

Science, Service, Stewardship



NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Programs and Operations

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Mission

To conserve and protect our nation's marine resources through assuring compliance with the laws and regulations established to manage these resources



Four Pillars of OLE

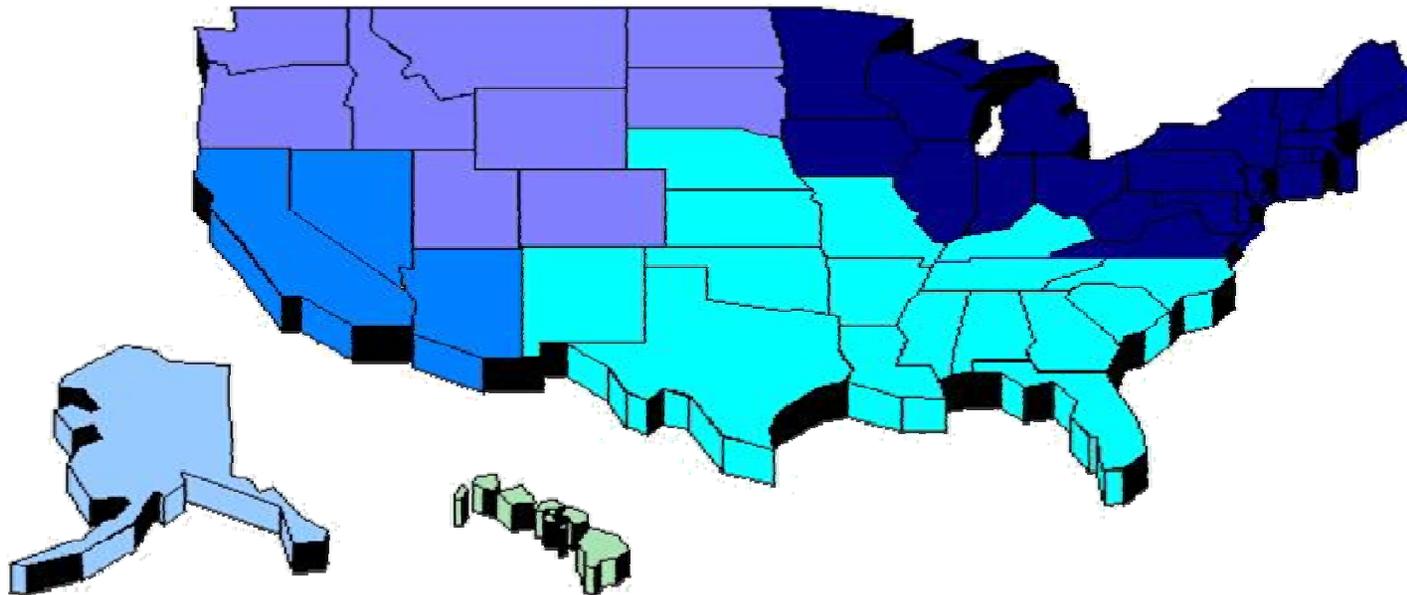
Ecosystem Protection / Conservation

- 1) **INVESTIGATIONS & PATROLS** - Conduct investigations and patrols to enforce marine resource laws, detect violations and increase compliance.
- 2) **OUTREACH** - Constituent outreach and communication.
(Formerly know as COPPS - Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving.)
- 3) **TECHNOLOGY & VMS** - Maximize compliance & fishery management through Vessel Management System (VMS) partnerships.
- 4) **PARTNERSHIPS** - Enhance and maintain our law enforcement partnerships with other federal, state, local and tribal enforcement agencies, as well as industry, non-governmental organization and “friends group” representatives.



OLE Division Offices

218 Personnel



Headquarters - 6 Divisions - 57 Field Offices

119 Special Agents - 21 Enforcement Officers - 76 Support



U.S. Primary Jurisdiction



3.36 Million square miles of open ocean

Over 95,000 miles of US coastline

13 National Marine Sanctuaries and 3 National Monuments

High seas and international trade relating to U.S. treaties and International law



State Partnerships

27 JEA State & U.S. Territory Partners

**Alabama, Alaska, American Samoa,
California, Connecticut, Delaware,
Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana,
Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts,
Mississippi, New Hampshire, New
Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode
Island, South Carolina, Texas,
Virginia, Guam, Northern Mariana
Islands, US Virgin Islands and
Washington**



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Primary Laws OLE Enforces

37 Statutes



**Magnuson-Stevens Fishery
Conservation and Management
Act**

Endangered Species Act

Marine Mammal Protection Act

Lacey Act

Marine Sanctuaries Act





Calendar Year 2010 Incidents 4,847

Endangered Species Act	349
Lacey Act	122
Magnuson-Stevens Act	3103
Marine Mammal Protection Act	412
Marine Sanctuary Act	293
All Others	568



("All Others" include various Tuna Acts, Halibut Act, Shark Finning Prohibition, American Fisheries Act, State Regulations Non-fisheries, Documentation and Safety and Tribal)



Potential Regulatory Improvements

Effective regulations:

- Simple and easy to understand
- Few as possible and/or concise
- Fish is accountable and traceable throughout the wholesale process



Enforcement Considerations For Regional Fishery Management Councils

Developed by NOAA Office for Law Enforcement,
NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation, and
The U.S. Coast Guard

October 2007





Potential Regulatory Improvements

Compliance and/or enforcement is more difficult if regulations are:

- Man power intensive (monitoring offloads or weighing, etc)
- Complex or convoluted
- Lack accountability (effective paperwork trail)
- Use estimates (estimated weight of catch, catch composition, discards, etc)
- Law enforcement resource intensive (resource limits of OLE, Coast Guard, and States)



Compliance Assistance

- NOAA will establish a comprehensive and effective compliance program
 - Build on findings of OIG reports
 - Build on input from stakeholders
 - Build on existing programs and partnerships around the country
 - Non-enforcement context
- Pilot program in New England
 - Compliance liaison
 - Outreach coordinator



How Can the Councils Help?

How do we reduce complexity, simplify requirements, and improve compliance with our regulations and ensure our enforcement programs are effective and transparent?

- Regulatory Improvements
- Process Improvements
- Outreach and communication improvements
- Other ideas?

Questions?

