

for four days and had receipts for those sales but had not started a commercial fish ticket. It was determined the seller had sold fish multiple times in September but had never completed a fish ticket for those landings. While he had receipts for the current sales, he did not have the receipts on board the boat from any of the other sales he did in August and September. He had completed fish tickets for August on board, but they had not been submitted to ODFW. The subject also had not completed his federal logbook for all of his trips. The subject was **cited for Failure to Complete Fish Receiving Ticket and Failure to Submit Fish Receiving Ticket.**

Ocean Boat Patrol - Port of Siuslaw

Florence and Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol in the ocean out of the Port of Siuslaw with an emphasis on salmon anglers. Catch rate and compliance was high amongst most anglers. During the patrol one boat was contacted as they were actively trolling for salmon. The Troopers began an administrative check and the anglers admitted to retaining four salmon. They did not have a clear reason why they were continuing to angle after retaining a legal limit and simply stated they were getting ready to head back in. Further inspection of their gear and catch revealed they had retained two wild Coho salmon and had not tagged two of the four salmon they had retained. They were also using barbed hooks. The anglers were **cited for taking wild Coho salmon, angling prohibited method - barbed hooks and failing to validate harvest cards.** They were warned for continuing to angle. The two unlawfully taken salmon were seized.

Wild Coho Seized from Salmon Troller

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial salmon troller making a landing of Chinook and coho salmon at a fish plant. The Trooper had recently cited this subject for exceeding the trip limits for Chinook, and for call in violations. The subject landed approximately 60 salmon, 20 of which were wild coho salmon. The subject said that he knew the rules, but did not notice that those 20 coho had adipose fins. He also admitted to using hooks with barbs that were set up on his fishing gear. The subject **was cited and released for Taking Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Commercial Coho Salmon and Commercial Fishing Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon.**



Weeklong Guardian Ocean Patrol

The entire Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) participated in a weeklong ocean patrol utilizing the Guardian vessel. They were patrolling ports from Pacific City to the Oregon/California border, focusing on commercial and sport fisheries. The team contacted a multitude of commercial vessels fishing for whiting, pink shrimp, sablefish, halibut, and salmon.

Two commercial troll salmon boats were cited for Commercial Troll Prohibited Method: More than Four Spreads per Wire. One vessel had six spreads per wire and the other vessel had one wire with ten

spreads and another three with six spreads. Sport anglers were also contacted fishing for halibut, salmon and groundfish. Troopers issued multiple **citations and warnings for Angling Prohibited Method:**

Barbed Hooks, Angling Prohibited Method: Treble Hooks, Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card, No Combined Angling Tag, Angling with More than One Rod, and Unlawful Possession of Non Fin-Clipped Coho.



Ocean Salmon Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a south coast multi-day Guardian patrol. Emphasis was on sport and commercial salmon, and groundfish and commercial crab. Anglers were contacted out of Winchester Bay, Charleston, Bandon and Port Orford. Lots of contacts were made. The following enforcement action was taken:

- Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card
- Angling with Two Rods
- Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks Angling Prohibited Method: Treble Hooks
- Exceeding Daily Limit of Groundfish (Three lingcod and three rockfish seized)
- Possession of Undersized Chinook salmon (one Chinook seized)
- No Late Season Commercial Dungeness Pot Tag



Ocean and Columbia River Patrols

MFT conducted a multi-day ocean and Columbia River patrol focusing on commercial and recreational halibut, salmon and steelhead. Troopers were on the commercial halibut grounds to ensure boats ceased fishing when the season closed. Troopers patrolled the commercial troll salmon line at Cape Falcon.

Multiple trollers were contacted, and all were compliant. Troopers patrolled about 30 miles of the lower Columbia River targeting steelhead and salmon anglers. Numerous anglers were contacted, and **citations were issued for Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed hooks, Fail to Validate Harvest Tag, and Continuing to Angle after Retaining Limits.** Troopers finished up the four days by checking salmon anglers off of Pacific City. Coho catch rates and rule compliance was high.



Captain Cited for Fish Ticket Violation

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial fishing vessel in Charleston. The vessel owner holds a limited fish sellers permit. The vessel's logbooks were found to be not accurately filled out. A records check indicated the permit holder had not submitted multiple fish tickets after 14 days past the landing date with a catch of sablefish and halibut. On fish tickets which had been submitted there were no skate and lingcod listed but were listed in the logbook and the captain indicated they were on board. The captain was **criminally cited for Failing to Complete a Fish Ticket.**

South Coast Ocean Boat Patrol

South Coast MFT members performed a boat patrol on the ocean from Charleston to Winchester Bay checking recreational halibut anglers. The Troopers contacted a boat on the ocean near Winchester Bay.

There were four subjects on board the boat who had just finished pulling a crab pot. The Troopers gained consent to inspect licenses and catch after the captain offered their licenses. Investigation revealed the subjects had four halibut on board, two of which had not been tagged. Two additional halibut were later discovered in the transom hold of the boat, for a total of six halibut. The captain of the boat took responsibility for the extra concealed halibut and was **criminally cited and released for**

Exceeding Daily

Bag/Possession Limit:

**Halibut x2 and Fail to
Immediately Validate
Combined Angling**

Harvest Card. Additional charges are being referred for **Fail to Allow Inspection of Catch and Falsely Applying for a Resident Angling License.** A second subject was **violation cited for Fail to Immediately Validate Combined Angling Harvest Card and was warned for No Valid License in Possession.** Two halibut were seized.



Depoe Bay Boat Patrol

MFT members conducted an ocean boat patrol out of Depoe Bay focusing on halibut anglers, ground fish anglers, and salmon anglers. During one contact three halibut anglers were contacted and admitted they had not tagged the halibut they caught for the last two days. The Troopers discovered one subject did not have a harvest card and one halibut was seized. The subjects were issued citations for No Harvest Card, Failing to Validate Harvest Card and Aiding in a Wildlife Violation. During another

contact two subjects were contacted and admitted to catching one salmon. The salmon was not tagged and one subject did not have a harvest card. They were warned for Failing to Validate Harvest Card and cited for No Harvest Card.

Five Rockfish Seized - Port of Gold Beach



for Take/Possession of Yelloweye Rockfish. The fish were seized.

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper on the Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) patrolled marine fish anglers at the Port of Gold Beach. Three boats were contacted. One boat had exceeded the daily limit of rockfish by four fish. The four extra fish were discovered at the bottom of the cooler below six lingcod. One citation was issued for Exceeding the Daily Limit of Fish and the four rockfish were seized. During another contact a subject was found to be in possession of a Yelloweye rockfish. One **citation was issued**



Commercial Troller Takes Undersized Chinook

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted an ocean patrol from Nehalem to Cannon Beach. Numerous recreational salmon anglers, halibut anglers, rockfish anglers, and commercial salmon fisherman were contacted. Citations were issued for Taking Halibut: No Harvest Card, Taking Salmon: No Harvest Card, and Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card – Halibut, and five citations were issued for

Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon. On one contact, the Trooper contacted a commercial salmon troller and checked his gear and catch. The subject said that he had not retained any rockfish, and that there was not any other fish on the boat after his salmon was inspected. After conducting a consent search, the Trooper found filets from seven salmon and two rockfish in zip lock bags. The subject said that all of the salmon were undersized Chinook that he had caught, and that he was taking them home to smoke them. The subject was **cited and released for Unlawful Taking Undersized Commercial Salmon.**

Salmon and Rockfish Ocean Boat Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a salmon and rockfish boat patrol on the ocean from the mouth of the Columbia River south to Seaside. They contacted 12 boats (42 anglers). They issued **16 citations for angling offenses that included: Illegal Take/Possession of Undersized Chinook Salmon, Illegal Take/Possession of Undersized Lingcod, No Angling Harvest Card in Possession, Angling Prohibited Method: Treble Hooks, Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, No Angling License, and Failure to Immediately Validate Angling Harvest Card.** Two undersized Chinook salmon and one undersized lingcod were seized and later donated to Loaves & Fishes in Astoria. Multiple warnings were also given. Compliance and catch rates were poor with not many salmon being harvested by participating anglers.

South Coast Boat Patrol

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted an ocean boat patrol from Bandon to Charleston. Over 20 anglers were contacted. During one contact, the Troopers approached a recreational salmon trolling boat that had three lines in the water for only two anglers. Troopers also discovered they were angling with barbed hooks. The subjects told the Troopers they had not caught any fish. The Troopers noticed a small amount of blood on the deck and questioned the subjects further regarding the blood. Eventually, the subjects admitted to catching and concealing a non-fin clipped Coho below deck. One subject was issued a **citation for Take/Possession Non-Fin Clipped Coho** and the other was issued a **citation for Angling More than One Rod/Line.**

Subjects Keep Quillback Rockfish

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report from the Port Sampler in Bandon that a group of subjects returned to port with three live Quillback Rockfish. When the group was told the fish were unlawful to retain by ODFW, they agreed to attempt to release them. Only one of the fish was successfully released, and the group didn't return to port with the other two rockfish, even though they were told the fish were to be seized as evidence if they were dead. The boat captain then became belligerent with ODFW and left the area. The group was located and it was determined the boat captain was warned for a similar incident a few years earlier. The captain took responsibility for all of the illegal fish and was **cited for Take/Possession Marine Fish Closed Season.**

Illegal Takes of ESA Listed Species ESA Habitat Cases

Gnat Creek Angling Violations

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed two men angling salmon in Gnat Creek for approximately 45 minutes. During that time, he witnessed both men using their hook and line in a manner consistent with snagging by repeatedly jerking their rods after their “lure” hit the shallow water. Upon closer inspection of their lures with binoculars, it was discovered both men had affixed weights to the tops of their hooks. A short time later one of the men hooked and retained a foul-hooked salmon. When emerging from the brush to make contact, the same man immediately turned his back to the Trooper and attempted to remove the weights from the hook. Upon contact, the Trooper was able to find the weights on the ground and three salmon in their possession (none of which were validated). Citations were issued to both men. One man was **cited for Take/Possession of Foul Hooked Salmon and Failure to Validate Salmon Harvest Card**. The other man was **cited for Attempt to Take Salmon Prohibited Method and Failure to Immediately Validate Salmon Harvest Card**. One salmon was seized and later donated to Loaves & Fishes.

Columbia River Boat Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River between Westport and Rainer. Troopers contacted 19 boats and angler checks and Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) inspections were completed. Multiple citations were issued for Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks While Salmon/Steelhead Angling/Columbia River. Several warnings for minor OSMB violations were given. One subject jumped up and started reeling in a rod as the Troopers approached. It was then observed that he had a second rod out as well. Upon contact the subject admitted to using two rods and said, “You got me.” He also had barbed hooks on both rods. A consent search revealed a filleted Chinook salmon carcass in a compartment on his boat. Through the investigation it was revealed he had caught the salmon two days prior and tagged it on his expired tag. He was **cited for Angling with More Than One Line/Rod and Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, and warned for the mutilated fish and tagging violation**.

Illegal Gillnet Located - Gnat Creek

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of a gillnet across Gnat Creek. The Trooper and a Criminal Detective responded and located the net near a camp. The occupants of the camp initially denied being responsible for the net, saying it had just appeared about three days prior. Once they were confronted with the fact that they had an identical net section stored under a tarp in their camp the male occupant took responsibility for the net. He admitted that he had seen spring Chinook in the creek and was just trying to get one to eat. He was **cited criminally for Angling Prohibited Method: Net**. All sections of the net were seized as evidence.

Angling Violation Leads to Arrest

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River focusing on salmon and steelhead anglers. Two boats were contacted with one citation being issued for Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks. While checking the second boat, Troopers noticed an unattended rod in the water along the beach of Jim Crow Sands Island near a campsite that was littered with garbage and a large variety of camping/fishing gear.



Troopers rang the bell on the unattended rod with no response from the camp. After Troopers announced their presence in the

camp, a male subject appeared from the tent. After interviewing the subject, Troopers discovered he had retained two fish from the previous week, one wild Chinook Salmon and one hatchery Steelhead and left them to waste in a cooler. The subject did not have a fishing license or harvest card and was using barbed hooks. While conducting a consent search of the campsite, Troopers located several pieces of expensive equipment which were suspected to be stolen including a 22 rifle. The subject in question at the campsite was confirmed to be a convicted felon. After OSP dispatch contacted the subject's probation officer, a detainer was placed on the subject and Troopers took the subject into custody. The rifle was seized as evidence. A search of the subject revealed 24 total 22 rounds, two pocketknives and a small plastic bag of suspected methamphetamine. Troopers transported the subject to a local boat ramp where they were met by Clatsop County Sheriff's Office who transported the subject to the Clatsop County Jail. The subject was **cited criminally for Possession of Firearm by Felon, Take/Possession of Non- Adipose Fin-Clipped Chinook Salmon, Waste of Game Fish, No Resident Angling License, No Combined Angling Harvest Tag, Angling Prohibited Method-Barbed Hooks for Salmon/Steelhead, Fail to Attend Rod/Line While Angling, and No Columbia River Endorsement**. Additional charges were referred to Clatsop County District Attorney's office.

Trail Cameras Catch Steelhead Poachers

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked two trail cameras located on Willamina Creek Falls. The falls is above the steelhead fishing deadline and posted by seven ODFW signs. Two subjects were captured on camera netting a wild steelhead from the creek and retaining it. The second camera captured a solid plate. The subjects, a father and son, were located and issued **citations for Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Steelhead**. This poached steelhead is one of only 1,787 wild steelhead over Willamette Falls for the 2023 season.

Subjects Caught Retaining Wild Coho

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacting anglers along Lake Creek and the Siuslaw River when he noticed one subject scrambling up the bank as he approached. The subject was visibly nervous and stopped in front of the path while briefly speaking to the Trooper. The subject stated his brother was still down by the creek, so the Trooper stepped around the subject and went down the path. The other subject was approaching the Trooper with a wet net and stating he was just moving the net. The Trooper observed blood on the ground. The first subject immediately told his brother to tell the Trooper where the fish was. The second subject revealed the fish's location in the brush and the Trooper identified it as a wild Coho salmon. The first subject was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin- Clipped Coho Salmon** and the second subject for **Aiding in a Wildlife Violation**.

Two Chinook Salmon Seized on Columbia River Boat Patrol

While conducting a boat patrol working spring salmon anglers on the Columbia River near Knappa, an Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from an off-duty Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Sergeant that a man in a boat nearby had landed a Chinook while "two-poling." The Trooper headed that direction and arrived near the scene approximately 45 minutes later. Just prior to contact, additional information was provided by the WDFW Sergeant that the suspect had now caught and landed a second Chinook, had passed his first harvested Chinook off to a subject in the boat next to him, and was continuing to angle.

Additionally, the man who received the fish in the other boat had now caught his own Chinook.

Contact was made with the first suspect and a routine check was conducted. The man was using barbed hooks and had not validated his harvest card. The suspect, after being asked several times, replied he had only caught one salmon. When confronted with the fact that he was two-poling earlier, caught and



retained two salmon and passed one of the Chinook to a subject in another boat, he finally confessed to everything. The Trooper then moved to the other boat and conducted the same type of initial boarding

questions. The subject who received the Chinook stated he had caught only one Chinook, which was not validated on his harvest card. He then produced the salmon, which had an intact adipose fin. The man also denied having any other salmon on board. The Trooper then confronted the man with his knowledge he knew there was another Chinook on board that was given to him. The man then admitted there was and retrieved the Chinook from the bow of the boat, which had a freshly cut and bleeding adipose fin. The man stated, "That was the way the fish was given to me." The first suspect later admitted to cutting the fin and was ultimately issued **criminal and violation citations for Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Chinook Salmon, Taking Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Chinook Salmon, Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, and Failure to Immediately Validate Salmon Harvest Card**. The second subject was issued **criminal and violation citations for Taking Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Chinook Salmon, and Failure to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. An additional charge for Suspect #1 was recommended to the District Attorney's office for **Angling Prohibited Method: Two Poles**. The two Chinook salmon were seized and later donated to Loaves and Fishes in Astoria for charity.

Smelt Fishery Opens on Sandy River

Troopers Seize 59 Pounds of Smelt

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles assisted the Portland Fish and Wildlife team with the Sandy River smelt fishery. This fishery brought out thousands of people to participate. Several contacts were made, and several citations were issued for various violations. The most common violations being Exceeding the Daily Limit of Fish and No Angling License. With the amount of people exceeding, hundreds of pounds of smelt were seized as a result. The smelt were donated to various charities.

Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted multiple people dipping for smelt on the Sandy River during the time ODFW opened the fishery. A group of four people were contacted as they carried four full buckets of smelt back to their vehicle. It was learned one of the dippers did not possess an angling license and all four were in excess of the daily limit of 10 pounds per person. In total, 59 pounds of smelt was seized and the subjects possessing angling licenses were allowed to keep their limits. Three of the subjects received **violation citations for Exceeding Daily Limit of Fish**. The last subject received a warning for Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense. The seized fish was taken to White's Country Meats to be processed and donated.



Subjects Catch Smelt in Closed Area

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted seven smelt dippers at Dabney State Park at around 10:00 am, two hours prior to the open season for smelt. This location was also upriver of the open boundary. The subjects claimed to not know the open areas or time limits for smelt dipping in the Sandy River. They were all issued **citations for Angling Closed Season** and educated on the legal time and location that smelt was open. Approximately 50 pounds of smelt were seized and donated to a local charity.



Subjects Caught Retaining Wild Coho

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacting anglers along Lake Creek and the Siuslaw River when he noticed one subject scrambling up the bank as he approached. The subject was visibly nervous and stopped in front of the path while briefly speaking to the Trooper. The subject stated his brother was still down by the creek so the Trooper stepped around the subject and went down the path. The other subject was approaching the Trooper with a wet net and stating he was just moving the net. The Trooper observed blood on the ground. The first subject immediately told his brother to tell the Trooper where the fish was. The second subject revealed the fish's location in the brush and the Trooper identified it as a wild Coho salmon. The first subject was issued a **citation for Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin- Clipped Coho Salmon** and the **second subject for Aiding in a Wildlife Violation**.

Subject Commits Multiple Angling Violations

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a tip that a subject had purchased salmon "snagging" gear. The reporting party provided a vehicle description. The Trooper was able to locate the subject on the Chetco River approximately an hour later. The subject was observed attempting to snag salmon. He was contacted as he was driving out of the area and admitted to attempting to snag fish as well as knowingly violating the "Bobber Only" rule in place. Additionally, the subject was found to be suspended from angling and misdemeanor suspended from driving. The subject was issued **criminal citations for Angling Prohibited Method: Snagging and Angling Prohibited Method: Bobber Only**. Charges are being referred for **Angling While Suspended and Driving While Suspended**.

Social Media Posts Show Angling Violations

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information regarding a subject who posted pictures of himself retaining coho salmon in the ocean outside Winchester Bay at the beginning of October. The Trooper reviewed the social media posts and contacted the subject at his residence. The subject admitted he caught salmon out of the ocean on the date in question and showed the Trooper his combined angling harvest card. The Trooper noted the subject marked the two salmon for the appropriate area and date but marked them as Chinook. He also noted the subject only marked those two salmon for the entire year.

When the subject was questioned about the two entries, he stated they were the only two salmon he had caught and retained in 2022. The Trooper pulled up the subject's social media posts on his MDT and began pointing out other pictures throughout the year where the subject had caught and retained salmon. The subject then admitted he caught salmon on the Umpqua River and in Alsea Bay which he had not tagged because he didn't always have his tag with him. The subject was issued **criminal citations in Douglas and Lincoln counties for Taking Wild Coho Salmon and Failing to Validate Combined Angling Harvest Card**.

Off Duty Sergeant Observes Angling Violation

While on vacation in Waldport, a Fish and Wildlife Sergeant from the East Region was cleaning his crab at the cleaning station when a man flopped four wild coho on the cleaning table next to him. The Sergeant called the local Fish and Wildlife Sergeant to respond. While awaiting response, the off-duty Sergeant provided a fish identification lesson to the man and his son as they had misidentified the fish as Chinook. The Alsea River was closed to retention of non-adipose fin-clipped coho. The responding **Sergeant cited the man for the violation** and seized the four fish as evidence.

Nehalem Bay Boat Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on Nehalem Bay and the ocean during a one-day wild coho retention season (with a one-a-year annual wild coho limit). A boat was contacted salmon angling in the ocean. The subjects on board were using barbed hooks and were in possession of a wild coho (that they said that they had caught in the Nehalem). The subject with the coho was using electronic

licensing, and the timestamp on the validation of his coho showed that he had tagged it immediately before being contacted. The subject was **cited for Unlawful Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho**, and warned for the other offenses. Multiple other warnings were issued during the patrol for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card and Take Undersized Dungeness Crab**.

Eagle Creek Angling Violations

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked Eagle Creek on two separate days. The first day, he observed a suspect snag a salmon in the back and land it on shore with the aid of a friend with a net. The Trooper continued to watch the subjects and observed one of them was snagging with every cast. They were contacted and the subject who snagged the salmon was cited for Snagging. On the second day, the Trooper contacted a group who had caught five salmon. Upon inspection, one of the subjects had not tagged either fish he caught and was cited for Fail to Immediately Validate. The Trooper continued checking anglers and observed a salmon get caught, and the subject hit it on the head with a stick and immediately returned to angling without tagging it. The subject used his rod and a long stick to scare some fish out from under a log jam and then caught one of the fish. The subject again went right back to angling after harvesting his second fish. He was contacted and **cited for Failing to Immediately Validate and for Harassing Wildlife**.

Subjects Angling Near Fish Ladder

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks on the Eagle Creek near the fish ladder downstream of Eagle Fern Park. Two subjects were observed fishing about 50 feet downstream of the fish ladder. This fish ladder has a special restriction of no angling 300 feet below the fish ladder and is well marked on a large tree and near the bank. The subjects were contacted and educated about the legal fishing distance. **Both were cited for Angling Within 300 feet of a Fish Ladder**. The Trooper returned to the area about an hour later and was looking for anglers in the same area. He observed two different subjects walking on the fish ladder and one of them was fishing right at the ladder. The subjects were educated about the ladder and the requirements. They were both **warned for Trespassing on a Fish Ladder**, and one was **cited for Angling Within 300 feet of a Fish Ladder**.

Salmon Tangle Net Violation

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Sergeant conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River during the opening day of the Columbia River commercial salmon tangle net season. Multiple commercial boats were contacted, and the catch rate was relatively low. This fishery has a 3-¾" max net size, and vessels are prohibited from having nets that exceed the legal size on board (unless it is stored). One boat was contacted with its net deployed, and it was found to also have a 4-¾" net on its spool. The captain said that he was planning on using the second net in a different location, and that he thought that it was legal size. The captain was **cited for Fail To Properly Store Tangle Net**.

Subject Takes Wild Chinook Salmon

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper was notified by an ODFW fish checker in Garibaldi that a subject had retained a spring Chinook with a suspicious looking adipose fin. The checker stated the fin had a section missing that did not appear healed and the area missing appeared pink. The fish checker told the Trooper that the subjects refused to release possession of the fish and had trailered the boat and left the area. The Trooper intercepted the vehicle on Highway 101 near milepost 74. The Trooper stopped the suspects and after some discussion the salmon was seized, and one subject was **cited for Take/Possession of Unclipped Chinook Salmon.**

Columbia River Boat Patrol

McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River from Chinook Landing to Dalton Point to work the reopening of sections of the Columbia River for salmon angling. The patrol resulted in **21 citations and multiple warnings for Unlawful Take of Hatchery Coho: Closed Area, Unlawful Take: Chinook Salmon, Angling Closed Stream, Barbed Hooks, No Resident Angling License,**



No Combined Angling Tag, and Fail to Immediately Validate. The Troopers contacted a group of seven subjects outside the mouth of the Sandy River standing in deep water casting into the Columbia River. The group all knew the Columbia was closed, all had barbed hooks, and had retained four hatchery Coho arguing they were in the Sandy River delta. Each subject was **cited for either Unlawful Take or Angling Closed Stream. All were warned for barbed hooks** and the four Coho were seized. Troopers noted a very low compliance rate with barbed hooks with one of the Troopers citing multiple anglers attempting to switch hooks upon seeing the Troopers.

Restaurant Manager and Employees Cited

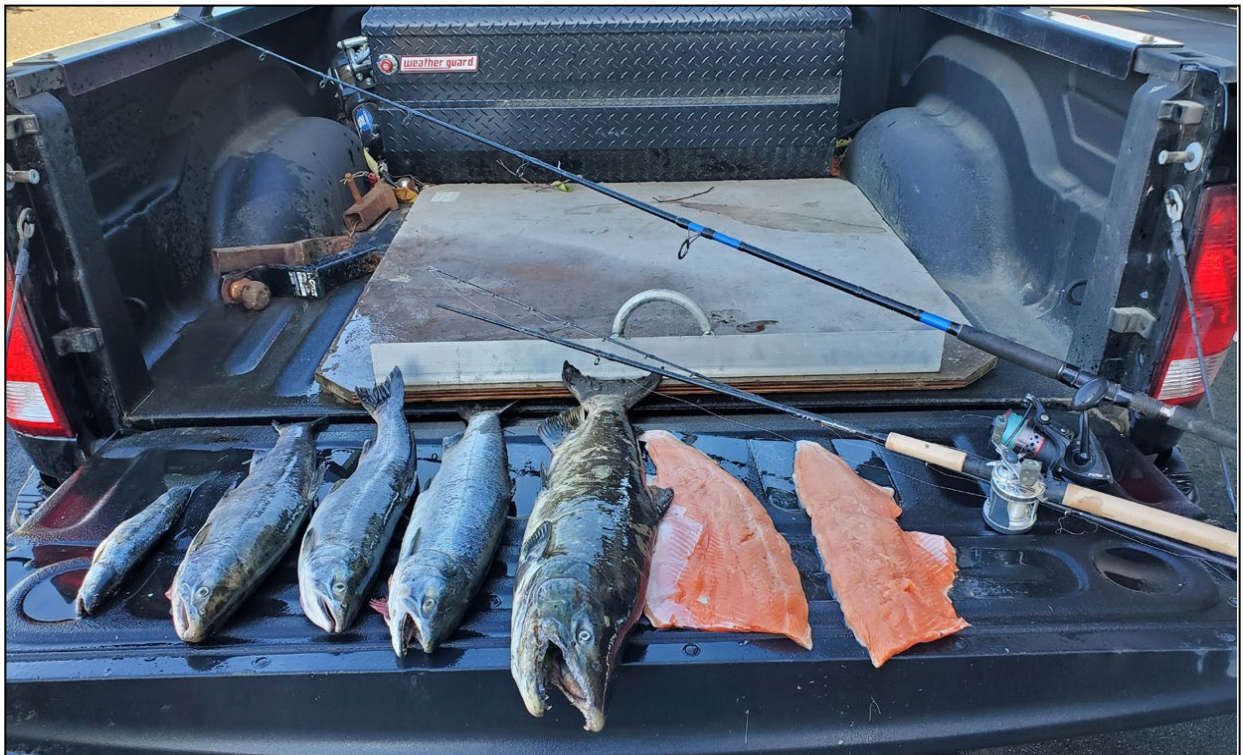
A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received a complaint regarding the unlawful take of Chinook salmon out of Mill Creek in downtown The Dalles. The Sergeant met with the complainant and was provided photos of the suspects in the act from the previous day. Subsequent info led the Sergeant to the restaurant in The Dalles where he located one of the suspects, still wearing the same clothes from the previous day in the photos, behind the restaurant on a break. The second suspect was also working that day at the restaurant. The manager of the restaurant retrieved what was left of the three illegally taken Chinook

salmon from the restaurant freezer. The Sergeant performed a full inspection of all additional fish and records at the restaurant with no more issues found. Ultimately, both men that took the fish were **cited and released for the crime of Unlawful Take Chinook Salmon: Closed Stream** and the restaurant manager was **cited and released for the crime of Restaurant Without Required Records and warned for the Unlawful Possession of Chinook Salmon**. The remaining salmon was seized as evidence.

Boat Captain Attempts to Hide Wild Coho

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Hammond boat basin for a boat that had brought in an un-clipped Coho salmon. When the ODFW fish checker had asked to inspect the catch the captain of the boat had asked if they could do it up at the processor that is located near the ramp. The ODFW employee agreed to this, but as he walked up to the processor he saw the captain slide the fish into a trash can. When he asked to inspect the fish, the captain picked it up in a manner to hide the adipose fin. Ultimately the captain allowed the fish to be fully inspected. While the Trooper was speaking to the fish checker the captain drove back to the area and came over and admitted his mistake. He said the fish had been kept accidentally by one of his less experienced anglers and he hadn't known until he took it out of the bag and put it on the table at the processor. He was **cited for Unlawful Take Coho Salmon** and the fish was donated to the local food bank.

Three Coho, two Chinook, a trout, and two angling rods were seized.



Angling Violations on Big Creek

An Astoria Sergeant received a call from a local landowner regarding a suspicious vehicle parked on ODFW property on Big Creek, which is currently closed to angling. Two men were observed attempting to snag salmon a short way down the trail. Approximately an hour later one of the subjects returned to the vehicle without any fish or angling gear. When he was contacted, he denied angling and said he was there alone. The subject was confronted in regard to angling rods in his vehicle and admitted he was angling, and that his angling license was suspended but maintained that he was alone. He eventually admitted there was a second subject still on the creek and that he had a Chinook salmon hidden down the trail. A consent search of the vehicle turned up a second Chinook salmon filleted in a grocery bag in the trunk. When the second subject was contacted, he threw his angling rod in the brush and denied having angled or having any fish. He eventually admitted that he had been angling and his angling license was also suspended. He also said he had two Coho salmon, which he retrieved from a hiding spot in the brush. A search of the area turned up another Coho salmon and a small trout. Both subjects are well known violators from previous criminal fish and wildlife cases, and each was **cited and released for Angling While Suspended and Unlawful Take of Salmon: Closed Season**. Additional charges were referred to the District Attorney. Three Coho, two Chinook, a trout, and two angling rods were seized.

Motorhome Removed from River, Owner Charged

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper discovered an older motorhome partially in the Chetco River at Social Security Bar in Brookings. A suspect/owner was unable to be located at that time. The motorhome was submerged from the rear tires to the bumper exposing the water to brake dust, oil, fuel lines, and the black and grey water tanks. ODOT assisted in pulling the vehicle from the waterway to stop any further contamination. A suspect was located the following week and admitted to driving into the river while trying to turn around in the riparian area along the bank. The subject was **charged with Criminal Trespass II, Abandoning a Vehicle, Water Pollution II, and Criminal Mischief III**.

Subject Pleads Guilty in Wild Coho Case

In November 2021, a McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint that a person had netted a wild Coho out of a small tributary of the South Yamhill River that runs through the suspect's property. The reporting party had been sent a picture of the suspect with the fish in the net and later took videos, with the suspect's knowledge, of her trying to net more fish. In addition to the unlawful method, the area is also well above the deadline for salmon angling. The subject was cited for Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin Clipped Coho Salmon. Additional charges were referred to the District Attorney. On March 3, 2022 the subject pleaded guilty in Yamhill County Circuit Court. The defendant's sentence included:

- Three-year angling license suspension
- \$1,350 in total fines with \$750 restitution to ODFW and \$100 to the TIP fund
- 18 months bench probation with condition individual cannot be around angling or possess angling equipment
- Forfeiture of seized equipment.

Violations Found at Lower Willamina Creek Falls

Earlier this year a McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper used trail cameras to conduct an observational period of Lower Willamina Creek Falls, a historical winter steelhead poaching location well above the steelhead angling deadline. The falls was posted with six ODFW “No Salmon/ Steelhead Angling” signs. On March 29th, a couple from Willamina was observed on trail camera taking a wild steelhead from the falls. After the observed take, ODFW updated the area to “No Angling” on April 8th. The couple returned additional days, each time leaving beer cans by the river and on the roadway. The couple was identified and interviewed. They were issued multiple criminal citations including **Take of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Steelhead, No Resident Angling License, Sharing in a Violation, Deposit Trash Within 100 Yards of Waterway, and Angling Closed Stream**. Several additional subjects were **cited for Angling Closed Stream** after the posted April 8th change. Willamina Creek supports one of the main breeding populations of Upper Willamette Steelhead, which are Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed as threatened and as recently as 2017, with a total run of only 512, were given a 90% chance of extinction by ODFW.

Mislabeling & Misreporting of Seafood Product

Slender Crab Found at Portland Fish Dealer

Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) members conducted a commercial fish dealer check in Portland stemming from ongoing issues regarding failure to accurately complete fish receiving tickets and illegal live imports of fish and shellfish species. The dealer had submitted numerous tickets that did not include fish that had been recorded on fisherman logbooks and had been sampled by ODFW. Additionally, a Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper had responded to the location

several weeks prior and seized two horseshoe crab that had been illegally imported (48 others had been sold prior to the Trooper’s arrival) without the proper fish transportation permits. Upon arrival to the location, the dealer was contacted about the missing fish on the fish tickets. Some of the fish on the tickets had been added but the amended fish tickets had not been submitted to ODFW as specifically instructed to do so by ODFW field biologists. The Troopers also discovered what appeared to be a basket of over 100 small Dungeness crab in a tank in the back of the store. When the dealer was asked about the crab, they said they had come in with a shipment of coonstripe prawns from Puget Sound,



Washington and had been sorted out once they arrived. The invoice for the prawns did not include any crab species included with the shipment. They admitted they had forgotten OSP was going to be there that day or they would have hidden them. When asked what they were going to do with them, the dealer said they were going to take them to Coos Bay and release them into the bay and were not planning to sell them. It was later determined the crab were slender crab and a controlled species in Washington which are not allowed to be possessed or sold. The dealer was **cited for Unlawful Possession of Commercial Caught Shellfish, No Live Fish Transport Permit, and Failure to Accurately Complete Fish Ticket**. The crab were seized.

Illegal Turbot Found at Portland Business

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper obtained information that a business in Portland was selling live flounder. Troopers responded to the business/restaurant and observed live fish in several tanks. One of the species was turbot fish which are not a native species to Oregon and requires a transport permit from ODFW. The business did not have a live fish transport permit for the turbot. Twelve turbot fish were seized, and the business was **cited for No Live Fish Transport Permit**.

Protection & Enforcement of MMPA Listed and Protected

MFT Focuses on Whale Entanglements

The Marine Fisheries Team continued enforcement efforts focusing on the ODFW whale entanglement regulations for both the commercial and recreational Dungeness crab fisheries.

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper performed an ocean boat patrol in Curry County. Commercial Dungeness crab gear was discovered that did not have late season buoy tags. The skipper was issued a citation for No Buoy Tag. One of the pots was seized.

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant discovered three different sets of recreational pots fishing in Yaquina Bay without the required identification information on the buoys. While seizing the third set, the subjects returned to pull their pots. They were unaware of the law requiring all sport gear to be marked. They were warned and the gear was returned to them.

Outreach & Sportsman Shows

Troopers Attend “I’m Hooked” Event

McMinnville and Portland Fish & Wildlife Troopers participated in an annual “I’m Hooked” kids fishing event at Hagg Lake. The event specifically recruits urban youth who tend to have less exposure to hunting and angling, but is open to everyone and is completely free. ODFW stocked the lake twice in the week leading up to the event.

Around 40 volunteers brought boats to take the kids fishing for 90 minutes. The Oregon Hunters Association provided a bow and arrow range and BB gun range, as well as several additional activities. Approximately 500 youth participated over two days.



Troopers Speak with International Delegation

A group from OSP Fish & Wildlife met with Enforcement Consultants at the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) where they spoke to Washington, Oregon, California, USCG, and Federal enforcement personnel on the rule making process within the Fisheries Council.

Later that week, a Fish & Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper spoke to the International Delegation. The group was visiting the United States to learn US policies and regulations to combat illegal fishing.

Troopers in Newport expanded on illegal fishing and how officers in the field conduct enforcement operations for recreational and commercial fisheries. The group also toured processing facilities and a variety of commercial fishing vessels.



OSP Fish & Wildlife Troopers at Sportsman show with Trailer of Shame



2023 Sportsmen's Shows

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles, Portland, and surrounding areas took shifts manning the OSP booth at the Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show in Portland. Lots of happy faces and show attendees walked by or stopped by the OSP booth to say thanks and ask questions.

Members of the Springfield Area Command's Fish and Wildlife Division attended the fiftieth annual Eugene Boat and Sportsman Show. On display was the "Trailer of Shame" (pictured above at the Portland show), which consists of various wildlife seizures from cases throughout the state. The Troopers also answered questions for sporting enthusiasts, handed out trinkets to those in attendance and assisted with comprehension of various wildlife regulations. F&W Conservation K-9 Buck was also in attendance throughout the show and enjoyed time with fans.

East Region Fish and Wildlife Troopers took turns manning the OSP booth at the Central Oregon Sportsman show in Redmond.

Southwest Region Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Jackson County Sportsmen's and Outdoor Recreation Show in Central Point. Troopers had a great time interacting with both human and animal attendees, as shown.



Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) – Police

WDFW land-based enforcement activities include conducting dockside patrols to monitor commercial catch off-loads (including incidental catch), insuring individual and vessel license compliance, activities related to compliance and verification checks and conducting collaborative enforcement efforts. WDFW at-sea responsibilities include patrolling the Pacific Ocean, conducting operations, joint enforcement, and inspecting at-sea vessels and personnel for licenses, federal permits, logbooks, marine permits and registration, and catch on board, with emphasis on activities within the Exclusive Economic Zone.

New coastal patrol boat

WDFW took delivery of their new 41' coastal patrol boat that replaces the P/V Corliss. This vessel was funded through the Joint Enforcement Agreement and State Funds.



Officers Garrison, Ariss and Sergeant Dielman travelled to Neah Bay on the new coastal patrol vessel (*O'Hagan*) to work three days halibut fishing along with the opener of coastal salmon in the marine waters near La Push and Neah Bay. Numerous tickets were written for fail to record, fishing in a closed area, barbed hooks, and expired registration. There were two very notable cases, however. The first involved the overlimit on halibut of a charter boat well known to officers for numerous violations. The second case made by Detachment 3 involved a bottom fishing vessel fishing in the rockfish conservation area.

As the officers approached, Sergeant Dielman observed a yelloweye rockfish floating about two feet from the suspect vessel. Sergeant Dielman grabbed it out of the water and realized the fillets had been removed from it. Though there were no other boats within 5 miles, the suspect stated, "That is not mine." Once on board, the group was found to also be overlimit on halibut (they had started to fillet the excess fish), had not recorded any halibut, and did not possess a descending device. In total, all the adults were cited for fishing closed area and fail to record. The captain received additional citations for the yelloweye rockfish, overlimit halibut, fail to submit catch for inspection, wastage, and descending device. A total of 11 ling cod, 8 halibut, and one canary rockfish were seized and later donated.

During this 5-day patrol, the crew of DFW #3 (P/V O'Hagan) covered an average of approximately 120 miles per day. A total of 31 citations, including several criminal charges, were issued along with dozens of verbal warnings. Twenty-three unlawfully possessed fish were seized and later donated.



Officers Garrison and Ariss aboard a charter boat with an overlimit of halibut.



Fish seized from a one vessel in the rockfish conservation. Please note the filleted yelloweye and the partially filleted overlimit of halibut.



Officer Garrison and Sergeant Dielman aboard the vessel in the rockfish conservation. The name of the boat is quite ironic.

WDFW Police and US Coast Guard teamed up in a joint operation named Operation “Barn Door” for the Puget Sound recreational Halibut opener. WDFW patrol boats as well as the USCG Cutter Wahoo, Station Port Angeles, and the USCG Air Station in Port Angeles all participated. WDFW Officers Wessel and Davidson patrolling the area near Sekiu for closed season halibut fishermen boarded one recreational vessel fishing for salmon. The anglers possessed several un-recorded salmon, and salmon in an unlawful condition (no proof of hatchery origin or length). The salmon anglers will be cited through the mail for the violations. The boarding crew of the Cutter Wahoo (based in Port Angeles) apprehended two subjects aboard a vessel near Hien Bank who possessed illegal narcotics including two dozen un prescribed opioid pills, and several grams of cocaine. The following day the same boarding team caught an illegal charter vessel targeting halibut. The operator of the vessel did not have a valid USCG license nor was he enrolled in a required drug screening program. Special thanks to the USCG Air Station in Port Angeles for getting WDFW Pilot Kimbrel up for a boat effort count of the East of Juan de Fuca Strait Marine area on the Thursday opener (the WDFW plane was grounded as logistical issues hampered delivery of repair parts).



WDFW Patrol Boat approaching USCG Cutter Wahoo in the Strait of Juan de Fuca.



WDFW Sergeant Kim with the crew of the USCG cutter Wahoo

Sergeant Rosenberger and Officer Langbehn patrolled the Ocean near Neah Bay for halibut. One group was cited for failing to record halibut, and another vessel was cited for fishing for halibut within the “C” closure off the north Coast.

Sergeant Rosenberger, Officer Hillman, and SO McOmber patrolled the last day of halibut fishing for May outside Neah Bay and Sekiu. Warnings were issued for barbed hooks and no descending devices. Violations included illegal rockfish species retained, failing to record halibut on catch record cards, and 2 undersized ling cod which were seized and later donated. One vessel was contacted and claimed they had only caught one rockfish for the day. A halibut harpoon was observed on the side of the vessel. When asked to open a fish well one individual admitted that they had retained a small halibut. The individual had not purchased their halibut catch record card, and both individuals conveniently appeared baffled that it was required after the halibut was located. Criminal citations were issued for failing to submit and retaining halibut without the required catch record card.

Sergeant Rosenberger and Officer Langbehn encountered a dead orca whale floating in the Pacific Ocean around 15 miles offshore between La Push and Neah Bay. NOAA researchers were contacted and the position of the carcass relayed. NOAA asked that the officers obtain a tissue sample for DNA testing so that they could identify which population of orcas it belonged too. Officer Langbehn took on the challenging/stinky task of obtaining a sample. The sample was provided to a NOAA orca researcher later that day.



WDFW Officers Respond To A Medical Emergency Offshore

Officer Baldwin and Sergeant Dielman were just beginning a boat patrol out of Grays Harbor when they received radio traffic between the vessel and Coast Guard Grays Harbor. Though they were approximately 33 miles away, they were the closest vessel. The USCG dispatched a helicopter for Coast

Guard Station Astoria that they believed was likely to beat them to the victim's location. They opted to continue to the area in case they could assist in any way. At the time, they were not hearing all the radio traffic and were unsure of the victim's status. They were the first responders to arrive on scene and observed a crewmember providing CPR to the victim on the deck of the boat. Sergeant Dielman deployed Officer Baldwin onto the victim's vessel, and he immediately began CPR.

The USCG helicopter did not arrive for another 10-15 minutes. During this time, Officer Baldwin and the two crewmembers repeatedly took turns providing CPR. It was easy to tell they were becoming exhausted through their efforts. Officer Baldwin did not quit with the lifesaving efforts even after the USCG opted not to deploy a rescue swimmer. It was decided a short time later by a USCG flight surgeon that continued CPR efforts were no longer going to provide any benefit due to the extended period of time the victim had gone without a pulse. Officer Baldwin assisted in providing CPR for approximately 30-45 minutes. Officer Baldwin remained on the vessel as it returned to Port with the body where it was turned over to Coast Guard investigators.

Officers Hillman, Tupen, and McOmber patrolled Neah Bay for halibut and bottomfish. One boat was found in violation for possessing rockfish beyond the 120' Bottomfish Closure with one black rockfish and one copper rockfish. Another vessel contacted at Shipwreck Point was found with two full bags of fresh bottomfish fillets, and was issued an infraction for the violation.

Officers Hillman and McOmber patrolled the docks at Quileute Harbor Marina for the salmon opener in La Push and Neah Bay marine waters. One individual was found with a halibut but could not produce a license or catch record card, claiming he lost it out of his hoodie pocket. After verifying the individual possessed a valid license and catch record card, he was allowed to keep the halibut and issued an infraction. Other violations were found for no license on person and a minor lingcod overlimit.

Officer Tupen and Sergeant Rosenberger conducted a boat patrol outside Sekiu, aboard a 14ft WDFW Boston Whaler. This vessel is low profile allowing the officers to approach anglers without detection. Many violations were encountered with several salmon anglers cited for fail to record catch and unlawful gear. Near Pillar Point the officers contacted a vessel with two anglers aboard fishing for halibut. The officers quickly observed a rope leading from the vessel into the water. The occupants aboard the vessel told the officers that they had retained two halibut. Upon inspection it was observed that the one angler had failed to record his halibut. The other angler already had recorded his season limit of four halibut earlier in the season. The rope was found to have a live halibut tied it below the boat with a quick release knot. The suspect admitted that they were surprised to be contacted by the officers in such a small boat. The halibut was seized, and Officer Tupen will be forwarding charges for over limit on halibut, and the other subject will be mailed a ticket for fail to record.



Live Halibut seized and released by Officer Tupen and Sergeant Rosenberger.

The next boat the officers contacted had three anglers with five halibut (limit is 1 halibut per person) and one closed season lingcod onboard. Additionally, none of the halibut were recorded. Two halibut and the lingcod were seized. Charges will be referred for possessing a closed season lingcod, overlimit of halibut and failing to record the halibut.



Officer Tupen with overlimit halibut and close season lingcod

Officer Tupen worked the La Push docks in Marine Area 3. One contact consisted of three anglers in possession of three halibut, four salmon, and some bottom fish. Officer Tupen discovered one of the

men did not have an active fishing license. The angler thought he had an annual license but had only purchased a one-day fishing license not valid on this day. Additionally, only three of the seven required fish had been recorded onto catch record cards. One halibut was seized, and charges will be referred for the angler in possession of a halibut without a valid fishing license.

Officers Baldwin, McOmber, and Sergeant Cilk performed boat patrols outside Westport for recreational salmon and halibut. Several violations were addressed for failure to record, fishing with barbed hooks, and fishing for halibut without a valid catch record card.



Detachment 2 Officers on Boat Patrol in Westport (Marine Area 2) for halibut and salmon.

Officer McOmber patrolled Westport boat launch for recreational halibut and salmon. Violations were addressed for failure to record and retention of halibut without a valid catch record card. Another vessel contacted had four fishermen and four halibut onboard but only two halibut licenses. Two halibut were seized and it was noted each individual had been recording previously caught halibut on the back of the salmon catch cards.

In September 2023 WDFW created a new detachment in the Forks area. Sergeant Harry Cilk was promoted to lead the officers up in the northern most area of the Olympic Peninsula.

Sergeant Cilk worked the docks in La Push shortly after being promoted. While contacting one vessel Sergeant Cilk noticed halibut had been recorded over a previous date. When pointed out to the fishermen Sergeant Cilk advised him to fix it. The fishermen then recorded the fish over another previously marked fish. When asked if he had any prior violations the fishermen said yes, he had received a ticket for failing to record a halibut, Sergeant Cilk advised the fishermen he would be cited again for failing to record. Sergeant Cilk researched the history of the fishermen and found that Officer Garrison had cited the individual earlier in the year for the violation. Officer Garrison was able to

provide a picture of the catch card which was different then the one being used currently. After a short conversation the subject admitted to buying a duplicate catch card and harvesting more than the annual limit of 4 halibut. Charges will be forwarded. (The subject had purchased two duplicate cards this year)

The Halibut was seized and donated to the Quileute tribal senior center.



While patrolling the Westport area, Officer Baldwin was notified by Officer McOmber, who was on a boat patrol, of an angler that was headed in with a halibut that did not have a halibut catch record card. The angler claimed that his wife had cut the halibut portion off his card and thrown it away. His license and catch record card had both been trimmed in a manner that removed the license year, WILD ID, document number, and all identifying information on the catch record card. It was confirmed that the angler had not purchased a halibut catch record card for 2023. The halibut was seized, and the angler was cited for the violation. During this patrol, one other angler was cited for failing to record his halibut.

During the weekend halibut fishery, Officer Baldwin contacted a vessel as they returned to the boat ramp. The three anglers in the boat said they had caught their halibut and a couple bottom fish. As the boat's fish hold was opened, the officer immediately recognized what appeared to be a yelloweye rockfish. The angler believed the fish was a canary rockfish and retrieved a placard showing the two species. The officer indicated the differences between the two species and seized the fish. The angler was cited for the violation.

Officers Izatt, Wessel, and Lt. Rosenberger conducted a boat patrol of Neah Bay. Two boats were found to be fishing in the "C" closure area. One vessel with two men aboard claimed to have just caught their second halibut. The two men were found to have failed to submit a 3rd (over limit) halibut. The men were informed they would be cited criminally for over limit halibut, and for failing to submit catch for

inspection. They will also be mailed an infraction for failure to immediately record any of the halibut. The 2nd vessel was also cited for fishing in closed waters for halibut.



Officer Wessel boarding vessel found fishing in “C” shaped bottomfish/halibut closure off North Coast.

Officer Garrison and Sergeant Dielman conducted a vessel patrol of the recreational halibut opener just north of Oregon and Columbia River. They contacted vessels and found moderate compliance. The most notable inspection led to Officer Garrison discovering a group of five individuals who were overlimit on halibut. They had all failed to record their halibut. The halibut was seized, and the group was cited. The halibut was donated to a group of unsuccessful fishermen.

Officer McOmber worked multiple days at the Westport sport ramp for halibut and bottomfishing activity. One boat was contacted in which an individual had neglected to record his halibut after returning to the dock, and was issued an infraction. Later that day, another vessel returned to the dock in possession of a yelloweye rockfish, after mistakenly misidentifying it for a canary rockfish. The rockfish was seized and the individual was cited. On a separate halibut day, one individual was found in possession of a halibut without the required catch record card, despite the rest of the crew having their catch record cards and fish recorded. The halibut was seized and the individual was cited. The halibut

was later donated to a family with a valid halibut catch record card, after they had been out all day to only catch two ling cod.

Sergeant Dielman and Officer Garrison conducted a boat patrol for halibut anglers in the marine areas north of the Columbia River. Compliance was high with only one verbal warning for untagged halibut aboard a charter boat. Several whales were spotted and entered into Whale Alert. Additionally they spent time patrolling commercial salmon and recreational halibut fishermen North of the Columbia River to Westport. They cited one commercial fisherman criminally for fishing with barbed hooks.



Officer McOmber boarding a Commercial Salmon Troller and finding all catch and gear in order

Officer Dean inspected several commercial crab, pink shrimp, and salmon troll offloads in the Westport Marina. One commercial salmon troll vessel was found to have four undersized chinook salmon. The skipper was cited criminally for the undersized chinook salmon.

Sergeant Alexander patrolled westport for recreational and commercial activity. While checking the end of a groundfish offload, he made contact with the skipper as he was pulling away from the dock. The skipper stated he had more fish on board, but was taking it to another location to sell. Halibut must all be unloaded and the skipper stated he had unloaded some and kept some for another buyer. Sgt. Alexander followed the skipper to another location and found he still possessed 7 halibut and some additional rockfish and lingcod. The skipper was counseled on unloading all halibut during an offload and instructed on how he can “split” the load to different buyers. The skipper and the additional buyer were counseled together to avoid future trouble for both of them.



Sergeant Dielman participated in a boat patrol with Sergeant Alexander and Officer McComber for the directed commercial halibut fishery offshore of the Columbia River. Two vessels were observed not using bird avoidance gear and then retaining rockfish. One of the vessels also had an unlicensed crewmember. Both of these vessels committed the same violations two years ago. Also, one of these boats brought in two yelloweye rockfish. The other boat was contacted after Sergeant Dielman learned they were selling their halibut off the boat after listing them as “take-home” on the fish ticket.



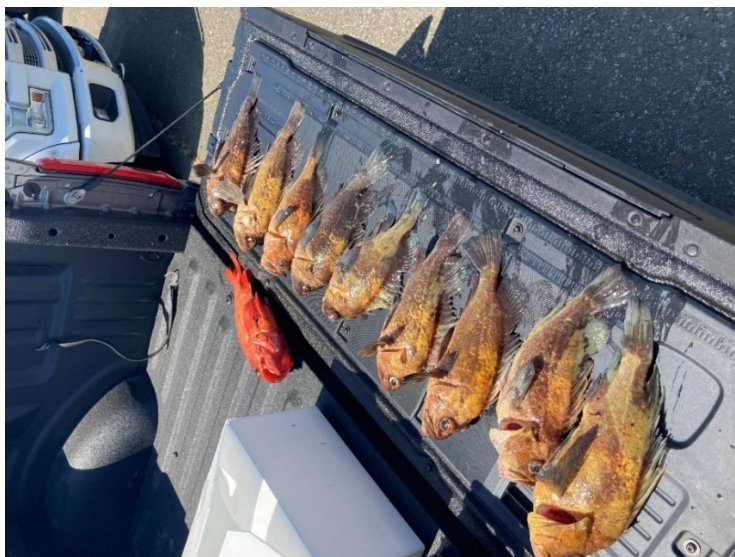
Sergeant Dielman patrolled Offshore of the Columbia River with Officer Tippet and Sergeant Anderson from Region 5. Sergeant Dielman wrote several infractions for minor recreational salmon violations. On

the way back to the dock, they boarded a commercial tuna boat in the Ilwaco channel operated by known violators. Two of them had numerous outstanding warrants, no WA licenses or crewmember licenses. They sold a small portion of their catch in Oregon. A week later Sergeant Dielman contacted the same boat in Ilwaco. When approaching the boat he could smell they had let their load of approximately 3500 lbs of tuna spoil. Charges for wastage and undocumented catch will be filed.

WDFW Sergeant documenting wastage in fish hold



While patrolling Westport during a halibut day, Officer Baldwin contacted three successful anglers on a vessel as they returned to the ramp. Upon opening the fish box, the officer immediately recognized multiple quillback rockfish. During the inspection, the officer also located a vermillion rockfish in the bottom of the box. In total, the group possessed nine quillbacks and one vermillion rockfish, all of which were unlawful to possess. Each angler was cited for the violations and the fish were later donated to the local mission.



While off duty, Sergeant Alexander became aware of a charter boat that was planning on taking 6 clients out of Westport to open area 3 and then returning with halibut to closed area 2. The unwitting clients were told the activity was legal by the charter captain, despite the captain having been counseled and warned about doing the same thing two years prior. As the clients kept asking questions the captain kept changing the answers. The potential clients cancelled the trip as the captain was committed to conducting the trip despite a phone call placed to him by Captain Chadwick reminding him the activity was not legal.

Officers Tupen and Wessel contacted approximately 15 boats while on a boat patrol in La Push and Neah Bay marine waters. Most reported slow halibut fishing. Violations observed included: unlawful gear, closed season rockfish retention, fail to record, and no valid license. Multiple citations and warnings were issued to address the violations.

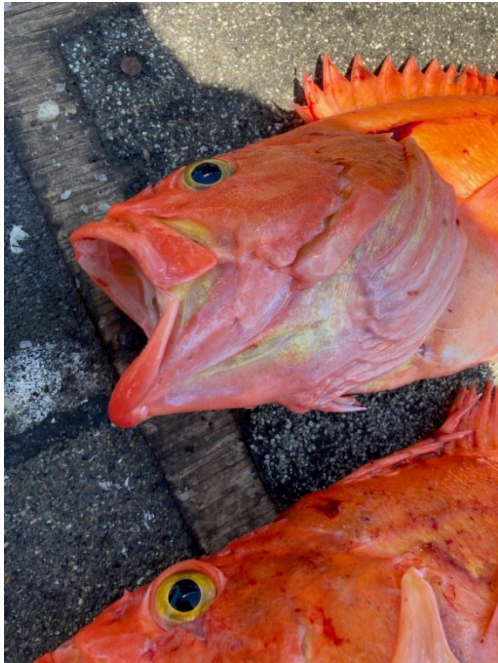
While patrolling the docks in Neah Bay, Officer Tupen contacted a charter boat. Officer Tupen inspected their catch as the deckhand unloaded their fish holds. Immediately, Officer Tupen suspected a possible overlimit of halibut. Officer Tupen discovered seven of the eight people onboard had valid fishing licenses (including the captain) and all seven had recorded a halibut. However, nine halibut were offloaded from the boat, making them overlimit by two. When confronted on this, the captain argued that Officer Tupen had missed checking more of his clients as they exited the boat, and all the halibut should be accounted for. Officer Tupen advised the captain to be honest about the situation and the captain then admitted there were only six clients onboard that day. The captain then tried to argue that his deckhand was allowed to keep a halibut, however the deckhand was found to have no state fishing license and had no identification on him at all. A thorough count of the fish was conducted, and the boat was found to be overlimit on lingcod as well (1 fish overlimit). Two halibut and one lingcod were seized from the boat. Charges against the captain of the boat will be filed with Clallam County Prosecutor's Office.



Nine halibut brought in by seven fishermen.

While on boat patrol Sergeant Cilk cited two fishermen on one vessel for violations including Barbed hooks, fail to record Salmon and possession of closed season Wild Coho.

Sergeant Cilk cited three fishermen for fail to record Halibut while on boat patrol, an attempt was made to record the fish as officers approached but the attempt was unsuccessful. The vessel was almost back to port and had been done Halibut fishing for some time.



While contacting a boat with four anglers onboard, Officer Tupen observed two yelloweye rockfish in their fish hold. Officer Tupen asked the anglers what species they thought the fish were and they stated they didn't know. Officer Tupen educated them on the characteristics of yelloweyes and the current rockfish closures/seasons that are in place. The anglers were very embarrassed and clarified many other fishing rules/regulations with the officer. The two rockfish were seized, and charges will be filed with the Clallam County Prosecutor's Office.

Yelloweye Rockfish seized by Officer.

Officer Wessel patrolled the Sekiu, Neah Bay and La Push docks. Two anglers were found to be in possession of two Chinook salmon out of Neah Bay. The daily limit is two salmon, only one of which can be a Chinook. The two anglers were educated and cited for the violation. The two extra Chinook were seized and later donated to anglers who had not reached their limits.

Officer Ariss conducted a boat patrol with Sergeant Dielman on the ocean out of Ilwaco for the salmon season opener. Several contacts were made, and warnings were given for failing to record salmon and barbed hooks. On one contact, the vessel owner said they hadn't caught any fish at all. Then, he said they threw a small one back. After being boarded, he admitted to catching the fileted coho found by Officer Ariss but would not admit it was of wild origin. He was cited for providing false information, for possessing the salmon in an unlawful condition, and fail to record and barbed hooks. The passengers were issued infractions for barbed hooks as well.

Officer Tupen contacted four anglers on a boat as they returned to the Neah Bay docks. Officer Tupen asked to inspect licenses and immediately three of the anglers began to walk towards the parking area advising that they had left their licenses in a vehicle. Officer Tupen inspected the fish onboard and found seven salmon consisting of two closed season wild Coho, one undersize Chinook, and four legal salmon. Once the three anglers returned, Officer Tupen checked their licenses and asked when they bought them. One of the men advised "earlier in the day." Officer Tupen looked up their purchase history online

and discovered all three had just been purchased at the store near the parking area. When faced with this information, the anglers admitted to purchasing the licenses after returning to the docks. Additionally, none of the fish had been recorded. Officer Tupen seized the two wild coho, undersize chinook, and two additional salmon (leaving them with two) as they had only one valid license onboard when the fish were caught. Charges will be filed against the four anglers addressing many violations including: wild coho retention, undersize chinook retention, fishing without a license, and fail to record.

Officer Garrison received a tip that a vessel had unlawfully landed two unmarked coho from Offshore of the Columbia River. He found the suspected violator's truck as they were leaving the marina. He followed them until they pulled over. Having reasonable suspicion, he requested to inspect the fish. He found two unmarked coho in a fish big. The violator said that they must have not noticed the adipose fins but added that they had been fishing for 30 years. The fish were seized and the violator was cited.

Officer Dean contacted a vessel returning to the sport ramp in Westport. Inspection of their catch record cards revealed that the two individuals had retained two chinook salmon. Upon inspecting the salmon, it was quickly learned that they had retained two wild coho salmon. The individuals stated they thought they were blackmouth as they had a sliver of black around the gumline. Officer Dean cited the two fisherman and seized their catch.



Officer McOmber patrolling the marine sanctuary.



Officer seized two Coho.

Officer McOmber patrolled the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary with Officer Garrison and Officer Ariss aboard WDFW #3. Several fishermen were contacted and educated on the rules for preserving the sanctuary. Two vessels were contacted and found to be fishing for rockfish without descending devices; education and descending devices were provided to the vessels.

While patrolling near Neah Bay and Sekiu, Sergeant Cilk and Officer Tupen contacted one angler in possession of three salmon (1 coho, 2 pink) two of which were already filleted. In addition to being overlimit, the angler was unlawfully continuing to fish for salmon when contacted and was unlawfully fishing with two poles. Additionally, none of the three salmon were recorded on his catch record card. The three salmon were seized, and the angler will be receiving multiple citations to address the violations. When Officer Tupen asked the man if he had any previous violations, he said he may have received a warning a couple weeks ago for not recording his salmon, Sergeant Cilk reminded the man that he was the one that contacted him and he did not receive a warning but was cited for the violation.



Overlimit of salmon seized by Officers.



Officer Dean and Officer McOmber patrolled the marine area outside Westport aboard WDFW #21 during the salmon emphasis out of Westport. On the first day of the emphasis, numerous vessels were checked and almost all vessels were found in violation. Officer Dean and Officer McOmber encountered numerous barbed hooks, fail to record salmon, fishing with an extra unit of gear, and possession of a wild coho. Many citations were issued.

While tied up at the Neah Bay docks, Officer Tupen and Sergeant Cilk observed a vessel pull into the docks quickly and drop two anglers off. Officer Tupen motioned to the boat operator to stop his vessel. The operator proceeded to motor away from the docks with an additional angler still onboard the vessel. Officer Tupen and Sergeant Cilk quickly untied their vessel and attempted to locate the vessel. They found the vessel tied up to a different section of dock. When contacted, the two anglers advised they had 11 salmon onboard (7 pinks, 4 coho). The limit for salmon in this area is 2 per angler making them three salmon over limit. Additionally, one of the salmon was found to be an undersized chinook salmon. Sergeant Cilk then observed two gallon-size bags of fresh salmon fillets floating near their boat. When confronted, both anglers vehemently denied the fillets belonged to them even though there were no other sport boats around them, oddly enough the 4 anglers had 12 Salmon recorded on catch cards. Officer Tupen contacted the two anglers who originally left the boat and advised them of the violations observed. Multiple citations were issued to each of the four anglers, and three salmon were seized.



Bags of fresh salmon fillets found in water next to suspect's boat.

Officer McOmber participated in a guide emphasis with Detachment 61 on the Columbia River and surrounding marine waters with Officer Ariss and the USCG. Several guide boats were boarded and found to be deploying barbed hooks, in addition to several private recreational vessels. Near the end of the patrol, one vessel was contacted that was suspected of guiding without a license under the claim of a "family gathering". The vessel was also found to be deploying several barbed treble hooks with

possession of salmon. The vessel owner's information was documented and will be noted for future contacts.



Protected Resources – Protection & Enforcement of MMPA Listed and Protected Species



Lt. Rosenberger and Officer Hillman observed a group of Transient Orca's near Foul weather bluff. A commercial whale watch vessel was observed encroaching within 200 yards of the orcas at one point. Lt. Rosenberger contacted the skipper via phone and issued a stern warning and a reminder to exercise more caution.

Officer Barabasz and Officer Izatt conducted a Southern Resident Killer Whale patrol in the San Juans. A pod of transients were located and several vessels traveling at high speeds in the area were stopped and told to slow down. All vessels contacted were advised of the regulations surrounding the whales.

Sergeant Kim assisted at the Soundwatch booth during the Anacortes Boat show. Many questions were answered, and many were knowledgeable with the new legislation that passed that increased the distance requirements for SRKW's.

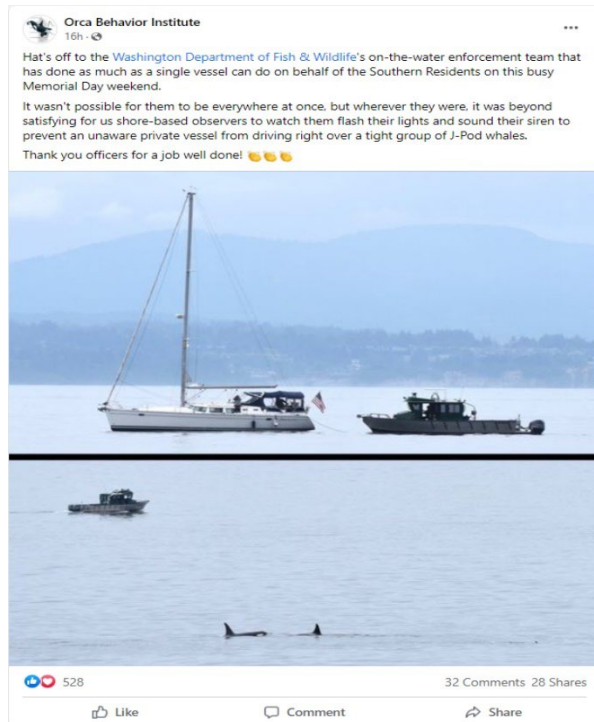
5:00pm - 6:00pm Pacific Time

Boating around Marine Mammals in Canada & Washington, USA: A joint presentation by
Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Catriona Day and Kim Hwa
Federal Fisher Office with DFO's Whale Protection Unit

Location: Room 1



Sergeant Kim with A. Frayne from Soundwatch and T. Galuska from WDFW



WDFW and DFO at the Vancouver boat show providing marine mammal education.

Officer Kimball and Sergeant Kim assisted DFO Officer Day conduct a presentation on whale enforcement in Canada and Washington State at the Vancouver boat show. The Officers also assisted at their booth that was set up

and answered questions regarding rules and regulations in Washington State.

During a vessel patrol, Officers Baldwin, Cilk, and McOmber contacted a vessel that said they weren't having a good time as they indicated one of the anglers with a large hook buried in his finger. For a brief moment, the officers considered allowing the anglers to go on their way to get medical assistance. However, the angler quickly admitted that the hook was barbed and made a statement to make the officers believe there was more to be uncovered. Officers boarded the vessel, which still had two lines deployed, and began an inspection. The three anglers were in possession of 7 coho, exceeding their daily limit. When asked, the anglers claimed to have doubled up which led to the hook in the finger. This quickly didn't add up as two rods were still deployed, 6 fish were in the floor box, and one was on the deck. The anglers were questioned about the rods (attempting to exceed the daily limit) and the overlimit, and eventually got around to admitting that they realized they were wrong. All three were cited for multiple violations and the extra fish was seized.



Officers Wessel and Barabasz patrolled the big Quilcene river. Officer Wessel flew her UAS (unmanned ariel system) over the closed section of river and observed, and recorded one angler fishing in the closed waters. The officers then contacted the angler as he was walking back on the trail. The angler first stated he did not fish the closed section, but when faced with information he was recorded doing he did not deny it.



Shot of recorded drone footage of angler fishing closed waters.

Sergeant Cilk and Officer McOmber patrolled the marine waters outside Westport for recreational salmon. One vessel was contacted on a day closed to Chinook retention and asked to produce their salmon and gear for inspection. As one individual opened a floor hatch to retrieve salmon, a Chinook tail was spotted, but the individual only produced two marked coho on the deck of the boat. After inspecting gear and licenses, the individuals were asked multiple times if any other fish were on the boat, but they insisted that they had caught “just the two”. The individuals were confronted on their lie and ordered to produce all the salmon they had caught that day; two Chinook, three wild coho, and one additional marked coho were removed from the fish box for a total of 8 salmon retained between the two individuals. Violations included failure to submit for inspection, closed area Chinook retention, retention of 3 wild coho, two times overlimit for salmon, and failure to record for each violator.



Follow up to a Grand jury indictment in 2021.

In our 2021 Tri State Report we detailed an investigation that began in 2019. The case was concluded with a judgement and sentence in 2022.

In 2019, Sergeant Olson received information from Alaska Wildlife Trooper John Ryan about a subject who had shipped 46 cases of geoduck from Alaska to Washington State that was deemed by Alaska to be unsafe for human consumption. This was due to the fact that some of the geoduck were harvested from a closed area and intermingled with legally harvested geoduck. Since there was no way to determine which geoduck were harvested from the closed site and which were harvested from the open site, all the geoduck were required to be destroyed. The owner of the company who purchased the geoduck had subsequently shipped it to Washington State. He was instructed by Alaska health officials and Alaska Wildlife Troopers to dispose of the geoduck in Washington State by taking the product to a garbage dump. The subject was required to email proof via a dump receipt and pictures that the product was in fact destroyed. The subject submitted an illegible blurry photo of a receipt and a picture of 10 boxes of geoduck indicating that the 10 boxes were a representative sample of the shipment of 46 boxes. WDFW was asked by Alaska Wildlife Trooper John Ryan to follow-up to determine if the subject disposed of the geoduck.

In April 2021, for only the 2nd time in the last 15 years in WDFW, a grand jury indictment was obtained by the U.S. Attorney. The federal referral included smuggling of shellfish, false labeling of shellfish, fraud, false information, theft, and customs violations. Detachment 1, specifically Officer Greshock, and SIU, specifically Detective Clementson, did a spectacular job on this case. This was truly a team effort that included WDFW, Alaska Fish and Wildlife, California Fish and Wildlife, NOAA and Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

In May 2022 a Judgment and Sentence was handed down to the suspect and his company. The suspect pleaded guilty to 18 USC 554 Smuggling Goods from the United States (FELONY) and was sentenced to 90 days in jail with 3 years supervision. His company was ordered to pay a \$25,000 fine that was due immediately.

ESA Smelt: The following fishery occurred in 2022. There was no recreational fishery in 2023.

Smelt were present in the Cowlitz River for the entire month of March 2022. The peak of the run arrived early in the month and Fish Program announced a one day, five-hour, season. Thousands of people flocked to the area to dip for smelt. Sergeant Anderson coordinated with SIU, and Officers from around the area to put together a patrol plan. SIU Detectives worked with a local Officer and made observations attempting to identify anglers with gross over-limits. Uniformed Officers staged in popular dipping areas and checked anglers as they returned to their vehicles. Dipping was very successful during the fishery and once again Officers were tasked with trying to regulate an out-of-control fishery. Officers worked diligently throughout the fishery seizing an estimate 2800 pounds of smelt. Considering that only ten uniformed Officers were able to participate due to the conflicts with training this was quite the task. Sixty-eight citations were issued in the five-hour fishery for violations including over-limit, separate container, and closed time. After the fishery Officers responded to a few closed season dipping complaints but for the most part did not find many closed season dippers. Officer did encounter three incidents of closed season dipping throughout the rest of March resulting in infractions for closed season.





Officer Bolton and Sergeant McQuary conducted a Columbia River boat patrol checking salmon fishermen at the mouth of the Klickitat River and Drano Lake. Officer Bolton and Sergeant McQuary responded to a call of a closed season gillnet at Drano Lake. The net was pulled and about twenty salmon, sturgeon and steelhead were removed with half released alive. The dead salmonids were donated. Officer Bolton received suspect information that he shared with Columbia River Intertribal Enforcement.



Salmon that were in the gillnet and Officer Bolton holding a steelhead that was in the net.

Officers Miller, Tank, Johnson, and Sergeant Kim conducted outbound cargo inspections at the US Border with the contraband enforcement team. Outbound traffic was high but only one shellfish truck crossed the border during the inspection period. The vehicle was transporting live red urchins to Canada. The seller and buying company were documented and no violations observed.



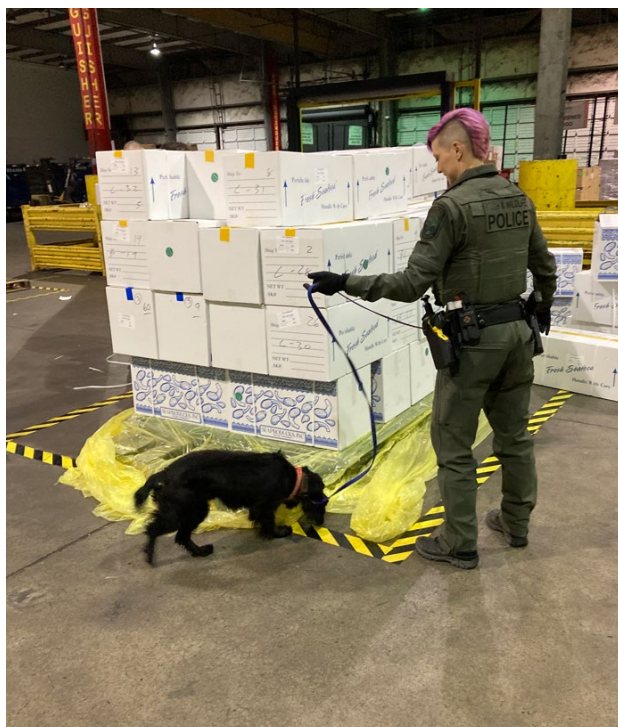
Sergeant Kim and Officers Miller and Tank conducting an inspection on sea urchins.

Officers Hale and Munn conducted several wholesale dealer and airport inspections for JEA. While at Japan Air Cargo, an interesting import shipment was inspected. Officer Hale located several boxes that were labeled "Fresh Live Hairy Crab". "Hairy Crab" is a common name for Chinese Mitten Crab, a highly invasive (classified) species that is illegal to import to Washington State. Upon inspection, Officers found that the crab were frozen. A copy of the airway bill was obtained. A traceability violation was discovered because the crab were listed as "Fresh Fish" on the airway bill.



Officer Munn inspecting crab at SeaTac.

During a JEA Airport Operation, WDFW Officers Hale and Lasko observed a subject make a suspicious delivery of what appeared to be shellfish from a personal vehicle. The boxes the subject unloaded were unlabeled but matched the packing style commonly used for shipping live shellfish. After the subject made delivery to the cargo facility, NOAA opened the unlabeled boxes and observed that they contained live Dungeness crab. Officer Hale retrieved the airway bill for the shipment and observed that the airway bill was mislabeled as "Live Shellfish." Attempting to place live Dungeness crab into interstate commerce (across state lines) without the species identified on the airway bill is a Lacey Act violation. The violation was referred to NOAA on scene. Officers Hale and Lasko followed up on the suspicious delivery and through investigation were able to find out that the subject was a licensed fish buyer through WDFW. The officers conducted a follow-up inspection at the wholesale plant the following day to ensure fish receiving tickets and paperwork were in order.



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

P/B Bluefin

From January of 2023 to September of 2023, Wildlife Officer Meier has issued 47 citations relating to groundfish violations. These violations include possession of yelloweye rockfish, overlimit of copper rockfish, overlimit of vermillion rockfish, general overlimit of rockfish, take of rockfish out of season, take of rockfish in closed areas, use of too many hooks or rods with rockfish in possession, and possession of undersized lingcod.



While patrolling commercial fishing docks in San Diego County, Wildlife Officer Meier and Wildlife Officer McLennan contacted a commercial swordfish fisherman who held an experimental fishing permit for deep set buoy gear. During the contact, it was discovered his EFP deep set buoy gear logbook was incomplete as it was missing much of the required information. When the Wildlife Officers asked the fisherman for his Pacific Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit, he was unable to produce it but stated he did have one. The Wildlife Officers explained to him he needed to have the permit with him while engaged in commercial swordfish activity and ended the contact. Later that day, Wildlife Officer Meier conducted a search for the fisherman's HMS permit and discovered his permit had been expired for several months.

Two days later, while on skiff patrol at nine-mile bank offshore of San Diego County, Wildlife Officer Meier and McLennan observed deep set buoy gear deployed in the water. The license number on the gear matched that of the commercial fisherman from the days before. The fisherman was located nearby and contacted once again, this time with swordfish in possession. The fisherman was made aware the Wildlife Officers had not found an active HMS permit and that he was in violation. He self-terminated his commercial fishing trip for that day.

Upon a follow-up investigation, Wildlife Officer Meier discovered the fisherman was commercially fishing for swordfish without an active HMS permit for four months. After reviewing landing receipts, it was determined the commercial fisherman had landed ten swordfish during the period his HMS permit was expired. The case was referred to NOAA OLE.

The Patrol Boat Bluefin was motoring south along the California coast on a multiday patrol when they observed a commercial fisherman near Point Conception State Marine Reserve (SMR) offshore Santa Barbara County. The boarding Officers contacted the commercial fisherman and ultimately discovered he had commercial rock crab traps within the SMR. In addition to traps in the SMR, the Wildlife Officers discovered several additional violations which included having undersized identification numbers on his buoys, having buoys greater than 4" in diameter without identification numbers on four opposing sides, buoys not having identification numbers in a contrasting color and having buoys not being maintained so that the identification numbers and letters are visible and legible.

During a follow-up investigation, it was found the commercial fisherman had a tier 3 endorsement for sablefish and fishes in federal waters requiring him to have VMS on his vessel. Using VMS, the case officer, Wildlife Officer Meier, was able to view the commercial fisherman's vessel tracks. Using the vessel's tracks and historical weather buoy data, Wildlife Officer Meier realized the fisherman was neglecting the servicing of his commercial rock crab traps, sometimes for weeks at a time. While searching the vessel in VMS, it was also discovered the vessel's ping rate had been transmitting its position every hour, rather than every 15 minutes. The commercial fisherman was ultimately cited for the violations and the case was forwarded to the District Attorney for prosecution. The VMS violation was referred to NOAA OLE.



Wildlife Officer Meier was on skiff patrol with two other Wildlife Officers in Monterey Bay during the closed season for rockfish during California's closed Central Groundfish Management Area. During the patrol, he had contacted two individuals on a small vessel that was starting to motor out of Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve offshore Monterey County. During the contact, Meier discovered multiple species of rockfish in many containers on the vessel. After a count of the fish, it was determined the individuals had taken twenty-one rockfish and one lingcod. The individuals were cited for the take of rockfish during the closed season. All fish were seized from the individuals.



The Patrol Boat Bluefin was motoring south offshore Monterey County when they observed a vessel in the middle of the Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) where the take of rockfish is prohibited. As the Bluefin got closer to the vessel, Wildlife Officers observed many people fishing off the rear deck.

Wildlife Officer Meier contacted the vessel and discovered eight individuals onboard, all of which admitted to fishing. During an inspection of the fish on their vessel, Wildlife Officer Meier found 68 assorted rockfish. After talking to the captain of the fishing vessel and showing him the boundaries of the SMCA, he admitted they had been fishing the SMCA on that day and had caught the majority of the rockfish in the SMCA. All eight individuals were issued citations for the take of rockfish within the SMCA.

While offshore outside of state waters, Wildlife Officer Meier and the Bluefin squad noticed sablefish trap buoys that were not within compliance as they were missing radar reflectors, black flags and lights. This prompted a search of the vessel on VMS which helped locate the remainder of his buoys.

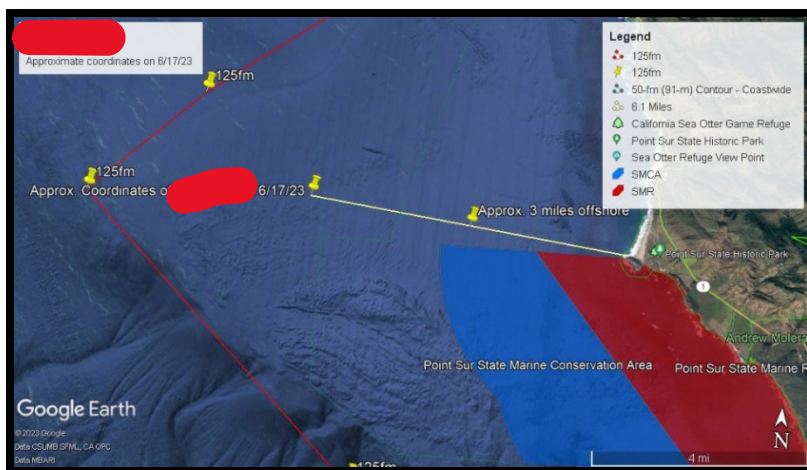
The following morning, Wildlife Officer Meier and the Bluefin squad returned to the traps and pulled one. While doing this they noticed a vessel nearby. Wildlife Officer Meier contacted the vessel and found many state and federal violations which included, commercial fishing license not in possession, commercial trap permit not in possession, not having radar reflectors, flags or lights on sablefish trap buoys, failure to display vessels number on weather deck, failure to have vessel numbers displayed on vessel with ten-inch minimum size, unlawful destruct device on the trap, and failure to maintain VMS on board the vessel at all times.

During a follow-up investigation on the fisherman, Wildlife Officer Meier discovered he had a fish business license and was submitting sablefish fish tickets late, sometimes weeks late. He also found the fisherman was not maintaining copies of the fish tickets nor having fish tickets that contained all the required information. The commercial fisherman was ultimately cited for the violations and the case was submitted to the District Attorney for prosecution.



In June of 2023, Wildlife Officer Rank was patrolling the waters off the coast of Monterey County with the Patrol Boat Bluefin. He witnessed a commercial fishing vessel in federal waters and within the 50-125 fathom Rockfish Conservation Area. He approached and found a tangled line of rockfish that had broken off just behind the vessel. It was non-trawl gear. Upon contacting the individuals on the vessel, they confirmed they were fishing open access groundfish. One of the deckhands did not have his commercial fishing license in possession and the vessel did not have the required VMS.

They had caught 460 lbs. of rockfish with a market value of \$782.90. The captain and crew were cited for these violations. Wildlife Officer Rank seized their load and had the receiver write a check to the Fish and Game Preservation Fund. The case is still pending with the district attorney's office.



Wildlife Officer Roth and LeBlanc were patrolling offshore of Franklin Point in San Mateo County. They observed a boat with 8 anglers on it actively fishing with lines extended into the water. They observed an angler actively throwing fish into the water from a cooler. The angler was told to stop and everyone to reel up their lines. The Wildlife Officers asked to see their fishing licenses and all the fish onboard. They observed and counted 112 assorted rockfish and 4 lingcod, a violation of CCR T-14: 28.55 10 fish limits for rockfish.



The limit for 8 anglers would have been 80 rockfish. They caught over their boat limit by 32 rockfish. Every angler was issued a misdemeanor citation. Wildlife Officers returned all the fish to the wild and returned all other gear. In looking at criminal histories and our Records Management Systems, Wildlife Officers discovered that 4 of the anglers have had previous violations with CDFW over the years.

P/B Swordfish

Wildlife Officer Cohen contacted a LEFG commercial groundfish fisherman offloading commercial catch from his fishing vessel at Channel Islands Harbor. He was offloading various federal groundfish species including vermillion rockfish. The vermillion rockfish limit is set by federal regulations and put forth in 50 CFR 660 Table 2 South. It stipulates that the vermillion rockfish limit is 3000 Lbs. per 2-month quota period. The federal regulation is incorporated into state regulation under CCR T-14:189(a).

This event occurred during the September- October quota period. Cohen conducted a "weigh back" and reweighed all the fish in his possession. He determined that he was in possession of 1155 Lbs. of vermillion rockfish. Cohen summated that with his past landings for vermillion rockfish in the quota period and determined that he landed 3062.7 during the September - October quota period; 62.7 Lbs. over the limit.

The case was submitted to the Ventura County District Attorney, but the case was not filed, and the statute of limitation expired. The case was then referred to NOAA OLE, who issued the LEFG commercial fisherman a warning.

In February 2022, the Patrol Boat Swordfish was patrolling offshore near Santa Cruz Island when Lt. Lengning, Wildlife Officer Cohen, and Wildlife Officer Coats observed a vessel that appeared to be

fishing for rockfish despite the recreational rockfish season being closed. After launching the patrol skiff, Coats and Cohen contacted the anglers who said they were commercially fishing for rockfish and had only caught one copper rockfish so far. Coats asked to see everyone's commercial fishing license, identification, and all other required licenses and permits for the vessel to be taking groundfish. Cohen recognized the operator of the vessel and told Coats there had been numerous commercial fishing issues with him in the past.

During his inspection, Coats found one angler did not have his commercial fishing license in his possession, another angler did not have any identification with her, and the vessel operator did not have a deeper nearshore rockfish permit, the vessel did not have VMS installed, and there were no commercial fishing registration numbers displayed on the vessel. Coats issued misdemeanor citations for all violations and instructed the operator that he needed to return to the harbor as he could not legally fish. Once the citations were signed and the fish was seized, the crew of the PB Swordfish kept watch on the vessel to ensure the anglers left the islands and headed back to the harbor.

The case was filed with Santa Barbara Superior Court. The case settled and two charges were dropped while the suspect pleaded guilty to failure to display commercial F&G vessel numbers. He was fined \$350.

Wildlife Officer Johnson was conducting routine inspections of commercial groundfish offloads in 2022. During one contact with a limited entry groundfish vessel, Johnson asked to inspect the vessel's previous quota period's electronic fish tickets and dock tickets. Johnson observed there were 5 separate dock tickets on board from the previous quota period. These landings cumulated a total of 3061.5 pounds of vermilion rockfish, 61.5 pounds over the quota allotment. Johnson interviewed the operator and confirmed each of these dock tickets were accurate. Johnson cited the operator for the overlimit of vermilion rockfish.



P/B Mako and P/B Lingcod

Since 2022, CDFW Wildlife Officers have utilized Patrol Boats Mako and Lingcod along with shoreside patrols to enforce commercial and recreational fisheries along California's Lost Coast. Wildlife Officers have investigated cases resulting in recreational violations such as unlawful take of Coho salmon, out of season groundfish and Pacific halibut, over daily limits of groundfish, illegal methods of take for Pacific halibut, rockfish, and salmon. Wildlife Officers have investigated commercial violations involving VMS, trip limits, landing records, undersized fish, commercial RCA, among others. Mutual aid with federal partners involved joint patrols with NOAA OLE, US Coast Guard, and Cal Poly Humboldt marine mammal stranding team.

Wildlife Officers were on a federal groundfish patrol off a remote area of Cape Mendocino. The Officers boarded a recreational vessel and discovered an abundance of copper rockfish. After inspection, Wildlife Officers located 11 copper rockfish, 8 over the legal boat limit.



A CDFW Wildlife Officer was conducting vessel inspections at the Crescent City Harbor boat launch. During one inspection, the Wildlife Officer contacted a vessel with two licensed fishermen and an ice chest full of rockfish. After enumerating and sorting the various species of rockfish present on the vessel, the Wildlife Officer discovered a violation of the general rockfish bag limit, as well as a violation of the quillback rockfish sub-bag limit. Further investigation revealed both fishermen were at fault. Appropriate citations were issued and fish exceeding the bag limit were seized.



In March of 2022, a CDFW Wildlife Officer conducted a compliance inspection of a commercial groundfish vessel offloading catch in the Crescent City Harbor. During the inspection, the Wildlife Officer observed multiple undersize China rockfish. The Wildlife Officer seized the fish, cited the commercial fisherman for minimum size violations, and later returned the fish back to the wild. During the same contact, the Wildlife Officer also discovered the fish Receiver purchasing the groundfish did not possess an active Receiver's license. The Receiver was also cited appropriately.

While onboard the P/B Mako working recreational Pacific halibut, Wildlife Officers received calls regarding an entangled whale in the Trinidad area. Wildlife Officers responded and coordinated the Cal Poly Humboldt/NOAA entanglement team. Wildlife Officers located the whale and utilized the P/B Mako to transport the whale entanglement team to the whale as it traveled north.



In April of 2022, Wildlife Officers received a call from the Eureka Police Department. Eureka PD had detained two subjects who had a juvenile harbor seal in the back of their vehicle. The seal was contained in a small glass aquarium. Wildlife Officers responded and coordinated with the North Coast Marine Mammal Center to take possession of the seal. Wildlife Officers interviewed both subjects involved, advised them of the violations, and referred the case to NOAA Office of Law Enforcement for enforcement action.



In July of 2022, a CDFW Wildlife Officer observed a commercial HMS fisherman selling albacore in the Crescent City Harbor. The officer made undercover observations of multiple sales. Later in the day, the Wildlife Officer conducted a uniformed compliance inspection and discovered multiple violations, including selling fish to the ultimate consumer without a Fisherman's Retail License, failure to maintain records of sales, and utilizing a scale red-tagged by Del Norte County Weights and Measures. The case was forwarded to the Del Norte County District Attorney's Office for consideration.

P/B Marlin

In December of 2021, the P/B Marlin went on a patrol to the Farallon Islands. Upon rounding the south island, they saw several sport fishing vessels inside the Marine Protected Area. The first vessel they approached took off and tried to outrun the Marlin. After almost 2 miles of pursuit and the Marlin right on their tail, the vessel yielded, and all anglers were cited. Upon returning to the other vessels, they found several more in violation. One of the vessels had fish floating around it, clearly indicating an effort to discard the overlimit before Wildlife Officers arrived. However, the six anglers on board were still in possession of more than the daily bag limits for rockfish and lingcod. In all, 16 citations were issued for take inside the MPA and overlimit of groundfish.

In February of 2022, the Marlin was patrolling the Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area. The patrol boat used its radar to determine a single vessel was fishing in the closure. Upon contacting the vessel, they found that multiple occupants of the vessel did not have fishing licenses. They also found

that the vessel had kept out of season rockfish and lingcod. The vessel was cited, and charges were filed in San Mateo County.

In October of 2022, while patrolling the Southeast Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve, the Marlin crew observed two vessels that were likely fishing inside the MPA. One vessel took off as they approached, before the crew could confirm fishing gear in the water. The Marlin diverted to the second vessel that was fishing very close to the island. The vessel tried to flee, but not before the rods on board could be reeled in. The passengers had to move to the back of the vessel as they frantically tried to hold on to their rods while reeling in with the vessel speeding away. The vessel eventually yielded to the Marlin's lights and siren. The vessel was fishing for rockfish. All fishers on the vessel were cited for fishing in the MPA and charges were filed in San Francisco County.



In December of 2022, the P/B Marlin patrolled the Farallon Islands. They launched the skiff and boarded a vessel that was fishing in the Southeast Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve. The vessel had 4 people actively fishing. The Wildlife Officers asked to inspect their catch and the vessel provided 4 separate ice chests, each containing a limit of rockfish and lingcod. One of the anglers was sitting on a bucket. The Wildlife Officers asked to see what was in the bucket and the subject pretended not to hear him. Wildlife Officers had to ask several times before the officers were able to inspect the contents of the bucket. The bucket contained several rockfish including multiple yelloweye rockfish. All four subjects were cited for fishing in the MPA, take of overlimit of rockfish, and take of yelloweye rockfish.

In September 2023, the P/B Marlin was patrolling Rittenberg Bank. Rittenberg Bank is located between the Farallon Islands and Cordell Bank in the 50-125 fathom non-trawl RCA. Commercial fishers are required to use non-bottom contact gear to take groundfish in this area. Wildlife Officers boarded a commercial fishing vessel that had rockfish on board. The vessel had lines in the water that when inspected were set up for bottom fishing. The vessel's crew admitted that it had caught and released yelloweye rockfish at that location. Wildlife Officers later determined that the vessel's VMS was declared as active in the non-bottom contact non-trawl RCA at the time. The case will be referred to NOAA OLE.

P/B Coho

In December of 2022, the Patrol Boat Coho Wildlife Officers Lyford, Brandt, and Oswald contacted two far offshore longline vessels while aboard the Patrol Boat Coho skiff. Both vessels fished between the mainland USA and Hawaii.

Wildlife Officers Lyford, Brandt, and Oswald conducted an inspection of the vessel and upon doing so observed swordfish, Dorado, tuna, and Opah on both vessels. In addition, they observed several unidentifiable chunks of frozen fish on board one of the vessels.

Wildlife Officers, Brandt and Oswald contacted the crew from both vessels and determined that 13 out of the 14 crew members did not have Commercial Fishing Licenses. In addition, none of the crew on either vessel were in possession of a valid Commercial Swordfish Permit. Furthermore, Wildlife Officers Lyford, Brandt and Oswald determined that the crew aboard one of the vessels was in violation of possessing fish aboard a vessel in a condition where species could not be determined. Lastly, a Far Offshore Fishing Declaration had not been filed for either vessel which was an additional violation.

In total, both vessels landed \$189,272 worth of Swordfish unlawfully.



Over the course of the past few years, the harvest of Blue Fin Tuna has increased significantly in the waters off the coast of Southern California. With that, unfortunately, the illegal commercialization of Blue Fin Tuna has also increased significantly. During the year 2022, Wildlife Officer Brandt from the Patrol Boat Coho, conducted a lengthy and in-depth investigation into the unlawful commercialization of Blue Fin Tuna that involved 7 suspects in the Southern California Area. During his investigation, Wildlife Officer Brandt, with the help of Wildlife Officer Oswald, and retired Patrol Boat Coho Lieutenant Buckler served several search warrants, and conducted multiple interviews that helped him piece together a significant case. In all, Wildlife Officer Brandt's efforts resulted in multiple charges being filed against 13 subjects. To summarize, all 13 subjects were found collectively to be in violation of 101 counts of the unlawful sale and or purchase of sport caught fish, (which included Blue Fin Tuna, Mako Shark, Ca Spiny Lobster, Dorado and other species), in addition to other violations.

The photos below are a picture of processed bluefin tuna and rockfish in one of the suspects places of business.

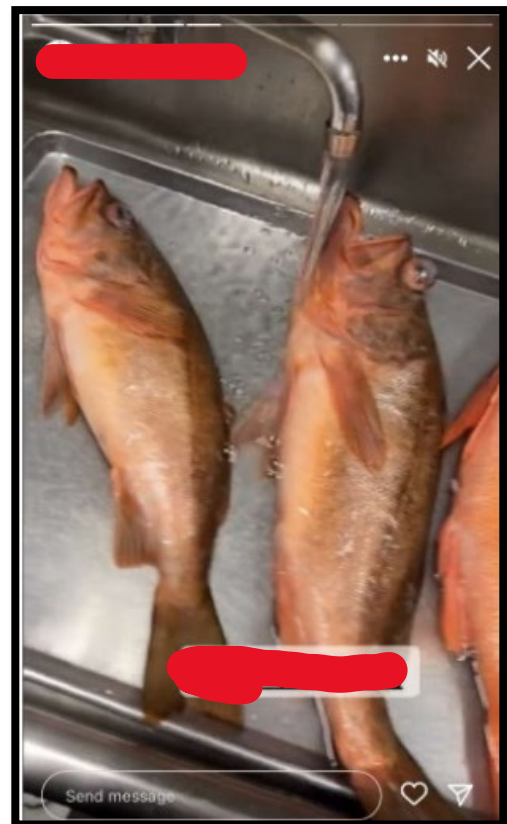
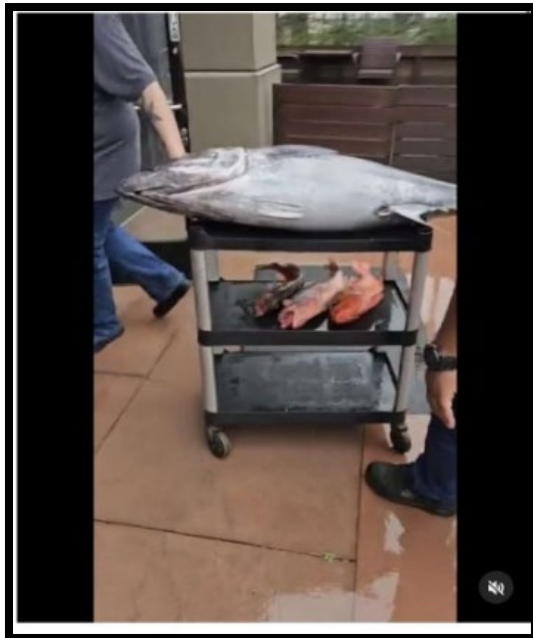


Figure 10: the processed bluefin tuna



Figure 12: bluefin tuna rockfish fillets

P/B Steelhead

In 2022, Wildlife Officer DeRose focused his dockside patrols on the commercial salmon fishery. During commercial salmon season, DeRose inspected approximately 80 commercial salmon offloads in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties, as well as boarding vessels at sea



for inspection. DeRose wrote 5 cases for unlawful take of undersize commercial salmon. DeRose also wrote an additional 2 cases for unlawful take of commercial salmon without a valid commercial fishing license, seizing each load since they were taken unlawfully. Each case, including the paperwork violation cases, returned a disposition of \$1,025 fine in addition to \$15 to DFG Preservation Fund and \$150 to the State Restitution Fund, as well as probation.

Wildlife Officer DeRose worked multiple offshore and dockside patrols checking recreational and commercial groundfish anglers. Since May 2023 when groundfish season opened, DeRose has issued 52 citations for groundfish related violations including: unlawful take of prohibited species, unlawful take of nearshore species, unlawful take shoreward of the 50-fm contour line, undersize fish, illegal method of take, unlawful take in an MPA, and fishing charter (CPFV) violations. One such patrol in September 2023 found a boat of 4 sport anglers in possession of 31 vermillion rockfish, 15 overlimit. DeRose seized their overlimit and issued citations accordingly.

