

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement

Alaska Division Enforcement Priorities

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

Strategic Goals:

- Sustain productive fisheries and vibrant coastal communities
- Recover and conserve protected species

AKD 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 involving prohibited species bycatch management measures
- Commercial vessel incursions into closed or protected marine areas
- Trafficking of illegally harvested and/or illegally commercialized marine resources including sale or commercial use of sport and subsistence caught halibut
- 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

Protected Resources

Patrol, outreach, and investigation to detect and deter:

- Intentional illegal killing or injuring of Steller sea lions, Cook Inlet beluga, or other whales, dolphins, porpoises, or seals
- Illegal takes of marine mammals (e.g. Level A harassment, feeding, injuring, approaching shooting, etc.)
- Wasteful takes by authorized marine mammal harvesters
- Outreach and education to Alaska Native Village and Council governments regarding subsistence harvest of whales (emphasis Bering Sea communities)
- Lacey Act investigations involving suspect marine mammal harvest products
- Commercial/recreational viewing of whales and harbor seals in glacial fjords
- Violations resulting in marine mammal stranding, entanglement, injury, and/or mortality incidents.
- Vessel on whale collisions
- MMPA incidental take reporting violations

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

Outreach and Education

Reduce unintentional violations, improve global sustainability, and establish trust and rapport with the regulated public by collaborating with fisheries industry leaders, non-government organizations, Alaska Native Village and Council governments, contractors, law enforcement departments, Fisheries Management Councils, NOAA offices, Department of Interior agencies, Department of State, and foreign governments to provide outreach, education, compliance assistance, and marine resource law enforcement capacity building.