

NOAA FISHERIES  
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT  
PRIORITY SETTING STANDARDS  
*2017 and Beyond*



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Priority setting will look across all NOAA statutory authorities **EVERY FIVE YEARS**

1. From **April 1 through May 30**, the ASSISTANT DIRECTOR in each region will:
  - a. Evaluate previous year's priorities and the basis for continued attention. Consult Joint Enforcement Agreement annual reports and OLE eAOP milestone data to assist in this evaluation. Develop draft initial priorities from this analysis
  - b. Seek input from NMFS Regional Administrator as to priorities in their region
    - i. Sustainable Fisheries
    - ii. Protected Resources
  - c. Seek input from Sanctuaries and Monuments
  - d. Seek input from other fisheries programs and fishery management councils
  - e. Seek input from state enforcement partners and the USCG
  - f. Seek input from DOJ/ECS
  - g. Seek input from other sources of data and information as appropriate
  - h. Consult with GCES and obtain their input on their priorities. With GCES, identify high priority enforcement areas (if any) for the next five years for that Region in each of the following primary areas
    - i. Sustainable Fisheries
    - ii. Protected Resources
    - iii. Sanctuaries/Monuments
    - iv. IUU/International
    - v. Seafood Fraud
    - vi. Wildlife Trafficking
  - i. Tentative list of priorities will be developed and sent to OLE HQ for consolidation
2. **June 1 – July 15**, Tentative list of priorities will be posted on the OLE website
  - a. Once posted, members of the public will have the opportunity for input via an email mailbox posted on the OLE website for a period of 30 days.
  - b. ASSISTANT DIRECTORS will evaluate resources available to address priorities
  - c. ASSISTANT DIRECTORS will develop a draft plan that identifies final draft high priority areas of enforcement and a plan for implementation.
  - d. Each ASSISTANT DIRECTOR will provide the draft to the Director of OLE
3. **July 15 - August 15** the OLE Director will:
  - a. Review and revise (if needed) the draft Regional plans in consultation with the Divisional ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
  - b. Have final consultation with the Chief of GCES and DOJ/ENRD (if deemed necessary)
  - c. Determine National Priorities based on Regional and HQ program efforts
  - d. Submit final plan to AA for Fisheries for **August 31 target approval** date.

### Continuous Evaluation Process

OLE recognizes that priorities may change within a five year period. Each Division will continuously monitor priorities and possible changes by maintaining communication with internal and external entities that help inform OLE priorities. Any major priority changes shall be discussed with the Deputy Director. If major changes are deemed necessary, the Division AD with the Deputy Director will discuss the proposed change with the Director for ratification.