

HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT ON NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIC REVIEW

DSAC Michael Killary (Deputy Special Agent in Charge, National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] Office of Law Enforcement [OLE]) spoke to the Habitat Committee (HC) about the process for prioritizing law enforcement in the West Coast region. These priorities determine operations for 2018-22 and within each year.

The HC raised questions about staffing levels. Currently, there are seven staff in the field for the entire West Coast region, an additional five officers are in training, and five additional special agents may be hired. This is down from ~40 staff approximately ten years ago. There is a need for additional officers and agents who are specifically trained to deal with Endangered Species Act habitat-related violations. At one time, the Regional Office had several officers dedicated to this area. If the Council chooses to comment on the OLE strategic review and funding, the HC recommends adding this expertise back into the enforcement office.

PFMC
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