



NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

March 13, 2012

COMPLIANCE

Northeast Division

- 09-2011: OLE, MEP, and New Hampshire Fish and Game follow up on complaints concerning ABFT fishing boats possessing nets while fishing for tuna.
- 4 Written Warnings Issued.

COMPLIANCE

Southeast Division

- 01-2012: OLE and FWCC conducted compliance patrols , focusing on commercial longline fleet. Multiple vessels boarded. Several minor state violations reported, with no federal violations detected.

HMS Swordfish Investigations

- Southeast Division
- GCES issued a \$20,000.00 NOVA to the owner / operator of a longline vessel for conducting unauthorized fishing operations inside the DHW closed area.
- OLE seized 272 lbs of swordfish pursuant to dockside boarding.



EEZ Incursions



- March 2012 – SED
- South Padre Island
- Mexican longboat detected and intercepted inside the EEZ.
- 4 Crew w/ hand longline gear
- 400 lbs snapper, juvenile sharks

Statistical Port Sampler

- Southeast Enforcement Division
- Defendant entered into a PTD agreement for 18 months for threatening a statistical port sampler in SC, and for leaving threatening messages on SERO telephone.
- Joint investigation by OLE and the FBI



Observers

- Northeast Division
- Defendant Richard Wetherell pleaded guilty.
- Case involved 2 at-sea monitors.
- Up to 6 months prison and \$100,000 on each count.



Questions?

