



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Headquarters



HMS Enforcement Overview

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement

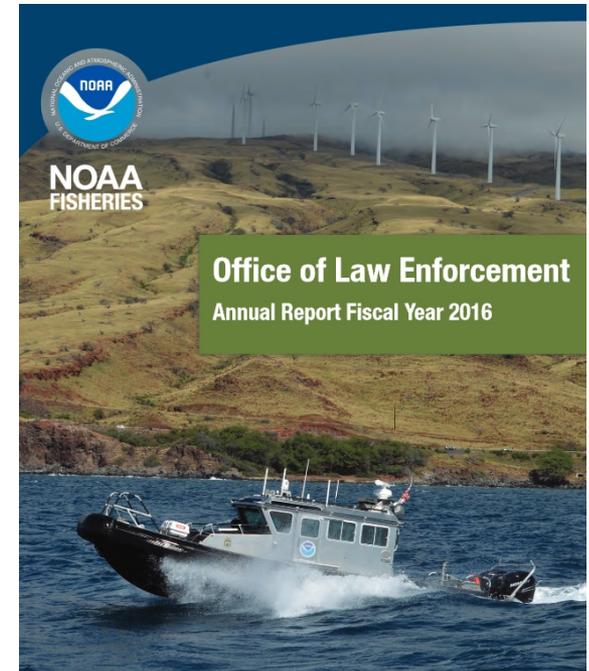
NOAA Office of the General Counsel - Enforcement Section

September 6, 2017

NOAA OLE HOMEPAGE

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/index.html

The screenshot shows the NOAA Fisheries website's Office of Law Enforcement section. At the top left is the NOAA Fisheries logo. Below it is a navigation menu with links for Fisheries Home, About Us, Programs, Regions, Science Centers, and Partners. A secondary menu includes Law Enforcement Home, About Our Office, Priorities, Compliance Assistance, Newsroom, and FAQ. The main content area features a large image of a monk seal with the headline "Seal Abuser Gets 4 Years" and a sub-headline "Man caught on video beating a monk seal is sentenced to prison time. Read More...". Below this is a "How We Help" section with a paragraph about tackling seafood fraud. At the bottom, there are three columns: "Announcements" with a link to the OLE Annual Report FY 2016, "Meet NOAA Law Enforcement" with a video player, and "Latest News | Archive" with several news items including "Coward Seafood, Inc. President Sentenced to 25 Months in Prison for Illegal Seafood Conspiracy and Firearms Violation" and "Warren Man Pleads Guilty and is Sentenced for Shooting a Protected Seal".



PRIORITIES



NOAA FISHERIES

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Fisheries Home

About Us

Programs

Regions

Science Centers

Partners

News & Multimedia

Fisheries Resources

Congress

Educators and Students

Get Involved

Forms

FOLLOW US:

Stay connected with us
around the nation »

Sign up for FishNews

GO

Law Enforcement Home About Our Office Priorities Compliance Assistance Newsroom FAQ

Fisheries Home » Law Enforcement

Priorities Overview

On March 20, 2015, NOAA Fisheries released the latest edition of the **National and Division Enforcement Priorities** for NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement. The priorities listed in this document directly support Fisheries' mission by focusing enforcement work as effectively and efficiently as possible on sustainable fisheries management and the protection and conservation of marine species. And, while the identified priority areas will be the focus, the Office of Law Enforcement will continue to encourage compliance with and enforce all of the marine statutes and regulations for which NOAA Fisheries is responsible.

Establishing annual enforcement priorities helps us focus our resources and strategically use our state and federal partnerships to monitor the more than 3,000,000 square miles of open ocean and 95,000 miles of U.S. coastline over which we have jurisdiction. These priorities improve our ability to rebuild and protect the public's fisheries and other national resources and to protect the many fishermen who play by the rules. It is the latest step we are taking to improve compliance through better communication with fishermen.

We accomplish our priorities through the following activities:

- Criminal and civil investigations
- Patrols, inspections, and monitoring
- Partnerships with state, tribal, and federal agencies, and nongovernmental organizations
- Cooperative fisheries enforcement to implement international treaties and obligations
- Outreach and compliance assistance
- Use of innovative technological tools

The national priorities focus on:

- Helping the fishing industry understand and adhere to regulations that support sustainable fish stocks and a sustainable fishing industry.
- Monitoring fish product imports for compliance with domestic and international laws, regulations, and treaty obligations.
- Implementing compliance and enforcement plans for catch share management.
- Protecting marine resources in National Marine Sanctuaries and National Marine Monuments.
- Protecting marine mammal and endangered species by enforcing bycatch reduction, gear, closed area, and human interaction regulations.
- Supporting observer programs, which collect critical scientific data about fish stock status, bycatch, and fishery interactions with protected species.

Resources

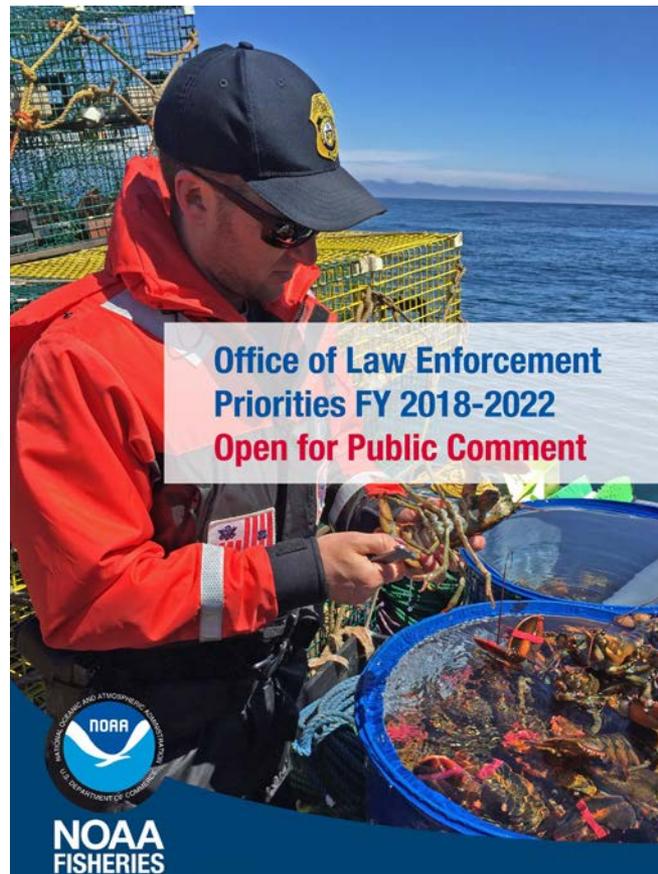
2012-2017 Enforcement Priorities Document



NOAA FISHERIES

FY 2018 - 2022

Public Comment - Now Closed



Newsroom

NOAA HOME WEATHER OCEANS FISHERIES CHARTING SATELLITES CLIMATE RESEARCH COASTS CAREERS GO



Law Enforcement Home About Our Office Priorities Compliance Assistance Newsroom FAQ

Fisheries Home » Law Enforcement

Feature Stories

- Seal Abuser Gets 4 Years - Man caught on video beating a monk seal is sentenced to prison time
- OLE Trains Philippines On Anti IUU Efforts - In a second phase of capacity building, a team of NOAA Office of Law Enforcement experts traveled to the Philippines to train enforcement officials there on vessel inspection techniques.
- 10-hour Halibut Season Opening, OLE on Patrol - With a short halibut season, OLE hopes to assist with compliance to ensure fishery sustainability.
- OLE Joins AFRIKOM for International Training Event - To increase capabilities to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, OLE travels to Ghana with invitation from the U.S. Department of Defense.
- Fines, Patrols Increase for Red Snapper Fishery - In order to better protect the red snapper fish stocks in the Southeast, NOAA Enforcement increases patrols and General Counsel increases fines associated with species violations.
- OLE releases FY 2016 Annual Report - Learn more about the OLE investigations and staffing numbers in the annual report.
- Halibut Fisherman Fined \$5K for Sitka LAMP Fishing - Landing report identified illegal activity.
- Border Operation Highlights Lobster Violations - NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement inspected shipments of lobster, sea urchins, and halibut being imported to the United States from Canada. The results were...
- Observers assist in case, vessel owner fined \$75K - NOAA OLE closes a successful investigation after numerous Observers filed complaints against an Alaskan-based vessel.
- Video: Cracking the Research Set-Aside Case - In 2010, the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement embarked on a 4-year investigation which exposed one of the largest fisheries conspiracy networks on the East Coast.

Read Feature Stories from our news archive >>

FOLLOW US:

Stay connected with us around the nation >

Sign up for FishNews

<p>Fisheries Service</p> <p>Home Information Quality Exit Disclaimer</p>	<p>Linking Policy Privacy Policy Copyright Policy</p>	<p>USA.gov FOIA Search</p>	<p>Our Mission Contact Us</p>	<p>Work for NOAA Fisheries EO & Diversity Feedback</p>	 
--	---	------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	--	---

Fisheries Home Law Enforcement Home About Our Office Priorities Compliance Assistance Newsroom FAQ

Fisheries Home » Law Enforcement

Enforcement Actions

On a weekly basis, we'll post highlights of our enforcement actions below and examples of high-interest violation notices. This does not include all weekly actions taken by our Officer or Special Agents.

Weekly Highlights — September 5, 2017

Alaska Division:

- A supervisory enforcement officer, a representative from the Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute and an individual from Alaska Whale Foundation responded to an adult humpback whale entangled in the anchor chain of a cruise ship. The animal was entangled 50 feet from the vessel. On cutting the chain, the animal remained at the surface for some time before submerging. Once it began to move, it surfacing about 1/4 nm away and about 1/2 nm away.
- A charter vessel halibut operator was issued a summary settlement of \$200 for transporting halibut over the possession limit when his clients where not on board.
- An enforcement officer completed an investigation into a charter halibut operator for failure to document a client's fishing license number in the 2016 charter logbook. The case was closed with compliance assistance.
- An enforcement officer completed an investigation involving a fish processor allowing salmon to pass the sorting area. Plant personnel returned the salmon to the sorting area for observer sampling. Compliance assistance provided.

Northeast Division:

- An EO received three case package referrals from the U.S. Coast Guard that documented recreational vessels engaged in HMS fishing without a valid permit. In all three instances, the vessel operator had obtained the required permit shortly after the boarding occurred. None of the vessels had prior violations. Compliance assistance was given for each incident.
- An EO received confirmation that a \$500 Summary Settlement was paid by a recreational angler who was found to be in possession of undersized yellowfin tuna and no valid HMS permit.

Pacific Islands Division:

- The PID DSAC met with Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Deputy Superintendent in American Samoa and discussed enforcement needs for the sanctuary.

Southeast Division:

- A special agent and enforcement officer interviewed a recreational angler who had hooked and released a sawfish in Vero Beach, FL. A complaint had been made to OLE after a photo and article had been posted to a local newspaper's website. The angler stated he did not know it was a sawfish until he entered the water to release it. The angler said he wanted to make sure the leader was cut as close as possible to the mouth and tied a rope to safely bring the sawfish up to the surf's edge for release. He showed the agent and officer photos of the sawfish and videos of how he catches and releases sharks. Based on the interview and information provided, compliance assistance was offered via sawfish careful release brochures..
- A special agent and enforcement officer conducted an endangered species investigation pertaining to the sale of a green sea turtle shell made into a guitar. The turtle shell guitar was purchased in NC as part of a self-storage unit auction and transported to GA where it was being sold at a thrift store. The thrift store owners voluntarily abandoned the guitar.
- A special issued a \$3,000 summary settlement to the operator and owner of a commercial fishing vessel for possession of shark fins in the EEZ. The shark fins were discovered by the Mississippi Department Marine Resources during a TED compliance check.

Cracking the Research S...
In 2010, the NOAA Office of La...



NOAA Office of General Counsel

Keep up to date with the latest enforcement decisions and orders (2010 through 2016).

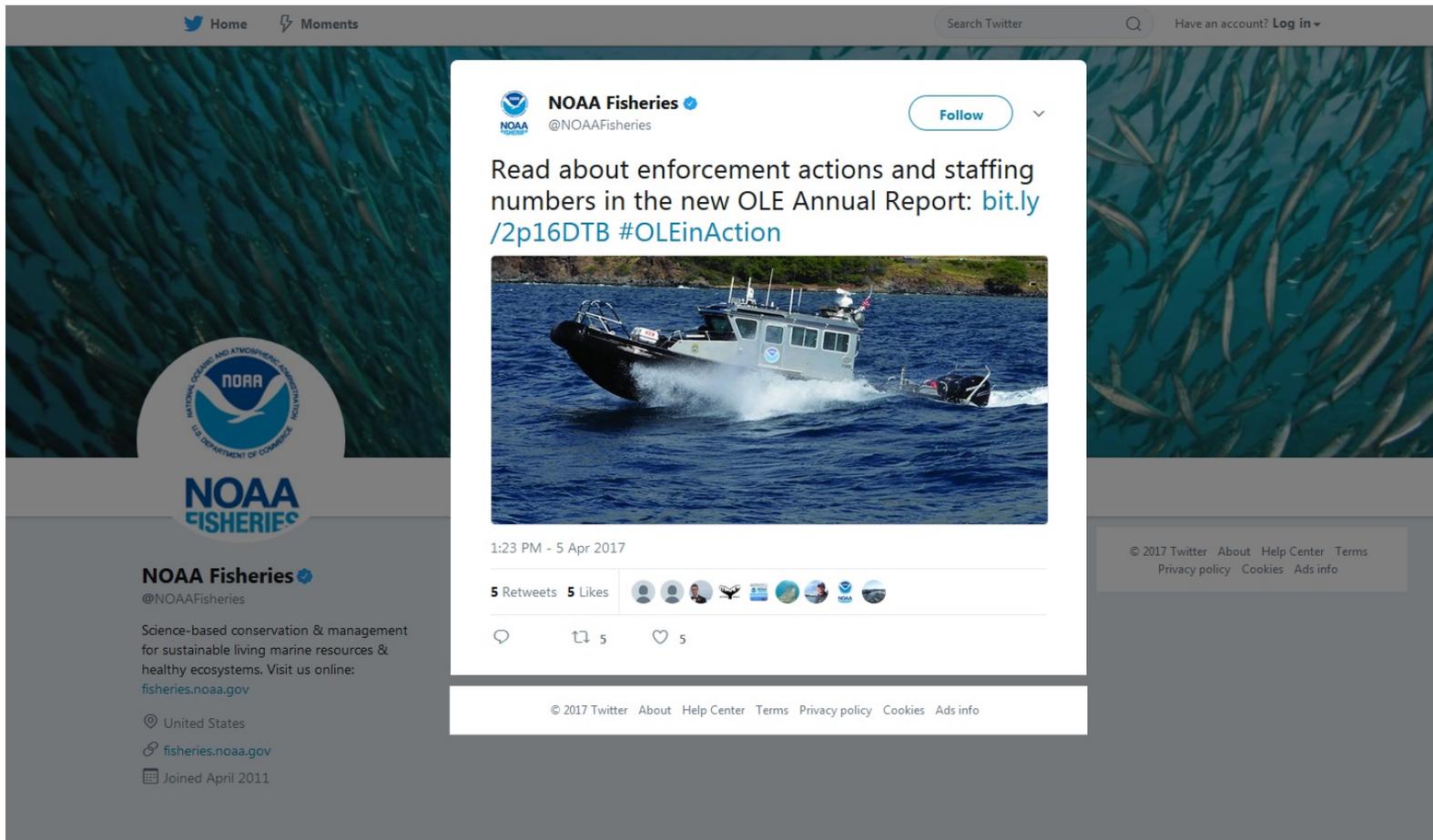
FOLLOW US:

Stay connected with us around the nation >

Sign up for FishNews

NOAA Fisheries - Twitter

Law Enforcement Updates



Home Moments Search Twitter Have an account? Log in

NOAA Fisheries @NOAAFisheries Follow

Read about enforcement actions and staffing numbers in the new OLE Annual Report: [bit.ly /2p16DTB](https://bit.ly/2p16DTB) #OLEinAction



1:23 PM - 5 Apr 2017

5 Retweets 5 Likes

© 2017 Twitter About Help Center Terms Privacy policy Cookies Ads info

NOAA Fisheries @NOAAFisheries

Science-based conservation & management for sustainable living marine resources & healthy ecosystems. Visit us online: fisheries.noaa.gov

United States

fisheries.noaa.gov

Joined April 2011

NOAA GCES HOMEPAGE

www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office.html

The screenshot shows the NOAA Office of General Counsel website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for NOAA HOME, WEATHER, OCEANS, FISHERIES, CHARTING, SATELLITES, CLIMATE, RESEARCH, COASTS, and CAREERS. Below this is the NOAA logo and the text "NOAA OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION". A search bar is located on the right side of the header.

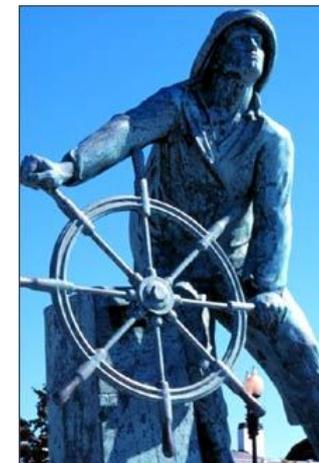
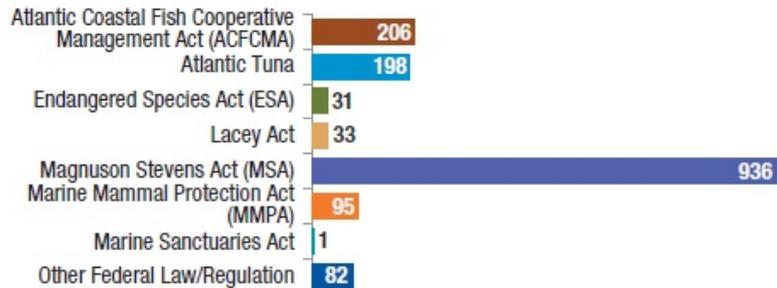
The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a navigation menu with links for Home, Offices, Links, Documents, and Site Map. Below this is a "Related Links" section with links for Enforcement Section Offices, Enforcement Decisions and Orders, Frequently Asked Questions, Penalty Policy and Schedules, Procedural Regulations, Enforcement Charging Information, Partners, and Written Warning Appeals.

The right column contains the main text. It starts with a paragraph about the Enforcement Section's role as NOAA's civil prosecutor. This is followed by a paragraph describing the office's responsibilities, including prosecuting civil penalty cases and providing legal support to various NOAA offices. A "Contact Information" section follows, providing the address, phone number, and fax number for the Enforcement Section.

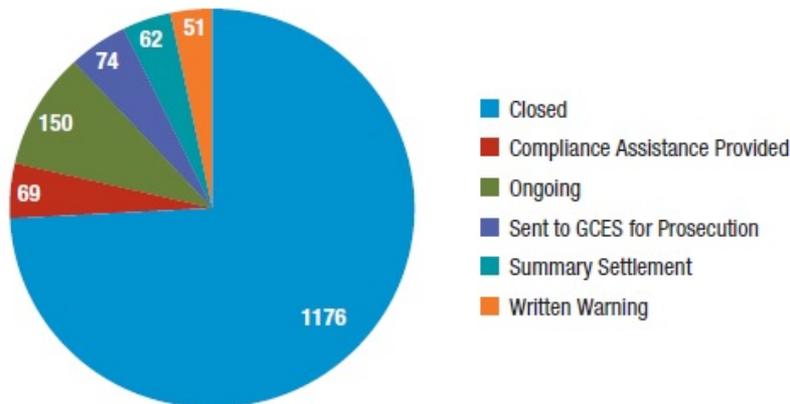
At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with links for NOAA Office of General Counsel, Photo Credits, and Disclaimer. Below this are links for NOAA's Privacy Policy, FOIA, Information Quality, Disclaimer, USA.gov, Ready.gov, Contact Webmaster, and User Survey. The footer also includes links for the Department of Commerce's Privacy Policy, FOIA, Information Quality, Fair Act, No FEAR Act, and White House. The final line of the footer identifies the Web Site Owner as NOAA Office of General Counsel.

Northeast Enforcement Division FY 16

Incidents by Law, Regulation, or Program

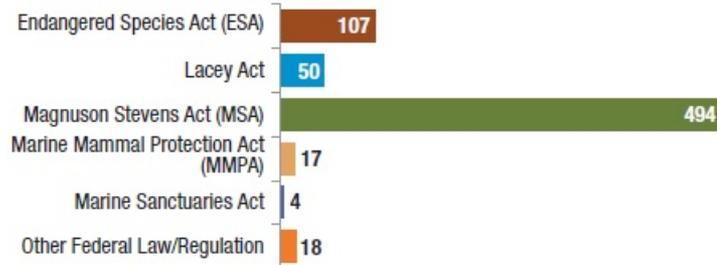


Investigation Dispositions

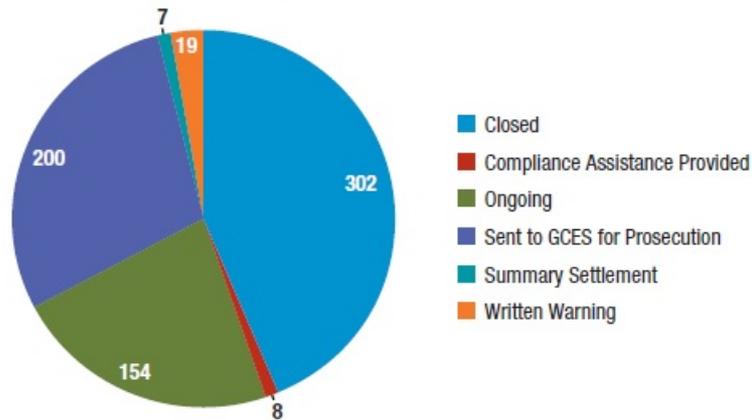


Southeast Enforcement Division FY 16

Incidents by Law, Regulation, or Program



Investigation Dispositions



Questions?

