

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS**

**REPORT TO THE
INTERNATIONAL PACIFIC HALIBUT COMMISSION**



January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

**Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507**

Background:

The Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) is the primary state fish and wildlife resource enforcement agency for the state of Alaska. In partnership with NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA/OLE) through the use of a Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA); AWT conducts enforcement activities of federally managed fisheries such as crab, halibut, sablefish and ground fish species. The JEA allows for the cross deputation of State Troopers and Public Safety Technicians (PST) to conduct enforcement of these federally managed fisheries.

The primary function of the PSTs is to conduct dockside monitoring and inspections of commercial fish off-loads. PSTs monitor both state and federal regulatory requirements, but are not commissioned under AWT to take any law enforcement action. They simply report the documented violations to the appropriate agency. The PSTs focus is not limited to IFQ halibut alone, they also monitor other fisheries including rockfish, sablefish, pollock, cod and IFQ crab fisheries. They are also utilized to conduct surveillance of ports and harbors for signs of illegal activity.

AWT currently has 68 sworn officers stationed throughout Alaska within two detachments, Northern and Southern. The Southern detachment is headquartered in Anchorage and includes southwest and southeast Alaska to include the Aleutian chain, Bering Sea and Bristol Bay region. Northern detachment is headquartered in Palmer and responsible for resource enforcement in south central Alaska, to include the Kenai Peninsula, Prince William Sound, as well as the northern and northwest waters of Alaska's coast above the Arctic Circle.

Halibut Enforcement:

AWT continues to actively enforce commercial, sport and subsistence halibut fishing activities through vessel patrols, dockside monitoring and other investigative processes under the JEA and independent of this agreement as well. AWT conducts inspections at sea of all halibut fisheries; primarily checking for licenses, registrations, logbooks, size and possession limits. Dockside inspections focus on license and registration verification, size requirements, possession limits, logbooks and accuracy of catch reports. Both Troopers and PSTs are used to monitor commercial fish off-loads throughout Alaska's various fishing ports. AWT also conducts undercover operations of sport charter halibut operations.

Enforcement Activity:

As the JEA evolves from year to year to meet the enforcement needs of both Agencies, AWT tracks commercial, sport, charter, and subsistence halibut efforts as needed under the mission directives of the JEA contract. Depending upon the JEA mission regarding halibut enforcement, AWT documents these activities in greater detail than what is collected for halibut enforcement activities by AWT Troopers outside of the JEA. The following is a break-down of the halibut activities performed by AWT personnel under the JEA contract for the calendar year 2016. As previously noted, these statistics do not reflect all sport, charter and subsistence halibut enforcement activities conducted by AWT troopers statewide. They only represent statistics

directly associated with the current year's JEA. In 2016 as a whole, AWT contacted 30,358 fresh and saltwater resource users targeting all varieties of fresh and saltwater species of fish. Of those 30,358 fishers, AWT detected 2,350 violations and spent approximately 16 % of its total enforcement activities on proactive sport fish enforcement. The following charts show only the documented activities associated with halibut enforcement under the JEA agreement with NMFS.

**JEA STATISTICS FOR SPORT, CHARTER, SUBSISTENCE AND IFQ FISHERS
IN
SOUTHEAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA WATERS**

IFQ HALIBUT DOCKSIDE INSPECTIONS	TOTALS
Hours	253
Vessels Boarded	263
Contacts	987
State Violations	12
Refer to NOAA OLE	26

DOCKSIDE & NEARSHORE SP/CH/SUB HALIBUT INSPECTIONS	TOTALS
Hours	442
Contacts	1413
State Violations	42
Violations Referred to NOAA OLE	11

USE OF MEDIUM CLASS ENFORCEMENT VESSELS FOR AT-SEA SP/CH/SUB HALIBUT INSPECTIONS	TOTALS
Patrol Vessel Hours	482
Enforcement Personnel Hours	964
Vessels Boarded	682
Contacts	2414
State Violations	40
Violations Referred to NOAA OLE	6

LARGE CLASS ENFORCEMENT VESSELS USED FOR AT-SEA SP/CH/SUB HALIBUT AND IFQ HALIBUT	TOTALS
Vessel Hours	190
Personnel Hours	950
Recreational Boardings	140
Commercial Boardings	13
Recreational Contacts	522
Commercial Contacts	28
Recreational State Violations	11
Commercial State Violations	0
Recreational Violations Referred to NOAA OLE	21
Commercial Violations Referred to NOAA OLE	0

UNDERCOVER SP/CH/SUB HALIBUT	TOTALS
Personnel Hours	42.5
Contacts	13
State Violations	Violations Pending
Violations Referred to NOAA	Violations Pending

SURVEILLANCE OF SP/CH/SUB HALIBUT	TOTALS
Personnel Hours	40.5
Contacts	0
Referred to NOAA (listed in category dockside –nearshore)	1
Resulted in state violations (listed in category dockside –nearshore)	5

IFQ HALIBUT ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

12 STATE VIOLATIONS FOR:

- Failure to furnish information
- Failure to display vessel license
- Failure to have crewmember license in possession
- Failure to mark gear properly
- Attempting to fish in State water/no valid fishing permit
- Failure to have crewmember license in possession
- Employ unlicensed crewmember

26 REFERRALS TO NMFS/OLE FOR:

- Having bycatch of another species on vessel
- Commercial crab pots onboard vessel
- Failure to have FFP on vessel
- Failure to give PNOL/offload at earlier time
- Seabird avoidance violations
- VMS not transmitting
- Failure to mark gear properly
- Logbook violations
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DOCKSIDE –NEARSHORE SPORT/CHARTER/SUBSISTENCE HALIBUT ENFORCEMENT

42 STATE VIOLATIONS

- Boating Safety Violations
- Sportfish Guide logbook violations
- Sportfish Guide overlimit by client
- Oversize halibut/mutilate fillets
- Failure to have sportfish license in possession
- sportfish with more than one line
- Failure to have sportfish license in possession
- Failure to have commercial or subsistence permits
- Sportfish Guide logbook violations
- Sportfish with more than one line
- False statement on license
- Use of illegal gear
- Failure to register as sportfish guide
- Mutilate halibut / Retain undersized halibut

11 REFERRALS TO NMFS/OLE FOR:

- Sport caught halibut being used in restaurant
- Sportfish Guide violation
- Oversized halibut/mutilate fillets
- Sportfish while commercial halibut fishing
- Crab pots onboard vessel
- Assisting with subsistence halibut without valid SHARC card
- Failure to have commercial or subsistence permits – commercial fisherman claiming to be subsistence fishing
- Failure to have CHP

MEDIUM CLASS VESSEL SPORT/CHARTER/SUBSISTENCE HALIBUT

40 STATE VIOLATIONS FOR:

- Failure to have sportfish license in possession
- Mutilating halibut
- Sportfish with more than one line
- Using Sportfish for bait
- Retaining live fish
- Failure to mark gear
- Overlimit
- Failure to have client log halibut
- Retain halibut without permit
- Failure to log halibut on license
- Sportfish with more than one line
- Failure to have sportfish license in possession
- Using Sportfish for bait
- False Statement
- Overlimit halibut
- Retaining lingcod
- Retained undersize halibut
- Failure to have sportfish guide documents
- Sportfish Guide log violation

6 REFERRALS TO NMFS/OLE FOR:

- Failure to have CHP on vessel
- Limitations for halibut
- Failure to mark gear
- Retain sport and subsistence halibut on same vessel
- Sportfish Guide log violation
- Vessel crew suspected of chunking hundreds pounds of halibut

LARGE CLASS PATROL – OPERATION ICY STRAITS SPORT/CHARTER/SUBSISTENCE HALIBUT

12 STATE VIOLATIONS FOR:

- Sportfish Guiding without license in possession
- Using Sportfish for bait
- Failure to have sportfish guide license and documents on vessel
- Failure to complete logbook as required
- Failure to mark gear
- Mutilating halibut

21 REFERRALS TO NMFS FOR:

- Failure to complete logbook as required
- Failure to clip tail fin of gaffed halibut
- Mutilating halibut
- Subsistence halibut with too many hooks

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