



OREGON STATE POLICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

HALIBUT ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY

2017

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OSP Enforcement Statistics

2017 Enforcement Activity Data

Anglers Contacted	Total Persons Not in Compliance	Percentage of Contacts in Compliance	Federal Referrals
979	112	89%	1



2017 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
17	231	115.50	86	43	475.50	156.50	473.50



Enforcement Narratives

In May, Senior Trooper O'Connor along with Troopers Olson and Reeder conducted a boat patrol for the All-Depth Halibut season out of Garibaldi. A charter boat was contacted with sixteen people on board including the captain and deckhand. At the time of the contact, there were fourteen halibut on board. Upon inspection of the harvest tags, it was determined that one of the anglers did not have a harvest tag. Six anglers, including the deckhand, had purchased "prepaid daily angling licenses" from the charter company and had failed to properly validate their license for their halibut because they had written the *location/species* code but not the *month/day*. Some of these licenses were missing the "valid for" date and one of them was missing the *name, date of birth, signature* and the "valid for" date. The captain was contacted and he stated that each angler purchases a license from the charter company when they arrive in the morning, if they did not already have one. The captain stated the anglers leave the licenses blank until they get to the fishing grounds, this way they can get their money refunded to them in the event there are mechanical or weather problems. The captain had a supply of licenses that he admitted to selling from the boat, while underway. A citation was issued to the deckhand for **Failure to Properly Validate Angling Harvest Tag** and another citation was issued to one of the anglers for **No Angling Harvest Tag** and one halibut was seized and donated to the County Jail. Warnings were given to five of the customers for Failure to Properly Validate Angling Harvest Tag.

Troopers Van Meter and Hansen conducted offshore boat patrols out of Newport for the All Depth Halibut season during May. Over the course of two days, the Troopers contacted one hundred and thirty two anglers and approximately fifty two boats:



- One angler was contacted who was fishing for halibut but did not have his harvest tag with him. The Troopers did a check to determine if he had in fact purchased a tag and found that he did. It was also determined this angler had a warrant for his arrest. The angler was taken into custody without incident and put onboard the OSP patrol vessel. The angler was transported by boat to the USCG Station Yaquina Bay where he was then transported to the Lincoln County Jail by Senior Trooper Kehr and Trooper Adkins.
- One angler was contacted at South Beach Marina with a halibut that was not recorded on a harvest card. The angler claimed he had fallen asleep and forgot to tag the fish. The angler was cited for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**.

In June, Senior Trooper Herman and Recruit Likens conducted a boat patrol on the ocean at Astoria Canyon during the one day North of Falcon recreational halibut season. The troopers checked multiple halibut anglers. Four citations were issued for **Fail to Validate Harvest Card**, including one boat with 3 halibut on board, none of which were tagged. Five warnings were also issued for Fail to Properly Validate Harvest Card, and one for Unlawful Possession of Lingcod. One lingcod was seized.

Enforcement Narratives

In June, Senior Trooper Cutsforth and Senior Trooper Farrar conducted a boat patrol on the Siuslaw River and Pacific Ocean during the last all depth Halibut season. During the patrol, they contacted numerous boats and sport anglers near Heceta Banks and one commercial fisherman who was fishing for Salmon near the commercial Salmon cut off at the Siuslaw River South Jetty. No violations were observed and the catch rate was slow. The Troopers also checked the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve for any unlawful activity, with none being detected.

Trooper Roberts performed an evening surveillance at the port of Bandon checking Halibut anglers. Six different anglers were contacted that had retained halibut. All of the anglers had tagged their catch but had not fully validated the length of their catch on their combined angling harvest cards. All of the subjects stated that they did not have measuring devices onboard their vessels. The six subjects were warned for Fail to Properly Validate Combined Angling Harvest Card.

In June, Senior Trooper Farrar checked Commercial Halibut Fisherman and their vessels during the 2017 Commercial Halibut Derby, and after the closure between Florence and Coos Bay. Several boats were contacted at the various Ports and no violations were observed.

While observing commercial halibut offloads in Port Orford, Senior Trooper Keeler became suspicious of a vessel that appeared to not match the length on its halibut permit. According to the state vessel license, the vessel is 33 feet in length. According to the Coast Guard, the vessel is 35.9 feet and according to the halibut permit the vessel is between 36 and 40 feet. The vessel landed well over the limit of halibut for vessels under 36 feet. Information was gathered and forwarded to NOAA law enforcement for follow-up.

In July, Sergeant Thompson and Senior Trooper Van Meter checked the Newport commercial halibut fleet as they returned to port after the first halibut derby for 2017. The catch rate was low. One boat was contacted who had a crew member who did not have his 2017 individual commercial fishing license and the boat didn't have enough crew licenses to cover the extra crew member. The crew member was cited for **No 2017 Individual Commercial Fishing License**.



Enforcement Narratives

During August, Senior Trooper Van Meter partnered with Lincoln County Marine Patrol Deputies for an offshore halibut patrol for the first weekend of the summer All Depth season. Fishing pressure was high due to excellent ocean conditions. Numerous boats were checked and the following angling offenses were found:

A boat with 3 halibut anglers was contacted, with one of the anglers stating as the Trooper made initial contact, that they had just caught a fourth fish that they were going to give to their friends in another boat. The Trooper boarded the vessel and found a cooler full of halibut on the back deck. One of the anglers said that the fish on top had just been caught and was so slimy and flopping around that it flopped around the deck, into the boat cabin and then flopped right into the cooler. The angler claimed the fish had just been caught and happened right as the Trooper's boat was pulling up. The angler said the fish was still alive and I should just release it. The Trooper stared at the lifeless halibut in the cooler for several minutes and determined it wasn't going to swim away. The Trooper seized the fish from the cooler and noticed there were 4 additional halibut still in the cooler. When asked about the extra fish, the angler said he had no idea how that fish got there and must have miscounted. The Trooper seized that fish as well. The 3 anglers were cited for **Fail to Validate Harvest Card** for the fish they were allowed to keep. One angler was also cited for **Exceeding Daily Limit** of Halibut. Both seized halibut were later donated to the Lincoln County Food Share.

Senior Trooper Van Meter and Trooper Adkins conducted an offshore boat patrol out of Newport for an all-depth Halibut sport fishery during September. Two boats were contacted fishing within the Stonewall Banks Yelloweye Rockfish Closure Area. One of the boats possessed a halibut that the Troopers determined had been caught inside of the closure area by locating coordinates from the boats GPS plotter. Both boats were cited for **Angling Closed Area; Stonewall Banks YRCA**. The halibut was seized and the angler that caught it was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Halibut; Closed Area**. Two other citations were issued for **Failure to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**.