



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

HALIBUT ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY 2018

DATE: 03 DECEMBER 2018

CONTRACTING PARTY: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AGENCY:

Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division

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FISHERY SECTOR/S

ALL

IPHC REGULATORY AREA/S

IPHC Regulatory Area 2A (USA: Washington, Oregon, California)

DISCUSSION

The annual Halibut Enforcement Summary report for 2018 from the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division is provided in Appendix I.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. That the Commission NOTE the attached Oregon Halibut Enforcement Summary Report for 2018.

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division Halibut Enforcement Summary 2018



Halibut. Photo Credit: NOAA

OREGON STATE POLICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

HALIBUT ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

2018

OSP Enforcement Statistics

2018 Enforcement Activity Data

	Contacts	Total Persons Not in Compliance	Percentage of Contacts in Compliance	Illegal Harvest	Federal Referrals
Recreational:	859	93	89.20%	32	0
Commercial:	53	6	88.70%	8	0

2018 Statistics: Hours Worked

Number of Troopers Involved in Season	Number of NS Personnel Hours Worked	Number of NS Vessel Hours Worked	Number of LR Personnel Hours Worked	Number of LR Vessel Hours Worked	Total At Sea - Personnel and Vessel Hours	Number of Dockside Hours Worked	Total OSP Hours Worked Towards Halibut
23	154.25	77	29	14.5	274.75	165.25	440



Enforcement Narratives

The Newport/Tillamook Office and the Marine Fisheries Team worked together for a saturation patrol over the Memorial Day Weekend for the All Depth Recreational Halibut and Commercial Salmon Troll Fishery.

Troopers utilized both small boat assets as well as the P/V Guardian. The Troopers made lots of contacts as the weather and ocean conditions were optimal:

- Senior Trooper Herman, Trooper Adkins, and Recruit Butler manned the small boat offshore of Depoe Bay. Multiple anglers were contacted, but halibut catch rate was slow. One citation was issued for *Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card – Halibut*. The troopers also checked multiple commercial salmon and recreational ground fish boats. A boat was contacted with one angler onboard north of Newport. The angler said that he had only caught four rockfish. Upon inspection of his catch, he was found to be in possession of four rockfish and three lingcod. The angler was from Newport, and told the troopers that he fishes for rockfish every evening by himself. The subject was cited for *Exceed the Daily Limit of Lingcod*.
- Senior Trooper Van Meter and Farrar and Trooper Ross manned the P/V Guardian offshore of Newport. Four citations were issued for *Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card – Halibut*. One warning was issued for *Unlawful Possession of Skate Outside 30 Fathoms* and the Skate was seized. A commercial troll salmon boat was contacted and was found to be in possession of rockfish fillets and one halibut over the allowable limit. Both the captain and deckhand on that commercial vessel were cited criminally for *Exceeding Trip Limit for Halibut* and *Unlawful Possession of Commercial Caught Fish; Fillets*. The halibut and fillets were seized.
- Senior Trooper Van Meter and Recruit Butler conducted angler checks at South Beach Marina. Multiple warnings were issued for minor offenses. Recruit Butler contacted three fishermen who were walking off of a dock with fishing poles in hand. When the three males looked at Recruit Butler their expressions changed dramatically. The subjects mentioned they had two halibut in the bed of their pickup and were heading home to clean them. All three admitted to fishing for halibut, but only one had a combined angling tag. One subject was cited for *Take/Possession of Marine Fish – No Tag* and his halibut was seized and donated to foodshare. The second subject was cited for *Failure to Validate Combined Harvest Tag*. The third subject was cited for *No Combined Harvest Tag*.
- Senior Trooper Herman and Trooper Likens conducted an ocean patrol from the Columbia River to Manzanita on the opening weekend of the nearshore halibut season south of Cape Falcon. Multiple groundfish and halibut anglers were contacted but no violations were found. Only one halibut was checked.

Senior Trooper Herman and Trooper Likens conducted a boat patrol on the ocean off of Manzanita. Multiple salmon and halibut anglers were contacted where two citations were issued for *Angling Prohibited Method – Barbed Hooks for Salmon*, one citation was issued for *Fail To Immediately Validate Harvest Card – Halibut*, and four citations were issued for *Fail To Properly Validate Harvest Card – Halibut*.

Enforcement Narratives

Senior Trooper Herman and Senior Trooper Farrar conducted a Guardian patrol at Astoria Canyon on the opening day of the Columbia sub area halibut season. The troopers were only able to check one boat before having mechanical issues, but that boat had four people and three halibut on board. One of the subjects had tagged his halibut in the salmon section of the harvest card, and had used the species code for Chinook. The subject was cited for *Fail to Properly Validate Harvest Card*.

Senior Trooper Van Meter conducted joint patrols with USCG Yaquina Bay and NOAA Law Enforcement for the first 2018 Commercial Halibut opener. Due to ocean conditions, no boats were deployed and boats were contact dockside upon return to Port. One commercial fishing vessel from California was found with halibut on board but neither the crew nor boat had Oregon Commercial fishing licenses that would allow them to fish in Oregon. The captain was cited for *No Individual Commercial Fishing License* and *No Commercial Boat License*. Both crew members were cited for *No Individual Commercial Fishing License*. The halibut were seized and sold to a wholesale dealer who paid ODFW for the market value for the fish.

Troopers Van Meter and Trooper Adkins partnered with United States Coast Guard Yaquina Bay on an ocean patrol for the all depth halibut season. Two citations were issued for *Fail to Validate Harvest Card* and two commercial crab pots were seized inside Otter Crest Marine Reserve. The pots were initially found by Trooper Butler and Farrar a few days prior. Charges are pending on the captain of the fishing vessel upon further investigation.

The Tillamook Office and members of the Marine Fishery Team had been working the Cape Kiwanda area for several weeks in regards to a complaint of illegal fishing activity that had been occurring on a regular basis. Finally, Trooper Reeder was able to locate a pickup truck and boat trailer on the beach at Cape Kiwanda that was associated with a dory boat that had been allegedly poaching halibut. Trooper Reeder waited a lengthy period of time as the vessel was one of the last dory's to leave the beach that evening. The boat was finally contacted with three male subjects on board and a routine check of catch, license, and tags was done. All three subjects were asked about the catch and all revealed the same story about catching the one halibut and one ling cod this trip and how fishing was a little slow that day. The captain was informed by the Trooper that OSP had received a tip there were occasionally extra fish hidden in this boat. A consent search was requested and the captain stated very casually that he had nothing to hide and to go ahead and search the boat. The Trooper checked the obvious coolers and compartments on the boat and then started searching the gas tank area in the stern of the boat. The Trooper noticed one of the three red marine gas tanks was not plumbed with fuel lines to the outboard motor. The whole top of the red steel tank slid off revealing a big stack of 8 fresh halibut fillets on ice sitting in a handmade plastic container with a plywood bottom. The captain was ultimately criminally cited for *Exceeding the Bag Limit Halibut*, *Possession of Mutilated Fish*, and *Fail to Validate Harvest Card*. The two crew members were each cited criminally for *Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense*. The gas tank and Halibut fillets were seized. The Halibut fillets were donated to the Tillamook County Justice Facility.

