



NOAA FISHERIES

Office of Law Enforcement

Enforcement Priorities

FY 2018 – 2022

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Introduction

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) protects living marine resources, sanctuaries and monuments, and critical habitat by enforcing domestic laws and supporting international treaty obligations designed to ensure these natural marine resources are available for future generations. OLE actively seeks to promote compliance with the nation's marine resource laws, and takes measured enforcement action when these laws are violated. OLE directly supports NOAA's stewardship mission and NOAA Fisheries' core mission mandates through its actions to enforce and promote compliance with the marine resource protection laws and implementing regulations under NOAA's jurisdiction.

The OLE Priority-Setting Process

OLE has established a 5-year priority-setting process to help accomplish our mission, guide our strategic planning, and focus the use of our enforcement assets where they are most needed. To guide this process, OLE uses NOAA strategic plans, historical enforcement data, emerging threat, and stakeholder input to identify areas in greatest need of enforcement effort – whether to maintain an existing level of compliance or to target areas where increased compliance may be required.

The goal of any priority-setting process is to make the best use of limited resources to maximize results. By design, the priority-setting process must make calculated choices about where to focus efforts, and how best to leverage existing capabilities to successfully address responsibilities. The OLE priority-setting process is no different, and seeks to ensure that we have the right people, in the right places, focusing on the right priorities.

Although OLE uses this priority-setting process to identify areas where we will concentrate our efforts, we will continue to enforce all the laws and implementing regulations under our jurisdiction.

FY2018-2022 National Priorities

The Office of Law Enforcement priorities are designed and conducted in a manner that supports three overarching NOAA Fisheries strategic goals:

- Ensure the sustainability of fisheries and fishing communities.
- Recover and conserve protected species.
- Improve organizational excellence.

As further defined and explained below, OLE supports these goals, as well as the related areas of combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and supporting international fisheries; reducing seafood fraud; and interdicting wildlife trafficking as national priorities within every OLE office. Further, and as a cornerstone to OLE's enforcement approach, increasing outreach and education to foster voluntary compliance is also an integral national priority throughout OLE.

Sustainable Fisheries

NOAA Fisheries – in close coordination with the regional fishery management councils and state partners – is responsible for fostering healthy, productive, and sustainable living marine resources and their habitats. NOAA Fisheries achieves these outcomes through: effective, transparent management actions supported by strong science; habitat conservation and restoration programs; an ecosystem approach to fisheries management; partner and stakeholder coordination and communication; and effective enforcement.

Increasing compliance and enforcement of fishing regulations is an integral part of meeting NOAA's goal of ensuring the sustainability of fisheries and fishing communities. OLE will continue to emphasize investigations related to observer safety and actions that affect the integrity of observer data, such as assaults, interference or harassment of observers, and will also play an integral role in the development and implementation of the agency action plan in response to the Observer Program Safety Review. OLE will also continue to prioritize investigations involving gear and closed-area violations; by-catch and prohibited species violations; and reporting and landing data violations.

Protected Resources

NOAA Fisheries is responsible for the conservation and recovery of protected species and their habitats, as mandated by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). Through these acts, Congress provided us with an enduring mandate to recover species that are facing extinction and to conserve marine mammals.

NOAA Fisheries carries out the mandates of the MMPA and ESA through specific requirements focused on reducing negative effects of human activities, enforcing regulations against harming marine mammals and endangered species, and developing plans to guide the recovery and conservation of these protected species.

In addition, the conservation and protection of key marine and estuarine areas are critical to sustaining marine resources for future generations. The National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) plays a vital role in protecting these areas. Protected within these areas are important habitats like breeding and feeding grounds, coral reefs, kelp forests, and important artifacts of underwater cultural heritage.

To foster the protection of these protected species, places, and resources, OLE will prioritize its enforcement efforts on protecting marine mammals and endangered species. These efforts will focus on bycatch reduction regulations, gear and area restrictions, human interactions with protected species, and targeted enforcement presence in marine protected areas, including National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS) and Marine National Monuments (MNM).

IUU Fishing/International

The vast majority of the seafood consumed in the United States is imported. This demand for seafood makes the United States an attractive market for IUU fish and fish products, and also places pressure on wild stocks from all over the world. Like domestic fishery management councils, Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs) work to ensure that seafood caught within their governing areas is taken in an authorized and sustainable manner. Those who circumvent RFMO conservation and management measures are engaged in IUU fishing. IUU fishing disadvantages legal fishers globally, including U.S. fishing fleets and coastal communities, and negatively impacts global fish stocks such as salmon and tuna.

OLE will continue to prioritize our efforts with RFMOs, foreign countries, federal partners and non-governmental organizations to detect and prevent IUU fish from entering U.S. markets and to bring to justice those who seek to profit from this activity. In support of this priority, OLE will implement the Port States Measures Agreement (PSMA) and will aggressively investigate interstate or foreign trafficking of illegally harvested fish or other marine resources. In addition, OLE will conduct technical assistance for international partners in fisheries law enforcement to enhance their abilities to detect IUU fish products before they enter the stream of commerce and investigate and prosecute IUU fishing violations.

Seafood Fraud

Seafood fraud, typically in the form of mislabeling or other forms of deceptive misidentification of seafood products with respect to quality, quantity, origin, or species undermines the economic viability of U.S. and global fisheries, and deceives consumers. Seafood fraud is generally driven by economic motives and can occur at multiple points along the supply chain.

OLE will prioritize monitoring and investigating major seafood fraud violations including increased efforts at Ports of Entry into the U.S. to detect illegal products and to implement the Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP). We will work with international partners as well as state, local, and other federal agencies on strengthening seafood fraud detection throughout the supply chain through continued coordination via inter-agency task forces and information sharing mechanisms.

Wildlife Trafficking

Illegal wildlife trafficking is a multi-billion dollar-per-year enterprise that targets some of the most iconic and endangered species on the planet. As economic opportunists, wildlife traffickers are also frequently involved in other illegal activities such as human trafficking, illegal weapons sales and the illicit drug trade.

OLE will identify and investigate fish and other wildlife illegally shipped or transported through airports, ports, or borders. To support this priority, OLE will increase deployments of enforcement personnel to strategic ports of entry throughout the United States to better interdict these shipments. OLE will also continue its efforts to detect and investigate the illegal trafficking in marine mammal and endangered species parts or products.

Outreach and Education

A primary goal of OLE is voluntary compliance, by members of the public or regulated industries, with marine resource protection laws and implementing regulations. Engaging in outreach and education activities to foster voluntary compliance is the cornerstone of this goal. Outreach and education is a daily occurrence performed by OLE staff. While conducting patrol efforts, OLE enforcement officers have day-to-day interactions with industry members and the general public, and use these daily opportunities to answer questions and provide information. OLE, as part of its Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) program, employs Enforcement Technicians who, on a daily basis, answer calls from industry members concerning regulations and make proactive contact with owners of vessels at-sea when it appears that the vessel is entering or about to enter a protected area or have entered an incorrect fishing activity code.

OLE will, in addition to our day-to-day interactions, continue to conduct regular outreach and education initiatives regarding new and changing regulations to foster voluntary compliance. OLE will work with other NOAA and NOAA Fisheries offices as well as federal and state partners to encourage and promote voluntary compliance with marine resource laws and regulations. OLE will continue to use social media, outreach events, webstories, compliance liaisons, new articles as well as face-to-face contact with our stakeholders to share the information they need to understand and follow the law.

FY2018-2022 Enforcement Priorities by OLE Division

OLE is organized into five regional Divisions: Alaska, Northeast, Pacific Islands, Southeast, and West Coast. Division priorities support each national priority by providing greater detail for various geographic areas that considers specific resources, past enforcement activities, and emerging threats. The more specific priorities identified by each Division provides the strategic guidance for compliance and enforcement activities within each Division. OLE recognizes that priorities may change within a 5-year period. Subsequently, Divisions will regularly monitor priorities and identify possible changes by maintaining communication with internal and external stakeholders that help inform OLE priorities.

OLE seeks to improve compliance with and enforcement of all marine statutes and regulations under its jurisdiction. While priorities are being identified in this document to help guide planning efforts with each OLE Division, it is important to note that OLE will take appropriate enforcement action for all statutory or regulatory violations regardless of whether the impacted resource is, or is not, listed as a priority in this guidance document.

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Alaska Division

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 the state. If it were a country, Alaska would be the ninth largest seafood producer in the world. 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.

Alaska's coastal communities are uniquely dependent on living marine resources and healthy marine ecosystems. The seafood industry is Alaska's largest private sector employer, accounting for one in every seven local jobs. In addition to the roles of commercial and recreational fishing, subsistence fishing serves as an irreplaceable source of food and protein for much of rural Alaska and is interwoven into the cultural identity of Alaska Natives and coastal communities.

Sustainable Fisheries

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to deter and detect:
 - Observer sexual assault, assault, harassment, observer safety, interference, and significant sample bias violations.
 - Violations involving prohibited species bycatch management measures.
 - Commercial vessel incursions into closed or protected marine areas.
 - Trafficking of illegally harvested and/or illegally commercialized marine resources including sale or commercial use of sport and subsistence caught halibut.
 - Violations that degrade agency data quality including electronic monitoring and reporting (flow scales, video, data loggers, electronic logs, etc.), recordkeeping and reporting, observer data, and observer coverage.

Protected Resources

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Intentional illegal killing or injuring of Steller sea lions, Cook Inlet beluga, or other whales, dolphins, porpoises, or seals
 - Illegal takes of marine mammals (e.g. Level "A" Harassment, feeding, injuring, approaching, shooting, etc.).
 - Wasteful takes by authorized marine mammal harvesters.
 - Lacey Act investigations involving suspect marine mammal harvest products.
 - Commercial/recreational viewing of whales and harbor seals in glacial fjords.
 - Violations resulting in marine mammal stranding, entanglement, injury, and/or mortality incidents.
 - Vessel on whale collisions.
 - MMPA incidental take reporting violations
- Outreach and education to Alaska Native Village and Council governments regarding subsistence harvest of whales, with an emphasis on Bering Sea communities.

IUU/International

- Collaborate with law enforcement partners to enforce Port State Measures and to detect, deter, and investigate:
 - Foreign transshipment and fishing activity in violation of U.S. law or international treaty.

- Maritime Boundary Line incursions by foreign fishing, fishing support, and transshipment vessels.
- Illegal imports or undeclared product on foreign vessels.
- Transshipment and export of illegal product from U.S. fishing vessels.

Seafood Fraud

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Seafood safety violations under the jurisdiction of NOAA where public health and safety is at risk.
 - Mislabeling or misbranding violations having a significant impact on national or international commerce.

Wildlife Trafficking

- Patrol, outreach and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Fish and Wildlife illegally shipped or transported through Alaskan airports, ports, or borders into domestic or foreign commerce.
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) listed fish and wildlife or parts entered illegally into interstate or foreign commerce.

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Northeast Division

The Northeast Division (NED) is comprised of 20 states and covers more than 100,000 square nautical miles of the U.S. EEZ. Fish are landed in more than 500 ports along 1,000 miles of coastline. Four of the top 10 international landing ports, by weight and value, are found in the NED — New York, Portland (Maine), Boston, and Norfolk. Additionally, the NED has four of the top 10 states for domestic fish landings (measured by dollars) in the nation; this includes Massachusetts with the port of New Bedford, which has led the United States for 14 years as the top port in terms of value landed — a direct result of the scallop fishery. The NED touts an \$8 billion seafood import industry with 2 billion pounds of seafood landings annually.

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

Sustainable Fisheries

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Observer assault, harassment, safety and interference complaints.
 - Vessel and Dealer reporting and permitting compliance.
 - Violations involving prohibited species bycatch management measures.
 - Commercial vessel incursions into closed or protected marine areas.
 - Monitoring and enforcement of illegal sales of fish by the recreational sector.
 - Gear compliance under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act (MSA).

Protected Resources

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Illegal takes of marine mammals (harassment, feeding, injuring, approaching, shooting, etc.).
 - Violations resulting in marine mammal stranding, entanglement, injury, and/or mortality incidents.
 - Gear violations under ESA and MMPA.
 - Illegal human interactions with sea turtles.
- Patrol, outreach, and investigation within marine protected areas relating to:
 - Gear violations within NMS.
 - Moving, removing, injuring, or possessing, or attempting to move, remove, injure, or possess a Sanctuary historical resource.
 - Whale harassment/approach and vessel speed restrictions.
 - Enforcement of Marine National Monument regulations.
- Promote compliance with the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plans.
- Provide presence and enforcement coordination during major stranding events.
- Provide enforcement support to the recovery of the wild populations of Atlantic salmon.

- Review and analysis of Automatic Identification System (AIS) data for enforcement of right whale ship strike reduction speed rule.

IUU/International

- Collaborate with law enforcement partners to enforce Port State Measures and to detect, deter, and investigate:
 - Foreign transshipment and fishing activity in violation of U.S. law or international treaty.
 - Maritime Boundary Line incursions by foreign fishing, fishing support, and transshipment vessels.
 - Illegal imports or undeclared product entering Ports of Entry in NED area of responsibility.
 - Transshipment and export of illegal product from U.S. fishing vessels.

Seafood Fraud

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Seafood safety violations under the jurisdiction of NOAA where public health and safety is at risk.
 - False labeling, mislabeling and misbranding violations having a significant impact on state, national or international commerce.

Wildlife Trafficking

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Fish and wildlife illegally harvested, shipped or transported through ports of entry into domestic or foreign commerce.
 - CITES listed fish and wildlife or parts entered illegally into interstate or foreign commerce.

Pacific Islands Division

The Pacific Islands Division (PID) was established in October 2004 and is geographically the largest division in OLE. Bound 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 Pacific Islands 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.

PID regularly conducts investigations related to the tuna fishery and other highly migratory species. The various longline and purse seine vessels within the U.S. permitted fleet operate extensively throughout established U.S. and foreign EEZs in the Pacific, and in international waters. The need to effectively monitor these U.S. vessels, along with foreign vessels that engage in IUU fishing in these vast waters, poses a unique enforcement challenge for PID. With the PSMA entering into force, PID has served as the center of activity for implementation of both domestic and international responsibilities.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is adjacent to the main Hawaiian Islands, and during Humpback whale season this puts large numbers of ocean users close to these protected animals. In addition, several endangered species of sea turtles, Hawaiian monk seals, and spinner dolphins frequent the waters and beaches

Sustainable Fisheries

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to deter and detect:
 - Observer assault, harassment, or interference violations.
 - Data consistency or integrity anomalies regarding collection and analysis of records.
 - Closed area/VMS violations and illegal tampering of NOAA VMS equipment and data.
 - Reported violations by U.S. and/or International Observers on the high seas regarding U.S. vessels.
 - Observer reported fishery management plan violations.

Protected Resources

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Humpback Whale Sanctuary; take, vessel strikes and approach violations within the Sanctuary.
 - Spinner Dolphins, take and harassment, Level “A” Harassment and Level “B” Harassment.
 - Takes of Hawaiian Monk Seals.
 - Lethal takes, Level A Harassment; with the potential to injure marine mammals or ESA listed turtles.
 - Non- Lethal takes; Level B Harassment with the potential to disturb a marine mammal stock in the wild by causing a disruption of behavioral patterns including but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.
- Patrol, outreach, and investigation within marine protected areas relating to:
 - Illegal or unpermitted discharges.
 - Vessel Groundings.
 - Unlawful removal or possession of historical artifacts as well as protected marine resources from within the sanctuary and/or monument boundaries.

- Illegal fishing and other designated non permitted activity within the sanctuary and/or monument boundaries.
- Noncompliance with conditions of any permits associated with sanctuary and/or monument.

IUU/International

- Collaborate with law enforcement partners to enforce Port State Measures and to detect, deter, and investigate violations of International Treaties and or agreements such as Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization (SPRFMO), and Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).
- Support and advise U.S. delegation at RFMO meetings.
- Enforce U.S. international commitments regarding fishing on the high seas.
- Provide support to monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) operations with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), U.S. Navy/Department of Defense, and USCG to prevent IUU fishing.
- Participate in capacity building with Pacific and Asian countries regarding their ability to execute Port State Measures inspections and enhance their abilities to detect, investigate and prosecute IUU violations.

Seafood Fraud

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Mislabeled seafood.
 - Seafood commodities in interstate and/or international commerce under the jurisdiction of NOAA that may put the public's health and safety at risk.

Wildlife Trafficking

- Patrol and Outreach to deter, detect, and investigate:
 - Fish and Wildlife illegally shipped or transported through airports, seaports, or borders.
 - Illegal trafficking in marine mammal and endangered species parts or products.
 - Illegal trafficking in species associated with the aquarium trade.
 - CITES listed fish and wildlife or parts entered illegally into interstate or foreign commerce.

Southeast Division

The Southeast Division (SED) is comprised of eight coastal states, extending from Texas to North Carolina, and also includes Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SED is responsible for enforcing regulations mandated by three regional fishery management councils, the conservation and protection of three national marine sanctuaries, and ensuring compliance with commercial and federal recreational laws and regulations throughout nearly 350,000 square miles of EEZ.

SED covers more than 3,160 miles of coastline, second only to AKD. However, the SED coastline has a much larger number of potential landing sites where commercial and recreational vessels have the ability to land economically important species, such as red snapper and grouper, IFQ managed fish stocks, swordfish, tuna, and other federally regulated species. In 2015, federally permitted vessels conducted more than 178,247 trips totaling \$610,414,051 in revenue. SED also has the fifth (Louisiana), sixth (Florida), and seventh (Texas) ranked states for domestic fish landings in the United States. Four of the top 10 international landing ports, by weight and value, are found in this region – Miami, Savannah, Galveston, and Tampa – as well as the ports of entry on the U.S.-Mexico border.

SED also has the largest recreational fisheries sector in the continental United States. In 2015, SED accounted for nearly 60 percent of the more than 61 million recreational fishing trips taken by U.S. anglers.

Sustainable Fisheries

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to deter and detect:
 - Observer assault, harassment, safety and interference complaints.
 - Red Snapper and Grouper Tilefish individual fishing quota (IFQ) under-reporting and illegal sales which undermine program integrity.
 - Recreational snapper/grouper closed season violations impacting annual catch allowances.
 - Commercial vessel incursions into Marine Protected Areas to protect spawning stocks and habitat.
 - Reporting requirements for commercial vessels and dealers, and highly migratory species (HMS) recreational fishers.
 - Illegal sales of fish harvested under a bag limit.

Protected Resources

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Violations of Turtle Excluder Device (TED) requirements to protect ESA listed sea turtles.
 - Illegal takes of marine mammals and ESA listed species to include dolphin feeding, illegal possession of sea turtles and other ESA listed species.
 - Violations of the speed reduction rules to protect North Atlantic Right Whales.
- Patrol, outreach, and investigation within marine protected areas relating to:
 - Violations in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, including:
 - Vessel groundings.
 - Unauthorized anchoring.
 - Illegal discharges.
 - Illegal removal of Sanctuary resources.
 - Violations in Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, including:
 - Illegal discharges.

- Unauthorized fishing in designated areas.

IUU/International

- Collaborate with law enforcement partners to enforce Port State Measures and to detect, deter, and investigate:
 - Foreign transshipment and fishing activity in violation of U.S. law or international treaty.
 - Maritime Boundary Line incursions by foreign fishing, fishing support, and transshipment vessels.
 - Illegal imports or undeclared product entering Ports of Entry in the Southeast Division
 - Transshipment and export of illegal product from U.S. fishing vessels.

Seafood Fraud

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Seafood safety violations under the jurisdiction of NOAA where public health and safety is at risk.
 - False labeling, mislabeling and misbranding violations having a significant impact on state, national or international commerce.

Wildlife Trafficking

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Trafficking in marine mammal and endangered species.
 - Fish and Wildlife illegally shipped or transported through airports, ports, or borders into domestic or foreign commerce.

West Coast Division

The West Coast Division (WCD) 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 WCD is responsible for 1,293 miles of Pacific coastline and 7,863 miles of tidal shoreline, 222,471 nautical miles of EEZ, and 339,375 square miles of land encompassing numerous rivers and tributaries feeding into the Pacific Ocean. Two of the top 10 international landing ports, by weight and value, are found in the WCD—Seattle and Los Angeles. Additionally, there are 16 other international airports and 21 major international seaports monitored by the WCD.

Throughout the WCD are managed fisheries for salmon and steelhead, more than 90 species of groundfish, coastal pelagics such as anchovy and sardine, and highly migratory species such as billfish, sharks, and tunas. WCD also includes a number of ESA-listed species, including the Southern Resident Killer Whale population in the Puget Sound. Further, the Division is responsible for protecting ESA-listed species critical habitats from harm caused by stream alteration, water depletion, and drought conditions.

Sustainable Fisheries

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to deter and detect:
 - Observer sexual assault, assault, harassment, observer safety, interference, and significant sample bias violations.
 - Violations that degrade agency data quality including electronic monitoring and reporting, recordkeeping and reporting, observer data, and observer coverage.
 - Violations involving federally managed commercial fisheries with focus on salmon, HMS, Coastal Pelagic Species, Halibut, and Open Access groundfish.
 - Violations involving federally managed recreational fisheries for overfished species and gear requirements.
 - Violations involving commercial vessel incursions into closed areas or other Marine Protected Areas.
 - Lacey Act investigations of suspect Tribal Treaty fisheries harvests:
 - Involving organized illegal fishing conspiracies with non-tribal commercial fish dealers.
 - Incidents involving ESA-listed salmonids.

Protected Resources

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Illegal takes (e.g. Level A harassment, feeding, injuring, shooting, etc.) of ESA and MMPA listed species.
 - Wasteful takes by authorized marine mammal harvesters.
 - Lacey Act investigations involving suspect Tribal fisheries and marine mammal harvest products
 - Commercial/recreational violations relating to viewing of whales.
 - Vessel on whale collisions.
 - Destruction of listed salmon and steelhead critical habitat.
- Collaborate with the NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region to develop ESA section 4(d) protective regulations that identify take prohibitions.

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation within marine protected areas relating to:
 - Illegal marine mammal and seabird takes, and incidental take reporting violations.
 - Violations involving Federal/State Designated Special Closures, Marine Reserves, Marine Conservation Areas, and Marine Restoration Areas.
 - Unlawful discharge violations.
 - White Shark Approach and Attraction violations within the Greater Farallones NMS.
- Patrol, outreach, and investigation within marine protected areas relating to:
 - Vessel groundings and abandonment.
 - Overflight restrictions.
 - Fisheries within the sanctuary.
 - Protection of historic resources.
 - Motorized personal watercraft restrictions in the Monterey Bay and Greater Farallones NMS.

IUU/International

- Collaborate with law enforcement partners to enforce Port State Measures and to detect, deter, and investigate:
 - Foreign transshipment and fishing activity in violation of U.S. law or international treaty.
 - Maritime Boundary Line incursions by foreign fishing, fishing support, and transshipment vessels.
 - Illegal imports or undeclared product on foreign vessels.
 - Transshipment and export of illegal product from U.S. fishing vessels.

Seafood Fraud

- Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:
 - Seafood safety violations under the jurisdiction of NOAA where public health and safety is at risk.
 - Mislabeling or misbranding violations having a significant impact on national or international commerce.

Wildlife Trafficking

- Patrol and Outreach to deter, detect, and investigate:
 - Fish and Wildlife illegally shipped or transported through airports, ports, or borders into domestic or foreign commerce.
 - CITES listed fish and wildlife or parts entered illegally into interstate or foreign commerce.