

## **NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement West Coast Division Enforcement Priorities (2018 – 2022)**

**Mission:** Ensure compliance with the regulations, laws, and treaties designed to protect marine wildlife and habitat for future generations.

**Strategic Goal:**

- Sustain productive fisheries and vibrant coastal communities and recover and conserve protected species through compliance with laws, regulations and treaties.

**WCD Enforcement Priorities:**

**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 (flow scales, video, data loggers, electronic logs, etc.), recordkeeping and reporting, observer data, and observer coverage (emphasis on catch accounting and dockside monitoring)
- Violations involving federally managed commercial fisheries with focus on WOC salmon, HMS, CPS, 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 (salmon and steelhead, Southern Resident Killer Whale, Abalone, Sea turtles, Green Sturgeon, and cetaceans & pinnipeds)
- Wasteful takes by authorized marine mammal harvesters
- Lacey Act investigations involving suspect Tribal fisheries and marine mammal harvest products
- Commercial/recreational viewing of whales
- Vessel on whale collisions
- Destruction of listed salmon and steelhead critical habitat related to:

- Water diversions (e.g. fish screens and flow withdrawals)
- Fish passage barriers
- Fish kills
- Chemical/pollutant discharges
- Unauthorized take due to reservoir operations
- Cannabis cultivation
- Collaborate with WCR to develop ESA section 4(d) protective regulations that identify take prohibitions

### **Sanctuaries/Monuments**

Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:

- Protection of designated sanctuary
- Illegal marine mammal and seabird takes, and incidental take reporting violations
- Violations involving Federal & State Designated Special Closures, Marine Reserves, Marine Conservation Areas, & Marine Restoration Areas
- Unlawful discharge violations
- White Shark Approach and Attraction violations (Greater Farallones NMS)

Monitor, Control, and Surveillance of:

- Vessel groundings and abandonment
- Overflight restrictions
- Fisheries within the sanctuary
- Protection of historic resources
- Motorized personal watercraft restrictions (Monterey Bay & 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 US 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 US 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 under the jurisdiction of NOAA:

- Fish and Wildlife illegally shipped or transported through airports, ports, or borders into domestic or foreign commerce
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species listed fish and wildlife or parts entered illegally into interstate or foreign commerce