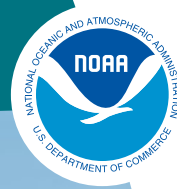


FY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement



NOAA
FISHERIES



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Overview

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) is essential to the effective management of our nation's marine natural resources. In 2020, OLE continued to play a critical role in supporting the NOAA Fisheries mission to end overfishing and to protect and conserve our nation's marine resources and their natural habitat. Through our efforts to promote and ensure compliance with marine resource protection laws, OLE remains committed to protecting our fishermen from those willing to break the rules, defending U.S. economic and public health interests, and ensuring that these resources are available for future generations to enjoy.

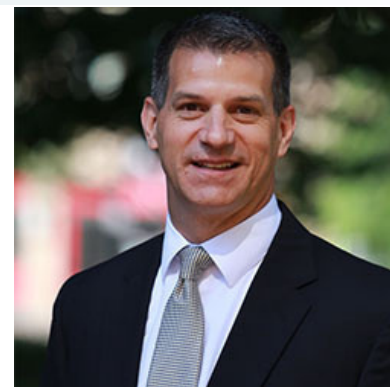
Throughout 2020 we were hard at work across our divisions and around the world. In Alaska, we successfully investigated the sexual harassment of a federal fisheries observer. In the Pacific Islands, we utilized social media to successfully investigate the harassment of an endangered Hawaiian monk seal. On the West Coast, we protected our National Marine Sanctuaries by investigating and holding accountable a wastewater treatment provider for discharging nearly 3 million gallons of untreated wastewater into Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. In the Northeast, we investigated a scheme to mislabel and sell millions of dollars worth of foreign crab meat as a "Product of the USA." Lastly, in the Southeast, we collaborated with federal agency partners to investigate, and eventually prosecute, an aquarium business owner for illegally trafficking protected reef organisms.

Beyond our borders, OLE continued to work with partners around the world to bolster efforts to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in order to protect U.S. consumers and fishermen. As a signatory of various international conservation and

fishery management agreements, the United States is a leader in the global fight to combat IUU fishing. In addition to enforcing our international treaty obligations, OLE provides capacity building and technical assistance to partners worldwide. Despite the COVID-19 global pandemic, OLE continued to share our expertise in marine law enforcement with the international community through virtual training, meetings, and information sharing. In 2020, our efforts focused on partnerships in Peru and Vietnam, along with regional work in Southeast Asia and the Caribbean.

The goal of this report is to highlight OLE's continued and dedicated efforts to carry out our enforcement mission. As this report demonstrates, OLE is deeply engaged in ensuring that domestic laws and regulations, along with our international obligations, are effectively enforced. These successes are only made possible through the tireless efforts of our team of enforcement, investigative, and mission support professionals. Through them, we are able to foster and grow our mission-essential federal, state, territorial, and international partnerships. Without them, our mission would fall flat. I look forward to building on our successes in the year ahead, as OLE continues to ensure that our oceans are effectively managed and available for generations to come.

JAMES LANDON
Director, Office of Law Enforcement
National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce



About OLE

Headquarters Staffing Snapshot

19 Full-Time Employees

- 1 Director
- 1 Deputy Director
- 6 Special Agents
- 7 Mission Support
- 4 Investigative Support
- 9 Contractors

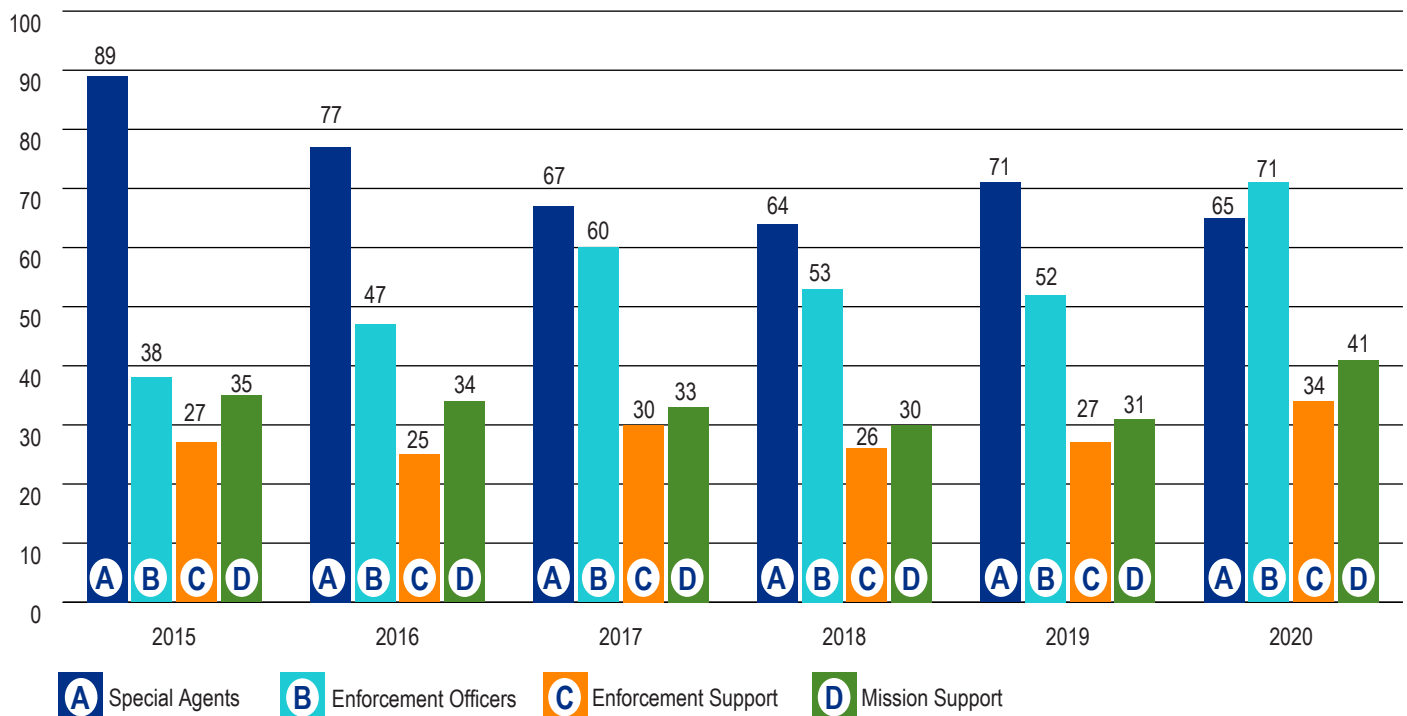
NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement protects marine wildlife and habitat by enforcing domestic laws and supporting international treaty requirements designed to ensure global resources are available for future generations. OLE special agents, enforcement officers, and enforcement support staff provide stakeholders with compliance assistance and education about the nation's marine resource laws.

While OLE enforces marine resource protection laws, the Office of the General Counsel's Enforcement Section (GCES) is NOAA's civil prosecutor. Together, the two offices make up NOAA's enforcement program and work with other NOAA program offices to establish national law enforcement policy.



OLE supports the core mission mandates of NOAA Fisheries—maximizing the productivity of sustainable fisheries and fishing communities, as well as protection, recovery, and conservation of protected species—through its efforts to enforce and promote compliance with the marine resource protection laws and implementing regulations under NOAA's purview.

Staffing Numbers Per Year



Stats and Facts about OLE

OLE's jurisdiction generally covers ocean waters between 3 and 200 miles offshore and adjacent to all U.S. states and territories; this is called the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Jurisdiction includes:

- 3.36 million square miles of ocean.
- More than 95,000 miles of U.S. shoreline.
- 14 National Marine Sanctuaries and five Marine National Monuments.

Staffing and Budget

To cover this extensive territory, OLE personnel are assigned to five divisional offices and 53 field offices throughout the states and U.S. territories. Additionally, OLE partners with state and territory law enforcement agencies and other federal organizations to maximize efficiency. OLE is staffed by 211 employees—65 special agents, 71 enforcement officers, and 75 mission and investigative support personnel.¹

Staffing

Protecting the nation's marine environment and helping to ensure a level playing field for those whose jobs and businesses rely on the fair use of our marine resources requires a significant commitment of personnel.

In FY 2020, guided by the staffing plan that was written and approved in FY 2018, OLE hired 21 new employees.

Budget

The FY 2020 appropriation for Fisheries Enforcement was \$74.0 million. OLE distributed these funds among five sub Programs, Projects, and Activities (PPAs), which are:

- \$45.1 million for Enforcement and Surveillance.
- \$18.5 million for the Cooperative Enforcement Program (CEP), which provides joint enforcement agreements with state and U.S. territory natural resources enforcement agencies.
- \$7.0 million for the Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) program.
- \$1.4 for the High Seas Driftnet Act Implementation.
- \$2.0 million for NOAA Fisheries activities related to Driftnet Act Implementation.



¹Data as of September 30, 2020.

Equipment and Training

Vessel Acquisition

Total Cost: \$2,467,271

In FY 2020, OLE's Southeast Division acquired four new patrol vessels. In the Southeast, four new 26-foot Relentless class vessels will replace four existing 24-foot vessels that have reached the end of their service life. These vessels are set to be delivered in November 2021—a national shortage of outboard engines in 2021 delayed delivery. Together, these four vessels cost \$1,351,007. In the Pacific Islands Division, two new patrol boats were acquired in FY 2020. The first vessel measures 31 feet and will be stationed in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. It will be delivered in August 2021. The second vessel measures 39 feet and will be stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii. It will be delivered in October 2021. Together, these two vessels cost \$1,116,264.

Location	Size
Alaska Division	
Cape Elizabeth	37 feet
Kingfisher	37 feet
Natoma Bay	30 feet
Sitkoh Bay	30 feet
Aleutian Wind	27 feet
Chinook Wind	27 feet
Taku Wind	26 feet
Williwaw Wind	26 feet
Kenai Guardian	26 feet
Susitna	20 feet
Northeast Division	
F3403	34 feet
F3404	34 feet

Location	Size
Southeast Division	
F3401	34 feet
F3402	34 feet
Seahunter 2	29 feet
Carolina	25 feet
Titusville	24 feet
Galveston	24 feet
Barracuda	24 feet
Harlingen	24 feet
West Coast Division	
F2706	27 feet
F2708	27 feet
Almar	21 feet
Pacific Islands Division	
F3503	35 feet

Vehicles

OLE's mission requires the use of a large fleet of law enforcement vehicles. Our special agents and enforcement officers need to be out in the field and on the docks to perform their jobs. OLE primarily leases vehicles from the General Services Administration (GSA). In FY 2020, OLE continued to transition from a fleet of owned vehicles to a fleet of GSA leased vehicles. At the end of FY 2020, over 85 percent of the fleet was leased through GSA.

Location	Vehicle Count
Headquarters	6
Alaska Division	43
Northeast Division	34
Southeast Division	44
West Coast Division	38
Pacific Islands Division	14

Training

All OLE enforcement officers and special agents attend training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia. The extensive training received for initial entry to the force spans a total of 28 to 30 weeks.

Enforcement officers and special agents must also attend a yearly law enforcement refresher in-service training. During the week-long course, mandatory content includes a variety of topics designed to ensure our special agents and enforcement officers are maintaining the required qualifications and have the most up-to-date case law review, legal requirements, and policy information.

Becoming an Enforcement Officer

- 12 Weeks—FLETC Uniformed Police Training Program
- 4 Weeks—FLETC Marine Law Enforcement Training Program
- 12 Weeks—NOAA Field Training and Evaluation Program

Becoming a Special Agent

- 12 Weeks—FLETC Criminal Investigator Training Program
- 4 Weeks—FLETC Marine Law Enforcement Training Program
- 2 Weeks—FLETC Case Organization and Presentation Training Program
- 12 Weeks—NOAA Field Training and Evaluation Program

Headquarters: Special Programs

Cooperative Enforcement Program

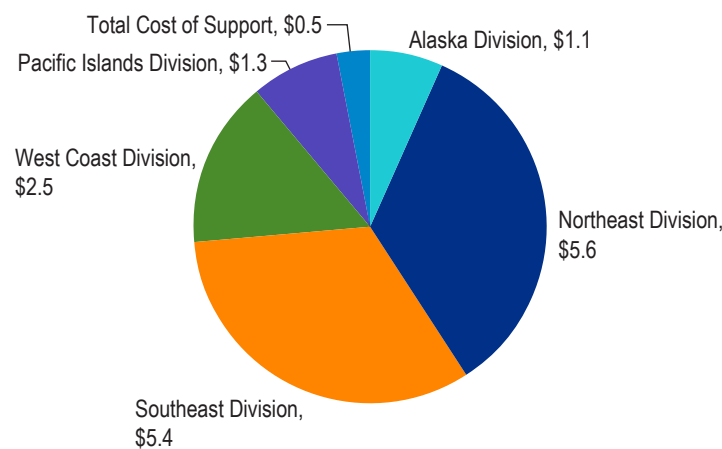
OLE enhances its active presence, visibility, and interactions with the regulated industry by partnering with state and territorial marine and natural resource enforcement agencies through the Cooperative Enforcement Program (CEP). OLE’s partnerships with these agencies help promote compliance with federal laws and regulations under the purview of NOAA. OLE agents and officers leverage Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEAs) to conduct multi-agency operations and to carry out OLE’s mission.

Under the CEP, OLE has signed 28 JEAs, which deputize state and U.S. territorial marine law enforcement officers to enforce federal laws and regulations. Below

are the states and territories with which we have signed agreements:

- Alabama
- Alaska
- American Samoa
- California
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Guam
- Hawaii
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Mississippi
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- Northern Mariana Islands
- Oregon
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Texas
- Virginia
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Washington

Funding by Region (\$M)



1. Funding figures represent total planned dollars to state territorial partners by region.
2. Total cost of support consists of labor and travel costs of OLE staff supporting JEAs, such as JEA enforcement technicians and JEA program manager.

Vessel Monitoring System

The Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) is a satellite surveillance system primarily used to monitor the location and movement of commercial fishing vessels in the U.S. EEZ and treaty areas for compliance purposes. The system uses satellite-based communications from transceiver units onboard vessels that are required to carry them. The transceiver units send data that include vessel identification, time, date, and GPS location. The vessel operators can also use these units to communicate by sending electronic forms, fishing declarations, and even text messages over email. In FY 2020, the OLE VMS program monitored 4,884 vessels. The VMS program shares data with authorized partners such as the U.S. Coast Guard for homeland security and fisheries enforcement purposes, NOAA’s science centers for fisheries management purposes, the Department of Defense for national security missions, and the public (in aggregated form) for a variety of uses and studies.

Additional capabilities and uses of VMS include:

- Monitoring sensitive areas such as marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments.
- Supporting catch share programs.
- Monitoring activity and arrivals in ports to plan for sampling.
- Coordinating observer trips.
- Tracking, monitoring, and predicting fishing effort, activity, and location.
- Identifying fishing vessels.

In FY 2020, NOAA issued approximately \$618,958 in reimbursement payments to fishermen to ease the cost burden associated with the purchase of their onboard transceivers.

Investigative Analysts

Background

At Headquarters, OLE's Investigative Analyst Team provides in-depth research and analytic support for policy development and on a broad range of international fisheries law enforcement issues—including criminal networks, enforcement operations, investigations, suspected import trade violations, and cooperative international fisheries enforcement. The Investigative Analyst Team fuses information and data from a variety of official and open sources, evaluates its reliability, and applies analytic techniques to develop judgments or additional context that significantly enhance OLE's operations.

Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center (CTAC)

Through a memorandum of understanding with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), OLE participates as a member agency of CBP's Commercial Targeting and Analysis Center (CTAC). This multi-agency facility provides OLE analysts with direct access to CBP import processing, targeting, and law enforcement systems, as well as other member agencies' data systems. Leveraging the CTAC resources, the Analyst Team identifies suspicious fisheries-related shipments prior to their U.S. arrival, places "holds" for physical examinations of selected consignments by OLE, and coordinates with other CTAC participating agencies. OLE also supports national-level import enforcement operations through CTAC.

In FY 2020, the Investigative Analyst Team at Headquarters provided research and analysis support to investigate four vessels found allegedly engaging in

IUU fishing. This support contributed to the IUU listing of two vessels in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. The team also supported an OLE Special Agent who coordinated with the U.S. import community to prevent further importation of the alleged IUU harvested catch from these vessels. OLE continues to work in partnership with NOAA's Office of International Affairs and Seafood Inspection and through other international venues to further address these alleged offenses. OLE continues to support nations with jurisdiction over these vessels and nationals in taking prosecutorial and enforcement actions.

Team Support

The Investigative Analysts at Headquarters support OLE operations by sharing resources and databases, reviewing products, and fielding requests for information (RFIs) from OLE agents and officers. In FY 2020, the team responded to 326 RFIs in support of investigations or other priorities through the use of proprietary databases and intelligence research tools. In addition, in more than 1,500 instances the team provided individual component information responsive to ongoing requirements, requests for trade data, edits, or other discrete functions.

PSMA and International Outreach

In support of the Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing (PSMA), the Investigative Analyst Team at Headquarters reviews the advanced request for port entry for all foreign-flagged fishing and fishing-support vessels scheduled for arrival in U.S. ports. For FY 2020, the team reviewed nearly 1,500 advance notices of arrival for vessels entering U.S. ports, which represented 752 unique vessels. The team also supported OLE's international PSMA efforts by taking part in PSMA training and providing technical assistance to help detect evidence of IUU fishing.

The Investigative Analyst team also participated in the INTERPOL-sponsored Regional Investigative and Analytical Case Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, in FY 2020. This meeting focused on addressing detained IUU fishing vessels, in which OLE presented a recent case. In addition, this meeting coordinated consultations among interested States to support prosecutorial actions in applicable jurisdictions. This kind of international coordination helps fight IUU fishing by making it more difficult for these actors to participate in the international seafood marketplace.

International Programs

Combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

The United States is one of the world's leading destinations for globally harvested seafood. Estimates indicate that about 80 percent of the seafood consumed annually in the United States is imported. OLE's mission includes ensuring that the seafood products being sold in American markets, whether domestically caught or imported, are legally harvested so that honest fishermen have a fair market in which to compete. The OLE International Program plays a key role in this mission by combating IUU fishing, fishing-related activities, and trade in IUU fish and fish products. This requires a multi-faceted approach that includes:

- Monitoring imports into the United States, as well as seafood products in global trade.
- Partnering with other federal and state law enforcement agencies to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud in interstate and international commerce.
- Engagement in multilateral and bilateral discussions with international partners to create enforceable provisions to combat IUU fishing and develop cooperation and collaboration in detecting, deterring, and interdicting IUU fishing activity and trade.
- Technical assistance to global partners, with emphasis on major exporters of seafood to the United States, to assist in developing the fisheries enforcement capacity to detect and interdict IUU fish and fish products before they enter the global market.
- Education of the public, consumers, and international audiences about the impacts of IUU fishing and fishing-related activities.
- Being an active member of international organizations specifically designed to combat IUU fishing, such as the INTERPOL Fisheries Crime Working Group and the International Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Network.

Implementing the Port State Measures

Background

On June 5, 2016, the Port State Measures Agreement entered into force, after 29 parties, including the United States and the European Union, ratified the agreement. PSMA is the only international treaty dedicated to combating IUU fishing and sets minimum standards for exercising port state measures for foreign-flagged fishing and fishing-support vessels seeking entry into ports, as well as fisheries enforcement activities conducted while in a country's port. PSMA also places great emphasis on increased information sharing and communications among participating nations, relevant enforcement agencies, and international organizations, such as regional fisheries management organizations.

Ratifications of the PSMA steadily continued throughout FY 2020. The Agreement reached 67 Parties covering 92 countries and roughly half of the coastal countries worldwide.

Global Implementation Updates

Due to COVID-19, all FY 2020 scheduled PSMA-related technical working groups along with the Third Meeting of the Parties were postponed. However, all Parties were asked to complete a questionnaire that reviewed the effectiveness of the PSMA. The results will be presented at the next meeting of the Parties and used as a tool to monitor implementation.

International Programs: Operations

The scope of OLE's international engagements also includes providing foreign governments, organizations, and communities with the tools, resources, and information-sharing avenues to allow them to address complex IUU fishing issues. This is usually accomplished through technical assistance and training workshops. By working with our enforcement partners globally, NOAA assists nations to better detect and interdict IUU fish and fish products before they enter



into global commerce. More broadly, these efforts will help to reduce the level of IUU fish products being landed and exported from nations around the world, supporting sustainable fisheries management and leveling the playing field for legitimate fishermen.

Counter-IUU Fishing Capacity Building and Technical Assistance

Indonesia: OLE launched its first ‘Training of the Trainers’ workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia for Port State Measures inspectors. The capacity building and curriculum development support provided by OLE led the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) to pilot their own national training curriculum in Indonesia for inspectors. In addition, OLE has also provided technical drafting assistance to the Government of Indonesia on MMAF’s Ministerial Regulations for implementing the Port State Measures Agreement, which was signed in October 2019. OLE continued to build on recent successes through virtual and remote outreach to overcome the challenges of COVID-19.

Peru: OLE, in partnership with the Ministry of Production of Peru (PRODUCE) and with support from the U.S. Embassy, led a Port State Measures Inspector Training in Lima, Peru in January 2020. Through classroom sessions and practical vessel boarding exercises, fisheries inspectors and other relevant authorized law enforcement personnel gained hands-on familiarity with the requirements of the PSMA, resources available to verify fisheries records and

methods to detect IUU fishing and crimes associated with IUU fishing, including evidence collection, case documentation, interview techniques, report writing, and information sharing. Following the success of this training, Ecuador’s Vice Ministry requested a similar training in Ecuador along with expressed interest from the U.S. Embassy in Montevideo, Uruguay for a PSMA inspector training.

Latin America and the Caribbean: The United States funded a multi-year project under the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Umbrella Program to support the implementation of the PSMA and other instruments to combat IUU fishing in The Bahamas, Guyana, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Trinidad and Tobago. Through this project, OLE and NOAA’s General Counsel Enforcement Section provide technical assistance to strengthen national policy and legislative frameworks along with operational capacity for coordinated Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS) operations in these countries. In FY 2020, NOAA and FAO jointly:

- Conducted MCS assessments with the FAO in The Bahamas, Guyana, and Jamaica that assessed each country’s enforcement capacities (e.g., the volume of vessels, product, etc.).
- Developed a National Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing in The Bahamas, and supported the creation of a PSMA Technical Working Group.
- Completed a standard operating procedure (SOP) and regulation development technical assistance

mission in Jamaica at the request of the Fisheries Division.

- Provided SOP development and technical assistance to Jamaica to draft and/or amend core legislation addressing IUU fishing, including Spiny Lobster Regulations.
- Provided virtual MCS technical assistance to Trinidad and Tobago.

Vietnam: OLE hosted a high-level dialogue with senior officials from Vietnam in FY 2020 that included site visits to the NOAA National Marine Forensics Laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina, and field offices in Charleston and St. Petersburg, Florida. In addition, fisheries law enforcement best practices were shared on a patrol in the Southeast Division. U.S.-Vietnam efforts to combat IUU fishing were strengthened, and OLE was invited to an enforcement workshop in Phu Quoc, Vietnam.

Southeast Asia (Regional): Due to COVID-19, OLE PSMA Inspectors Training workshops for Thailand and Vietnam in FY 2020 were postponed. While adapting to the constraints of the global pandemic, OLE continued to provide remote counter-IUU fishing technical assistance to the region. In FY 2020, OLE:

- Preliminarily assessed Thailand and Vietnam's implementation of the PSMA and broader MCS capabilities, in order to tailor capacity building efforts to each country's needs.
- Provided technical guidance to help Thailand review container shipments and import documentation for shipments suspected of IUU fishing. These technical assistance efforts benefit Thailand and provide a front-line defense against IUU fish and fish products reaching the United States.

Combating Wildlife Trafficking

OLE's work in combating wildlife trafficking largely encompasses the investigation of illegal handling of marine wildlife products protected under the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Shark Finning Conservation Act. Our law enforcement personnel enforce these statutes by working with enforcement counterparts at ports and borders to identify illegal trade routes and to detect the possession, purchase, and transfer of such products.

OLE actively participates in INTERPOL's Global Fisheries Enforcement program, which supports member countries in identifying, deterring, and disrupting the trafficking of protected marine products. These efforts have resulted in coherent international law enforcement collaboration and effective investigative responses worldwide.

OLE also participates in the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group (WCWG) to share information about transnational networks involved in the illegal wildlife trade. This group traditionally focuses on terrestrial wildlife and timber, but OLE brings needed marine resource expertise due to the increased identification and listing of marine species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). In FY 2020, OLE participated in the 30th meeting of the WCWG in Singapore to build international relationships and share marine resource expertise.

Formal Meetings

12th SE Asia Regional Plan of Action to Combat IUU Fishing (RPOA-IUU): OLE participated as an observer to the 12th SE Asia RPOA-IUU Fishing meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia. OLE presented on recent capacity-building efforts, which were well received by the participating member nations: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Timor Leste, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Bilateral meetings: OLE supports U.S. delegations to fisheries bilateral meetings by providing fisheries law enforcement expertise on topics related to combating IUU fishing and trade in IUU-fishing products. These meetings provide an opportunity to discuss issues of direct concern with key partners including the EU, Canada, China, Ecuador, and Mexico. Additionally, OLE holds fisheries enforcement-specific bilateral meetings with counterparts from Canada and Mexico and through the U.S.-EU Counter-IUU Fishing Working Group. In FY 2020, OLE participated in the inaugural U.S./Canada Regional Enforcement Meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, which focused on regional enforcement issues.



RFMO participation: OLE personnel provide fisheries enforcement expertise to U.S. delegations to regional fisheries management organizations (RFMO) to which the United States is a Party. OLE participates in pertinent international patrols and investigations, including supporting the enforcement of RFMO conservation and management measures, advancing strong and effective processes for addressing non-compliance with such measures, and ensuring responsible Flag State responses through RFMO enforcement and compliance committees. OLE also served as the Chair, U.S. Representative, and Rapporteur for the third meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Port Inspection Expert Group for Capacity and Assistance in Madrid, Spain. This led to the development of a draft ICCAT Port Inspector Training Manual and training curriculum.

INTERPOL: OLE participated in a virtual meeting of the Fisheries Crime Working Group in which elections were held for a new Executive Board. An OLE representative completed a tour of the Executive Board and provided

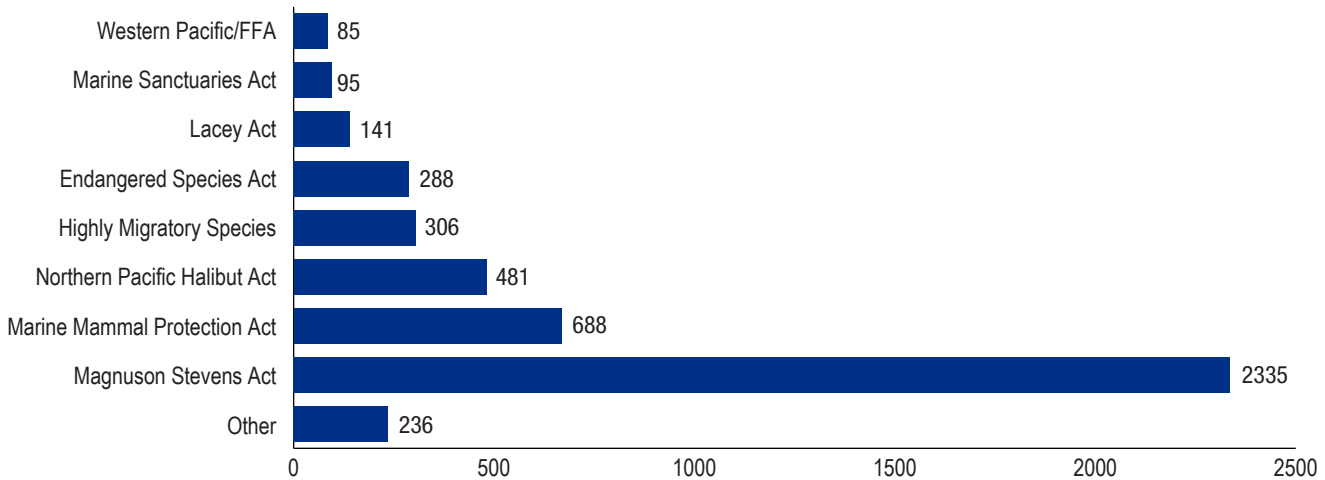
support and information for the new U.S. representative from the Coast Guard Investigative Service.

UN Food and Agriculture Organization: OLE continues to engage and provide technical assistance through the “Network of Exchange of Information and Experiences Among Latin American and the Caribbean to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate IUU Fishing.”

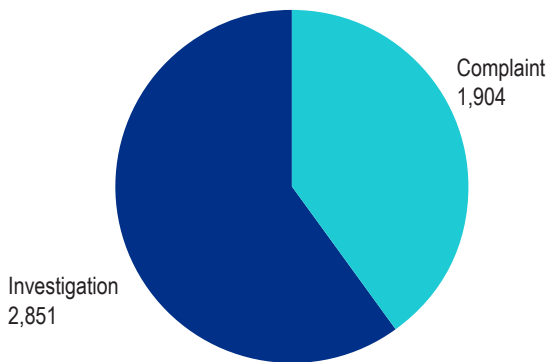
Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center's Training Department (SEAFDEC/TD): OLE presented at a teleseminar on the “Ways Forward for Combating IUU Fishing in Southeast Asia.” OLE presented on NOAA's Counter-IUU Fishing Efforts in Southeast Asia, highlighting OLE's capacity building and technical assistance projects with our five primary Southeast Asia partner countries as well as general regional support. OLE also highlighted important considerations for effective operational implementation of the PSMA, the need for enhanced flag State performance and standards in the region, and evolving counter-IUU fishing trends in the region.

OLE Enforcement Activities at a Glance

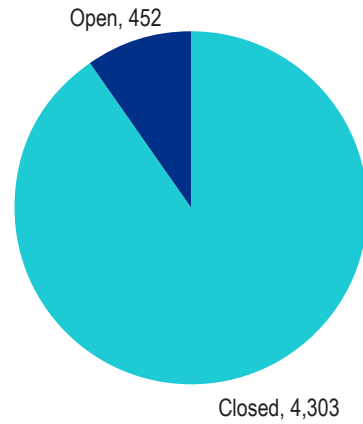
Incident by Law



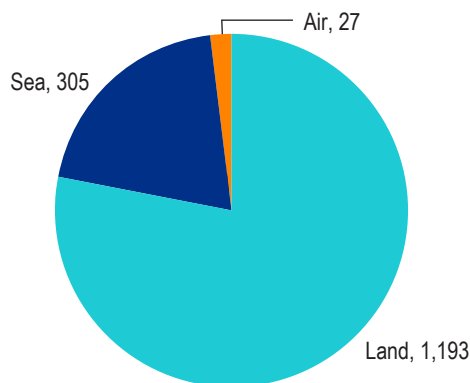
Incident type



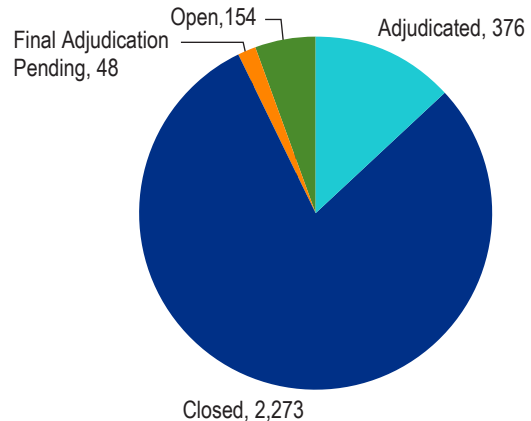
Incident Status



Patrols



Investigation Dispositions



Alaska Division

Will Ellis Assistant Director

Staffing Snapshot

36 Full-Time Employees

- 10 Special Agents
- 19 Enforcement Officers
- 4 Mission Support
- 3 Investigative Support
- 16 Contractors

AKD Budget: \$10.8 million

Headquarters

709 W. 9th Street
Room 831L
Juneau, AK 99802-1767

Field Offices

Anchorage
Dutch Harbor
Homer
Juneau
Ketchikan
Kodiak
Petersburg
Seward
Sitka

VMS

600+ Reporting Vessels

Alaska supports a massive seafood industry and has the greatest number of domestic fish landings in the United States, with 59 percent of all U.S. seafood landings (measured by weight) occurring in Alaska. If it were a country, Alaska would be the ninth-largest seafood producer in the world. The geographic area of responsibility for the Alaska Division covers 28 percent of the U.S. EEZ, 70 percent of the U.S. continental shelf, and five of the 11 Large Marine Ecosystems located within the U.S. EEZ.

OLE's Alaska Division is unique in that the region only includes the State of Alaska, which comprises the mainland and more than 200 islands. Within this boundary lie some of the most productive fishing grounds on the planet. Waters off Alaska account for more than half of all annual U.S. seafood harvests. Alaska also has five of the nation's top 10 fishing ports ranked by value of landings.

Working with Regional Partners

Alaska's vast geography, limited infrastructure, and complex fisheries management scheme necessitate robust interagency partnerships. These partnerships act as a force multiplier to maximize our enforcement footprint and minimize duplicative efforts. While nationally OLE partners with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service, regional partners are also essential. The Cooperative Enforcement Program provides the Division the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. Additional strong working relationships with Alaska's Department of Fish and Game, industry groups, and tribal governments are instrumental in the successful enforcement of marine resources laws.

The Division also relies on close working relationships with the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, International Whaling Commission, International Pacific Halibut Commission, Pacific Salmon Commission, North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, North Pacific Fisheries Commission, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the parties to the Convention on the Conservation and Management of Pollock Resources in the Central Bering Sea. Fishery management, along with the conservation of marine mammals and habitats, is supported by a robust scientific enterprise led by the NOAA Alaska Fisheries Science Center. It is within this governance and scientific framework that policy is created by NOAA and then enforced by the Division.

Significant Investigations

Northern Pacific Halibut Act

An OLE Special Agent investigated an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) sablefish pot vessel for unlawfully discarding sablefish and halibut and for failing to report discards, retrieve gear in a timely manner, and register an IFQ fishing trip properly. The vessel owner and operator were charged jointly under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Act and a notice of violation (NOVA) was issued for \$78,250.

An OLE Enforcement Officer investigated an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) halibut fishing vessel for retaining more IFQ halibut than was permitted. The vessel operator, IFQ permit holder, and vessel owner were charged under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act and a notice of violation (NOVA) was issued for \$44,494.10.

Magnuson-Stevens Act

OLE Special Agents and Enforcement Officers conducted an observer-focused pulse operation in Dutch Harbor to improve the safety and working environments of observers. The team focused on 230 individual observer statements and contacted 35 vessels. As a result, multiple cases were resolved and many more progressed.

An OLE Enforcement Officer investigated a crewmember aboard a Bering Sea Catcher/Processor vessel for the sexual harassment of a fisheries observer. They were charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for sexual harassment and issued a \$24,000 NOVA.

An OLE Special Agent investigated the chief engineer of a Bering Sea Catcher/Processor vessel for tampering with the vessel's flow scale. The chief engineer and vessel owners were charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with eight counts of unlawfully adjusting the vessel's flow scale. A \$191,773 NOVA was issued and settled for \$177,373.

OLE Special Agents, Enforcement Officers, and Investigative Support Technicians conducted an investigative audit of IFQ sablefish landings to Alaskan processors. The team audited 36 processors and identified 310 violations concerning the inaccurate submission of information. In total, 25 summary settlements were issued along with four written



warnings, and compliance assistance was provided in two more instances. Following the audit, data collected showed a 22 percent increase in correctly reported fish compared to before the audit.

Marine Mammal Protection Act

An OLE Enforcement Officer assisted the Kotzebue Air Patrol and National Park Service with surveillance of the ongoing Ice Seal Unusual Mortality Event in Alaska. While the weather and visibility prevented planned aerial surveys of recent strandings, the Officer was able to help complete two land patrols along the Baldwin Peninsula. No marine mammal strandings were reported.

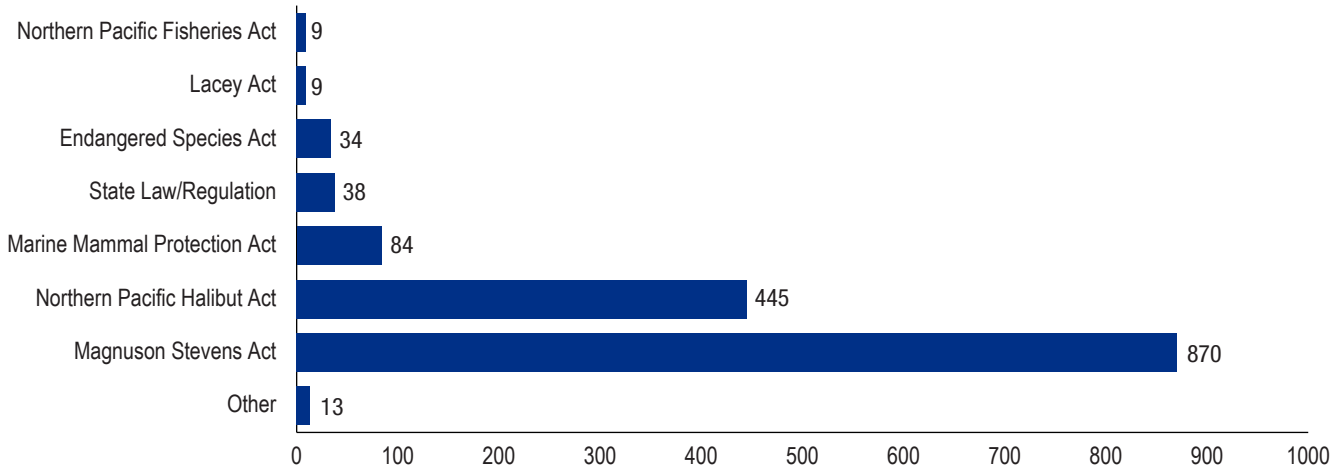
Two OLE Enforcement Officers responded to a gray whale stranding at Twenty Mile River. The Officers managed a crowd of public onlookers and enforced approach rules to prevent further stress on the whale. The gray whale eventually successfully freed itself during high tide.

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

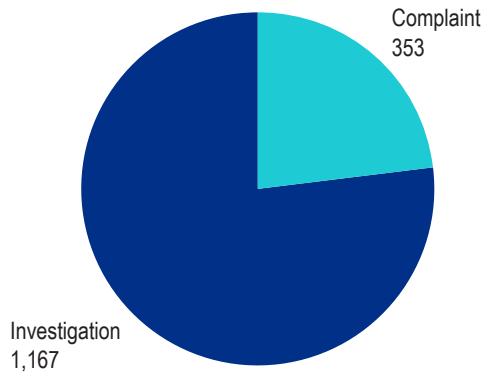
An OLE Special Agent and Enforcement Officer completed a 208-mile patrol between Ketchikan and the eastern side of the U.S./Canada border on OLE's Natoma Bay vessel. While patrolling, the team contacted two vessels. One vessel, a Canadian commercial crab fishing vessel, was observed fishing just inside U.S. waters. This vessel immediately retrieved its longline pot gear and transferred it back into the waters of Canada. An extensive search of the area turned up no additional gear in U.S. waters. OLE worked closely with Canadian authorities to make contact with the vessel and address the issue.

Alaska Division Enforcement Activities at a Glance

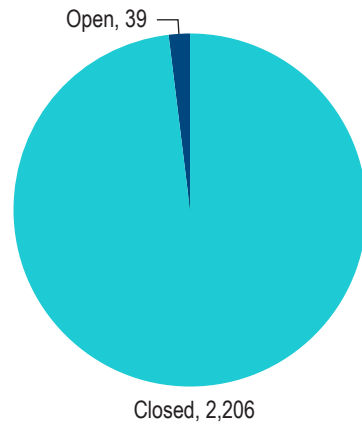
Incident by Law



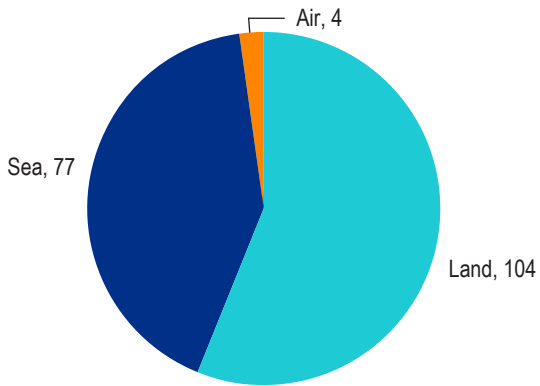
Incident type



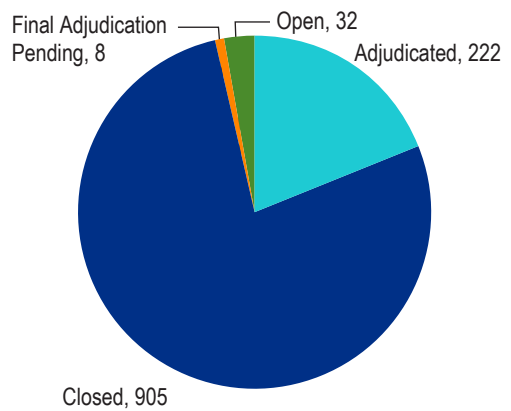
Incident Status



Patrols



Investigation Dispositions



Northeast Division

Tim Donovan Assistant Director

Staffing Snapshot

45 Full-Time Employees

- 18 Special Agents
- 12 Enforcement Officers
- 6 Mission Support
- 8 Investigative Support
- 1 Contractor

NED Budget: \$16.4 million

Headquarters

55 Great Republic Drive
Suite 02-300
Gloucester, MA 01930

Field Offices

Bellport, NY
Falmouth, MA
Gloucester, MA
Narragansett, RI
New Bedford, MA
Newport News, VA
Northfield, NJ
Portland, ME
New Castle, NH
Salisbury, MD
Scituate, MA
Wall, NJ

VMS

930 Reporting Vessels

The Northeast Division covers the 20 northeastern states from Virginia to Maine to Minnesota and includes the Great Lakes. The Division's area of responsibility covers more than 100,000 square nautical miles of the U.S. EEZ, three National Marine Sanctuaries, 110 international Ports of Entry, and 265 individual domestic ports.

Four of the top 10 international landing ports, by weight and value, are found in the Division—New York, Portland, Boston, and Norfolk. Additionally, the Division has four of the top 10 states for domestic fish landings in the nation; this includes Massachusetts with the port of New Bedford, which has led the United States for 19 years as the top port in terms of value landed—a direct result of the scallop fishery. Throughout FY 2020, the Division also had more than 200,000 individual fishing trips, which resulted in hundreds of millions of pounds of fish landed.

Working with Regional Partners

The Division has strong working relationships with the 10 coastal state fishery enforcement agencies under the Cooperative Enforcement Program. These relationships enable OLE to leverage resources and improve compliance with federal fishery regulations. In addition to state partners, the Division works closely with three U.S. Coast Guard districts. Recent partnerships have expanded with key federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration and Customs and Border Protection, which are involved in ensuring consumer safety and integrity as it relates to seafood fraud and wildlife trafficking.

The Division also works closely with two regional fishery management councils and one major interstate commission. The New England Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional councils established by the Magnuson-Stevens Act and manages fishery resources within the EEZ off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is responsible for the management of fisheries in federal waters that occur predominantly off the mid-Atlantic coast. States with voting representation on the Mid-Atlantic Council include New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina. The Division also provides support to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. This group was formed by the 15 Atlantic coast states in 1942 in recognition that fish do not adhere to political boundaries. The Commission serves as a deliberative body, coordinating the conservation and management of the states' shared near-shore fishery resources—marine, shell, and anadromous—for sustainable use.

Significant Investigations

Magnuson-Stevens Act

OLE investigated a crewmember on a Massachusetts-based, federally permitted fishing vessel for sexually harassing a fisheries observer. Following the investigation, NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Section (GCES) issued the individual a civil penalty of \$80,000.00.

Highly Migratory Species

OLE investigated a Massachusetts-based vessel for unreported landings, retention, and sales of 24 bluefin tuna. Following the investigation, NOAA GCES issued the vessel owner a civil penalty of \$4,750.

Lacey Act

OLE investigated a subject and corporation's scheme to import, mislabel, and sell more than 200,536 pounds of foreign crab meat worth \$4,042,841. They falsely labeled this meat as a "Product of the USA." On January 9, 2020, the subject and corporation were sentenced in federal court after previously pleading guilty to felony Lacey Act charges for their foreign crab meat scheme. The subject was sentenced to 1 year and 1 day in federal prison, followed by 3 years of probation and a fine of \$250,000. The corporation received probation for 5 years and a fine of \$500,000.



Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

OLE conducted a joint operation at the Calais, Maine, Port of Entry on the Canadian border with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Maine Marine Patrol. The team inspected fresh and frozen fish shipments of American lobster, Atlantic halibut, haddock, pollock, and cod. Of the 35 shipments inspected, 19 contained violations. In total, 13 summary settlements were issued and compliance assistance was provided in six instances.

National Marine Sanctuaries

OLE Enforcement Officers coordinated an operation that advanced multi-agency interoperability in the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The operation focused on illegal dive operations in Thunder Bay, Lake Huron. Detecting and deterring illegal dive operations there is key to protecting the artifacts and memorabilia from multiple shipwrecks located throughout the Sanctuary.

Endangered Species Act & Marine Mammal Protection Act

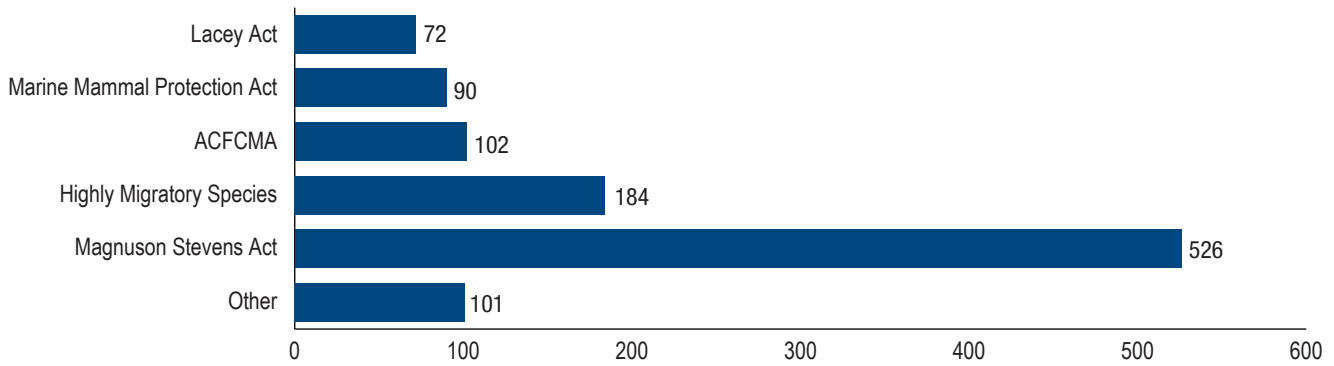
Following an OLE investigation, four motor vessels owned by a Virginia-based company were charged with 37 counts of violating the North Atlantic Right Whale speed rule in the Mid-Atlantic Seasonal Management Area near Virginia Beach, Virginia. NOAA GCES negotiated a settlement agreement with the subjects in the amount of \$288,000.

Emerging Technology

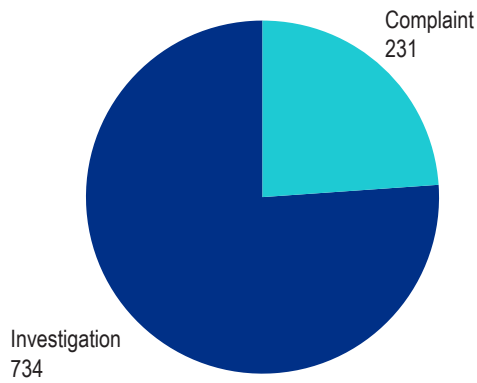
OLE deployed remotely operated vehicles, equipped with a video camera, lighting, sonar, and a manipulator arm in the summer and fall of 2020 to inspect gear in the lobster trap fishery. These deployments are part of an ongoing effort to improve compliance in fixed-gear fisheries and expanded efforts to maximize the use of emerging technologies in enforcement. Work conducted thus far shows that remotely operated vehicles can be an effective tool to inspect offshore lobster gear.

Northeast Division Enforcement Activities at a Glance

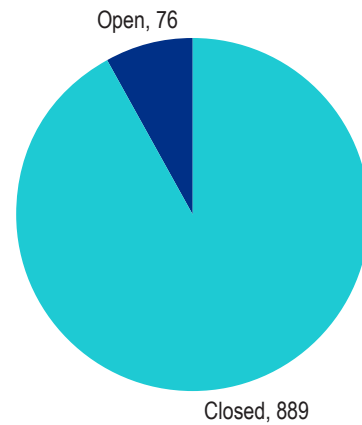
Incident by Law



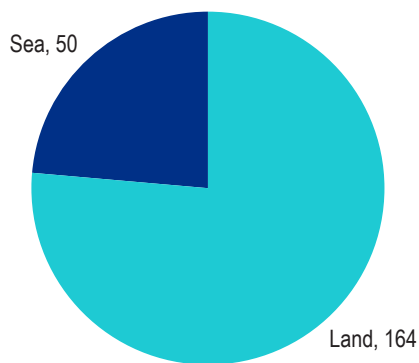
Incident type



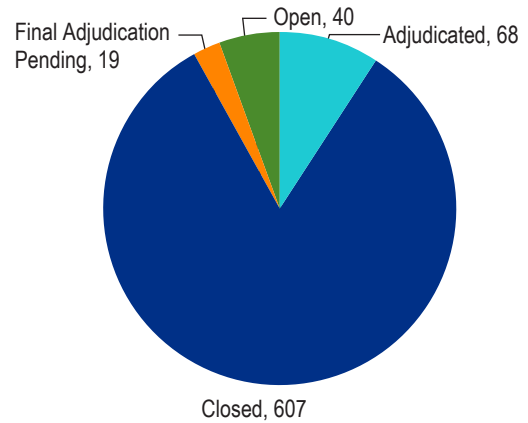
Incident Status



Patrols



Investigation Dispositions



Pacific Islands Division

Bill Pickering Assistant Director

Staffing Snapshot

25 Full-Time Employees

- 7 Special Agents
- 7 Enforcement Officers
- 5 Mission Support
- 6 Investigative Support
- 0 Contractors

PID Budget: \$7.05 million

Headquarters

1845 Wasp Blvd.
Building 176
Honolulu, HI 96818

Field Offices

American Samoa
Guam

VMS

235 Reporting Vessels
1,500 Foreign Vessels apx.

The Pacific Islands Division was established in October 2004 and is geographically the largest division in OLE. Bounded by the Hawaiian Islands in the north, American Samoa and U.S. Pacific remote island areas in the south, and the Mariana Archipelago, including Guam in the west, the Division encompasses the largest geographical management area within both NOAA Fisheries and the regional fishery management council system. The total area of the U.S. EEZ waters included in the region is more than 1.5 million square nautical miles, which accounts for nearly half of the entire U.S. EEZ.

Within this massive marine area is the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM)—which OLE is charged with protecting and spans nearly 583,000 square nautical miles—the Marianas Trench, Pacific Remote Islands, and Rose Atoll Marine National Monuments, as well as the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.

The Division serves as the center of activity for the implementation of both domestic and international responsibilities related to the Port State Measures Agreement. Numerous longline and purse seine vessels within the U.S.-permitted fleet operate extensively throughout the U.S. and international waters. The need to effectively monitor these U.S. vessels, as well as monitoring the U.S. EEZ to detect and deter illegal foreign vessel incursions, poses a unique enforcement challenge for the Division.

Working with Regional Partners

The monitoring of landing, importation, and processing of fish within Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and landings by U.S. purse seine vessels in foreign ports, is an enforcement priority for Division staff. The Division works closely with the governments of the foreign nations in the region, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Department of State in supporting and enforcing a number of treaties and conventions, such as the South Pacific Tuna Treaty, Convention for the Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean, Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, and Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

Significant Investigations

Lacey Act

OLE Special Agents, in coordination with Hawaii Conservation Officers, investigated tropical fish collectors for suspected violations of a West Hawaii Fish Management Area closure. The investigation revealed that the subjects were trafficking wildlife across state lines in violation of the Lacey Act and laundering the proceeds of the transactions for personal gain. On August 9, 2020, the second subject pleaded guilty and was sentenced to serve 30 days in jail and to pay \$5,500 in fines. The first, and cooperating, subject pleaded no contest and was ordered to pay \$260 in fines and fees. In addition, the second subject was ordered to pay \$76,000 in civil penalties to the Hawaii State Court.

Marine Mammal Protection Act

Two OLE Enforcement Officers and three Hawaii Conservation Officers observed a vessel in pursuit of a pod of Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins in Kona, Hawaii. During the surveillance, the vessel's master made multiple course changes in pursuit of the pod under power. Multiple behavior changes in the pod were observed by the officers including head lunging, tightening of ranks, pod disorganization, and quick changes of speed/direction. OLE intercepted the vessel and issued multiple citations for state violations and a summary settlement for the violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Magnuson-Stevens Act

An OLE Special Agent completed an investigation into a Hawaii longline fishing vessel for fishing in the Southern Exclusion Zone of the Hawaii Islands—an area closed to protect false killer whales. This case was sent to NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Section (GCES) who issued a civil penalty in the amount of \$5,500.

Endangered Species Act

An OLE Enforcement Officer initiated and completed an investigation into a video posted on social media showing a subject approaching and slapping a Hawaiian monk seal on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii, a violation of the Endangered Species Act. This video went viral on social media and gained significant local, national, and international media attention. The Officer was able to identify the subjects through the



original social media post, law enforcement databases, research, and collaboration with partners. The subject who harassed the seal issued an apology and was issued a summary settlement.

An OLE Enforcement Officer completed an investigation into a subject in possession of a significant amount of sperm whale bones on the Island of Kauai, Hawaii, a violation of the Endangered Species Act. A summary settlement in the amount of \$250 was issued.

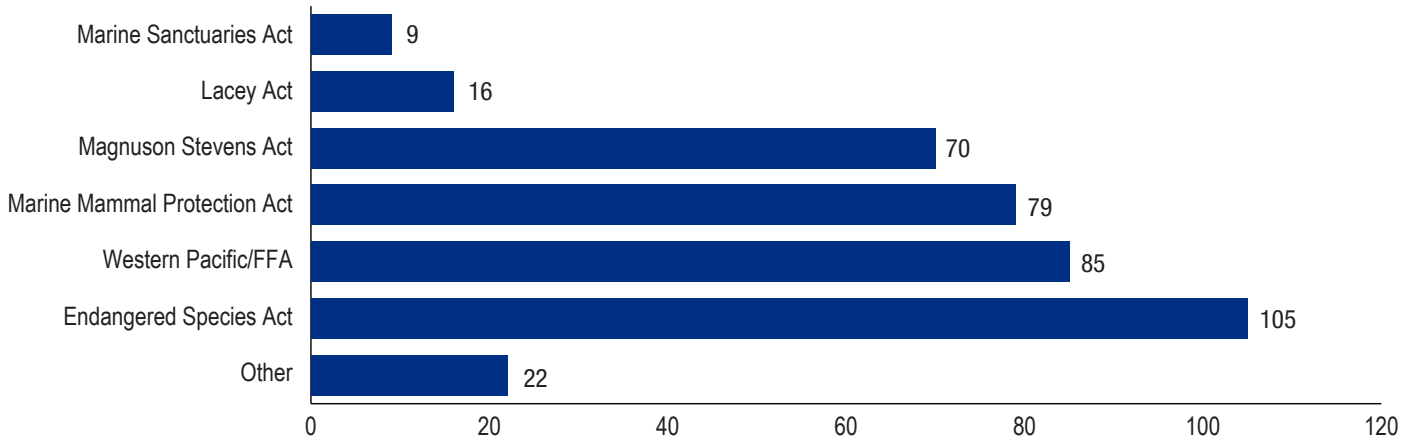
International Fisheries

An OLE Special Agent completed an investigation involving a U.S. flagged purse seine fishing vessel that violated the Western and Central Pacific Commission's fishing restrictions related to silky sharks. Through the investigation, it was discovered that the vessel caught over 200 silky sharks, and the crew did not take any action or reasonable steps for their safe release. General Counsel Enforcement Section issued a notice of violation in the amount of \$119,000 and the final settlement agreement of \$63,000 was paid in August 2020.

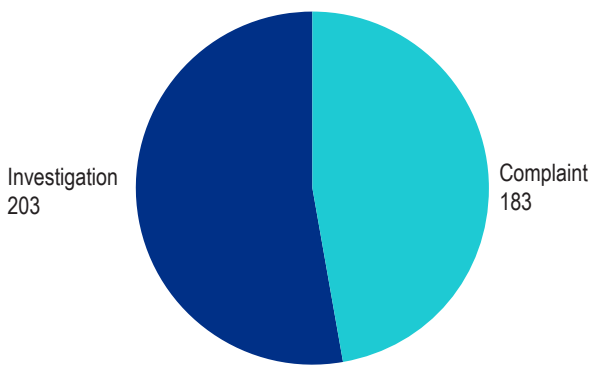
Following an investigation by an OLE Special Agent, NOAA GCES issued a NOVA in the amount of \$4,000 to a Hawaii importer that imported Patagonian Toothfish from Japan without the required pre-approval catch documentation, a violation of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

Pacific Islands Division Enforcement Activities at a Glance

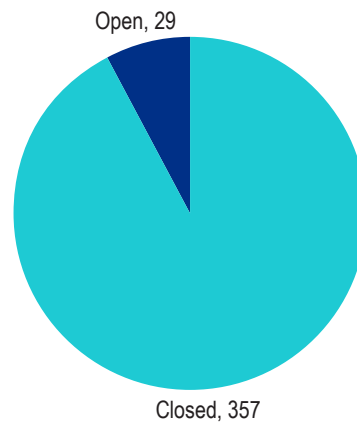
Incident by Law



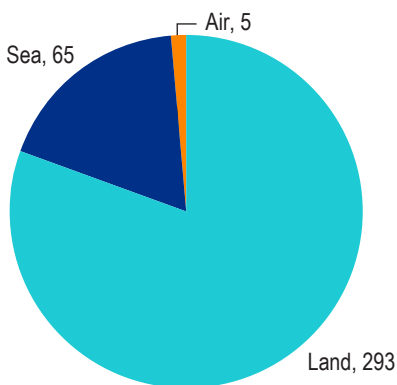
Incident type



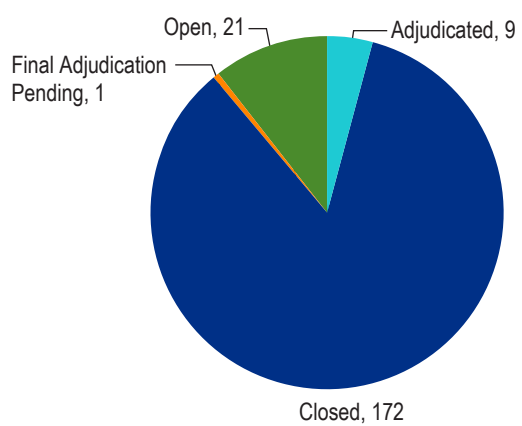
Incident Status



Patrols



Investigation Dispositions



Southeast Division

Tracy A. Dunn Assistant Director

Staffing Snapshot

- 44 Full-Time Employees
- 19 Special Agents
 - 13 Enforcement Officers
 - 8 Mission Support
 - 4 Investigative Support
 - 3 Contractors

SED Budget: \$18.6 million

Headquarters

263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Field Offices

Charleston, SC
Corpus Christi, TX
Charlotte Amalie, USVI
Houston/League City, TX
Key Largo, FL
Key West, FL
Miami/Sunrise, FL
New Bern City, NC
Slidell/Houma, LA
Niceville/Panama City, FL
Jacksonville, FL
San Juan, Puerto Rico
St. Petersburg, FL

VMS

1,236 Reporting Vessels

The Southeast Division is the largest of the continental divisions, with approximately 3,230 miles of coastline covering the South Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean. North Carolina is the northernmost state of the Division, followed by South Carolina, Georgia, and the East Coast of Florida with the Dry Tortugas at the western extent of the Florida Keys being the southern boundary. The Gulf of Mexico picks up at the 83°W longitude following the coast of western Florida, around the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, Mississippi, and then down the Texas coast to the international border between Mexico and the United States. The Caribbean area of responsibility includes Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In total, the Division is charged with monitoring and enforcing marine resource laws over 350,000 square nautical miles of the EEZ.

The fishery fleet in the Division is comprised of smaller commercial vessels relative to other areas of the nation but has the largest recreational fisheries sector in the continental United States. The Division's federally permitted commercial fleet conducted more than 154,900 trips in 2019 totaling upward of \$608.5 million in revenue, while the number of recreational fishing trips far exceeded those numbers with an estimated 119.7 million trips.

In addition to domestic fisheries, the Division is responsible for three national marine sanctuaries—the Florida Keys, Gray's Reef, and Flower Garden Banks—and is actively engaged in combating IUU fishing and seafood fraud through the monitoring of seafood entering through U.S.-Mexico gateways.

Working with Regional Partners

To accomplish its mission, the Division works closely with the NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office and the Southeast Fisheries Science Center, two interstate marine fisheries commissions, three regional fishery management councils (Gulf of Mexico, South Atlantic, and the Caribbean), as well as numerous local, state, territorial, and federal agency partners.

The Cooperative Enforcement Program is the main partner program the Division relies on to increase patrol, monitoring, and inspection services across the region. Seven states, one commonwealth, and one territory have signed agreements to partner with the Division.



Significant Investigations

Magnuson-Stevens Act

Following an OLE investigation, a subject was sentenced to 12 months of intermittent confinement, a fine of \$1,200, and 5 years of supervised probation for disposing of closed season grouper upon the approach of a law enforcement vessel. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the defendant was resented to 30 days of intermittent confinement in an approved facility, 11 months of intermittent home incarceration, and 5 years of supervised probation.

Lacey Act

An OLE Special Agent investigated a seafood fraud case that resulted in the sentencing of a North Carolina seafood processor. The defendants pleaded guilty to falsely labeling over \$250,000 worth of foreign crab meat as a domestically harvested blue crab that was a “Product of the USA.” The mislabeled seafood was primarily sold to small seafood retailers and restaurants. They were sentenced to 366 days of confinement, \$250,000 in fines, and 5 years of probation. The associated business was fined \$500,000, given 5 years of probation, and was required to hire a compliance officer.

Following a multi-year investigation in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Homeland Security Investigations, and Customs and Border Protection, an aquarium business co-owner pleaded guilty to illegally trafficking protected reef organisms. They used a chisel to break off ricordea, zoanths, and live rock from Puerto Rican waters and then falsely labeled and shipped them. The estimated retail value of these shipments was approximately

\$400,000. In addition, several spin-off investigations were conducted that led to the sentencing of two individuals for knowingly exporting nearly 1,000 shipments of fish and wildlife in violation of federal law. They were sentenced to 6 months’ imprisonment, supervised release, and a \$7,500 fine.

Endangered Species Act

Following an OLE investigation, two individuals involved in the killing and mutilation of two green sea turtles in Texas pleaded guilty to criminal charges for their violations of the Endangered Species Act. The defendants were ordered to serve 12 months of supervised probation and were each fined \$500.

National Marine Sanctuaries Act

Following an OLE Special Agent’s investigation, a settlement of \$13,500 was reached with the owner of a vessel for violating vessel speed restriction regulations enacted to protect critically endangered North Atlantic right whales. The owner of the vessel admitted that they knew the restrictions, but thought they would not be enforced. In total, the OLE investigation documented multiple violations of speed restrictions with a cumulative distance of over 350 miles.

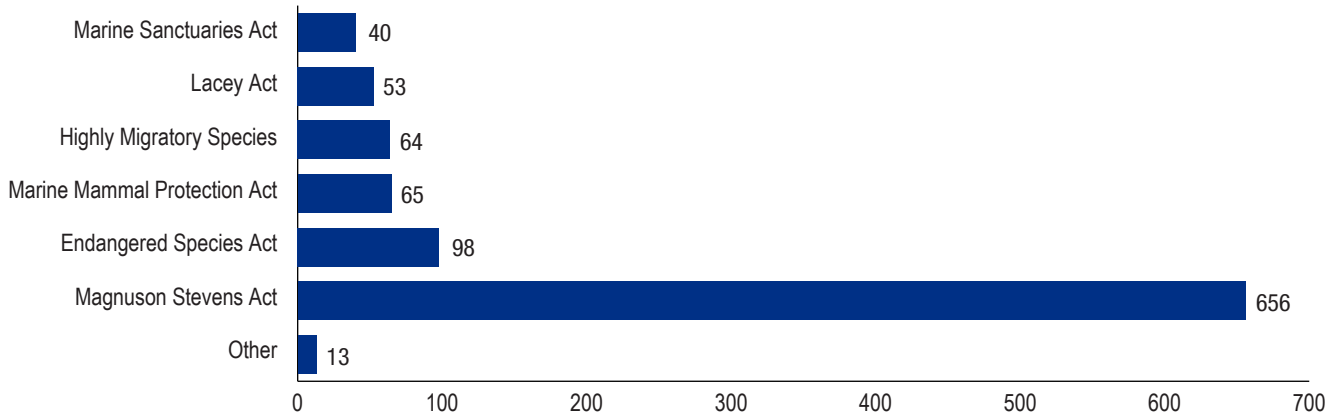
An OLE Enforcement Officer assisted Audubon Coastal Wildlife Network, SeaWorld Rescue, and Fenstermaker & Associates during a multi-day rescue of three stranded dolphins in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Hurricane Laura’s storm surge pushed the dolphins approximately 15 miles inland, trapping them in a bayou after the storm surge receded. To rescue the dolphins, three vessels and over 25 personnel were deployed. After the rescue, the veterinarian onsite cleared the dolphins for release back into the Gulf of Mexico.

National Marine Sanctuaries Act

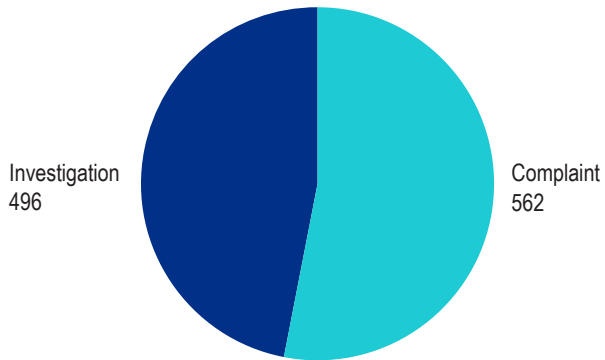
OLE conducted a weeklong, multi-mission patrol in Key West, Florida to provide an enforcement presence in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the adjacent U.S. EEZ. The team conducted 50 patrol hours and documented violations of the National Marine Sanctuary Act and the Magnuson Stevens Act. In addition to the sanctuary patrol, the crew provided logistics support to the National Weather Service by transporting two technicians to the Sand Key Light and Sombrero Key Light weather stations.

Southeast Division Enforcement Activities at a Glance

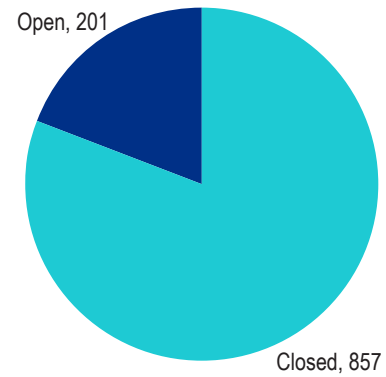
Incident by Law



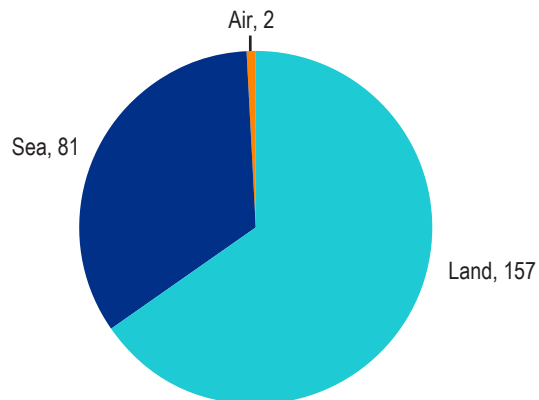
Incident type



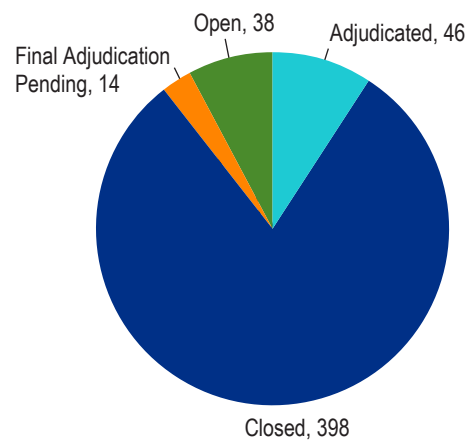
Incident Status



Patrols



Investigation Dispositions



West Coast Division

Greg Busch Assistant Director

Staffing Snapshot

36 Full-Time Employees

- 10 Special Agents
- 10 Enforcement Officers
- 9 Mission Support
- 7 Investigative Support
- 0 Contractors

WCD Budget: \$10.5 million

Headquarters

7600 Sand Point Way NE
Seattle, WA 98115

Field Offices

Alameda, CA
Astoria, OR
Bellingham, WA
Coos Bay, OR
Lacey, WA
Long Beach, CA
Monterey, CA
Newport, OR
Sacramento, CA
San Diego, CA
Santa Rosa, CA
Seattle, WA
Vancouver, WA
Westport, WA

VMS

1,616 Reporting Vessels

The West Coast Division encompasses the coastal states of Washington, Oregon, and California. The area of responsibility also extends inland to Idaho, North and South Dakota, and Montana.

This unique division shares borders with Canada and Mexico, has five national marine sanctuaries along its coast, and includes 290 Marine Conservation Areas. The Division is responsible for 1,293 miles of Pacific coastline and 7,863 miles of tidal shoreline, 222,471 square nautical miles of EEZ, and 339,375 square miles of critical habitat land encompassing numerous rivers and tributaries feeding into the Pacific Ocean.

Two of the top 10 international ports for exporting and importing seafood products by weight and value are found in the Division—Seattle and Los Angeles. In addition to those two seaports, the Division monitors 16 international airports, 21 seaports, and numerous border crossings for imports/exports of seafood products.

Working with Regional Partners

The Division's enforcement officers and special agents leverage federal and state partnerships to address violations. Federal partners like the U.S. Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency help the Division identify and investigate incidents at sea, in critical habitats, and on the borders. Our state law enforcement partners in Washington, Oregon, and California are given authority and responsibility to conduct patrols and outreach in areas where Division resources are scarce.

Native tribes located throughout the region have long been an asset to the Division, but recently cooperative efforts have been a focal point that has provided additional resources.

An integral part of OLE's enforcement effort is done through education and outreach efforts. Ensuring the general public, importers/exporters, and the commercial fishing industry has the latest information on regulations is of the utmost importance to maintaining sustainability and conservation standards.

Significant Investigations

Magnuson-Stevens Act

An OLE Enforcement Officer investigated a first receiver for starting two groundfish offloads of commercial fishing vessels, on two separate days, without a catch monitor present. As a result, NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Section issued a notice of violation in the amount of \$15,000 resulting in a settlement agreement of \$13,500.

Marine Mammal Protection Act

Following a caller tip from the OLE Enforcement Hotline, an Enforcement Officer investigated a commercial fishing vessel utilizing a purse seine net to fish for squid in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The caller indicated that the vessel's net caught three Risso's dolphins and 10 to 20 California sea lions. The captain of the vessel failed to report any marine mammal takes within the required 48-hour reporting period. They also failed to report the incident to the investigating California Department of Fish and Wildlife warden, claiming instead that no takes had occurred. As a result, NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Section issued a notice of violation in the amount of \$3,000 resulting in a settlement agreement of \$2,700.

National Marine Sanctuaries Act

An OLE Special Agent investigated a report of a wastewater treatment provider discharging nearly 3 million gallons of untreated wastewater into the

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Following the investigation, NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Section issued a notice of violation in the amount of \$110,000 resulting in a settlement agreement of \$84,000.

Lacey Act

An OLE Enforcement Officer conducted an inspection of chilled fresh fish from Japan in the All Nippon Airways warehouse at Los Angeles International Airport. During the inspection, they discovered that boxes were not labeled in accordance with federal requirements. As a result, three separate importers were issued and paid summary settlements in the amount of \$250.

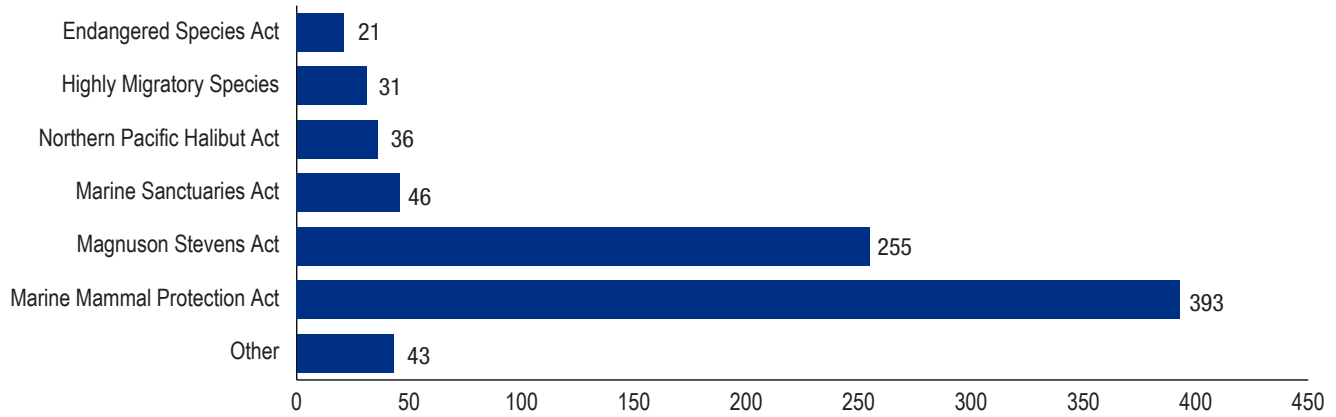
International Cooperation

An OLE Special Agent investigated a commercial quantity of abalone that was imported into the U.S. from Mexico. At the time, the commercial take of abalone was closed in Mexico and it was believed to be an unlawful import. The shipment contained 860 kilograms of fresh frozen abalone with a value of \$47,300 along with 5,400 kilograms of frozen top shell meat. The import documents of the shipment were reviewed and no lawful origins of the product were uncovered. During the investigation, an official from Mexico's National Commission of Fisheries and Aquaculture (CONAPESCA) confirmed that the Mexican invoice for the abalone import was not legal. As a result, NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Section issued a notice of violation in the amount of \$7,500 resulting in a settlement agreement of \$6,750.

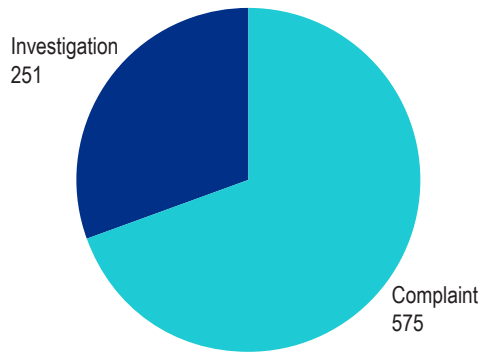


West Coast Division Enforcement Activities at a Glance

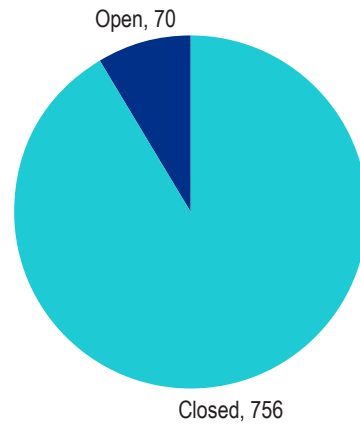
Incident by Law



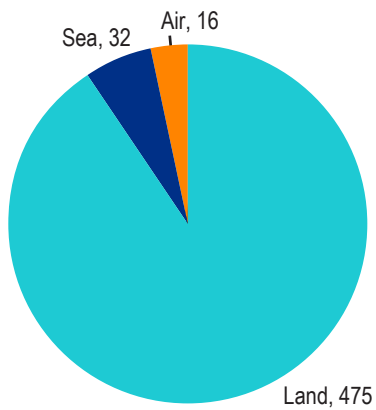
Incident type



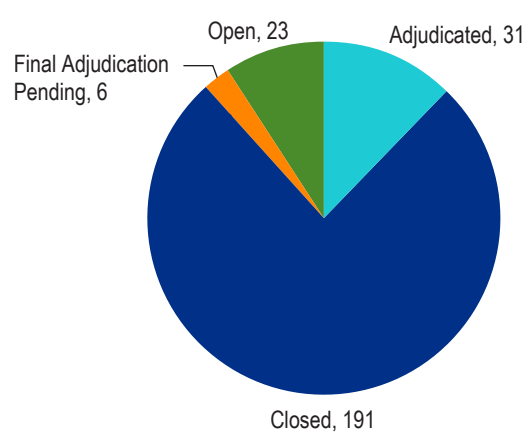
Incident Status



Patrols



Investigation Dispositions



Appendix

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is responsible for enforcing more than 35 federal statutes, with the majority of cases falling under the following laws and policies.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543).

This act prohibits the importation, exportation, taking, and commercialization in interstate or foreign commerce of fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species. The act also implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371-3378).

This act prohibits the importation, exportation, transportation, sale, or purchase of fish, wildlife, or plants taken or possessed in violation of state, federal, tribal, and foreign laws. It also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate injurious wildlife and ensure the humane treatment of wildlife shipped to the United States. Originally enacted in 1900, the Lacey Act is the nation's oldest federal wildlife protection law.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801-1882).

This act is the primary law governing marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters. First passed in 1976, the MSA fosters long-term biological and economic sustainability of our nation's marine fisheries within the U.S. EEZ. Key objectives of the MSA are to prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, increase long-term economic and social benefits, and ensure a safe and sustainable supply of seafood.

Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C.

1361-1407). This act establishes a moratorium on the take and importation of marine mammals, including parts and products, and defines federal responsibilities for the conservation of marine mammals. The Department of Commerce through the National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with protecting whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, and sea lions. Walrus,

manatees, otters, and polar bears are protected by the Department of the Interior through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is responsible for regulations managing marine mammals in captivity.

National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431-1439).

This act authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate and protect areas of the marine environment with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or esthetic qualities as national marine sanctuaries. Day-to-day management of national marine sanctuaries has been delegated by the Secretary of Commerce to NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. The primary objective of the act is to protect marine resources, such as coral reefs, sunken historical vessels, or unique habitats.

Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 773-

773k). This act is the implementing legislation for the Convention between the United States and Canada for the preservation of the halibut fishery of the northern Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea. The act authorizes the Secretary of State, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Commerce, to accept or reject on behalf of the United States the halibut fishery regulations and management recommendations developed by the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC). The act also authorizes the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the Pacific Fishery Management Council to develop, and the Secretary of Commerce to implement, additional halibut fishery regulations governing the U.S. portion of Convention waters. Ultimately, the act was created to conserve, manage, and rebuild the halibut stocks in the Convention Area to those levels that would achieve and maintain the maximum sustainable yield from the fishery.

Other Statutes and Responsibilities

American Fisheries Act of 1998 (Pub. Law 105-277)

Anadromous Fish Products Act (16 U.S.C. 1822 note, Section 801(f))

Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2401-2413)

Antarctic Marine Living Resources Convention Act of 1984 (16 U.S.C. 2431-2444)

Antarctic Protection Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 2465(a))

Antigua Convention Implementing Act of 2015 (Pub. Law 114-181)

Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (16 U.S.C. 5103(b))

Atlantic Salmon Convention Act of 1982 (16 U.S.C. 3601-3608)

Atlantic Striped Bass Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 1851 note)

Atlantic Tunas Convention Act of 1975 (16 U.S.C. 971-971k)

Billfish Conservation Act of 2012 (Pub. Law 112-183, 126 Stat. 1422-1423)

Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific 2017 (16 U.S.C. 7801-7810)

Deep Seabed Hard Mineral Resources Act (30 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.)

Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act (16 U.S.C. 1385 et seq.)

Driftnet Impact Monitoring, Assessment, and Control Act (16 U.S.C. 1822 note, section 4006)

Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt Wildlife Trafficking 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7601-7644)

Fish and Seafood Promotion Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4001-4017)

Fisherman's Protective Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1980(g))
Fur Seal Act Amendments of 1983 (16 U.S.C. 1151-1175)

High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 1826(d)-1826(k))

High Seas Fishing Compliance Act (16 U.S.C. 5506(a))
Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-81)

Land Remote-Sensing Policy Act of 1992 (15 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.)

North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Convention Act of 1992 (16 U.S.C. 5002-5012)

North Pacific Fisheries Convention 2017 (16 U.S.C. 7701-7710)

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention Act of 1995 (16 U.S.C. 5601-5612)

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9101 et seq.)

Pacific Albacore Tuna Treaty Act (Pub. Law 108-219, 118 Stat. 615- 617, 16 U.S.C. 1821 note)

Port State Measures Agreement Act of 2015 (16 U.S.C. 7401-7409)

Shark Conservation Act (Pub. Law 111-348, 124 Stat. 3668-3673, 16 U.S.C. 1801 note)

Shark Finning Prohibition Act (Pub. Law 106-557, 114 Stat. 2772- 2775, 16 U.S.C. 1822 note)

South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 973-973r)

Sponge Act (16 U.S.C. 781 et seq.)

Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. §§ 951-961)

Weather Modifications Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. 330-330e)

Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act (16 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.)

Whaling Convention Act of 1949 (16 U.S.C. 916-9161)



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