CRIMES AGAINST MARINE MAMMALS

“Marine mammals are resources of great significance . . .

it is congressional policy that they should be protected . . . the primary objective of this management must be to maintain the health and stability of the marine ecosystem.”

—House Report No. 92-707, Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972

NOAA Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are the lead agencies enforcing the laws meant to protect marine mammals. *Like any other laws, there are those who would break them.*

You can help us keep marine mammals and our ocean healthy.

Learn More:

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MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT

Congress passed the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 because:

Marine mammals are resources of great international significance

Human activities could be placing marine mammals in danger of extinction or depletion

We need to manage our activities to keep marine mammal populations and the ocean healthy

Congress amended the Act several times since 1972, with substantial amendments in 1994 regarding:

- Marine mammal and commercial fisheries interactions
- Permits and authorizations for scientific research and education
- Authorization of small takes of marine mammals incidental to specific activities
- An assessment program for all marine mammal stocks in U.S. waters

Learn More:

NOAA OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

We protect global marine resources by enforcing U.S. laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat.

HOW WE DO IT

Patrols, inspections, and monitoring
Criminal and civil investigations
Cooperative fisheries enforcement
Outreach and compliance assistance
Use of innovative technology

WORKING TOGETHER

- Joint enforcement agreements with 27 coastal states and territories.
- Partnerships with the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and tribes.
- Prosecution of civil cases by NOAA’s Office of General Counsel and criminal cases by Department of Justice.

Learn More: