



US Coast Guard  
Living Marine Resources



# USCG Living Marine Resources

CG-MLE-4, USCG Headquarters  
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# Coast Guard Regional Fisheries Management Council Participation

- Nonvoting member.
- Coast Guard District Commander (Rear Admiral) or designee (LCDR or above).
- Designee
  - typically holds masters degree in marine policy or related subject
  - At-sea fisheries enforcement subject matter expert
- Advise council on enforcement at sea and fishery access adjustments- weather or other conditions affecting the safe conduct of the fishery



# Coast Guard Missions



## Maritime Safety

- Search and Rescue
- Marine Safety



## Maritime Security

- Ports, Waterways & Coastal Security
- Illegal Drug Interdiction
- Undocumented Migrant Interdiction
- Defense Readiness
- Other (Foreign Fishing Vessel) Law Enforcement



## Maritime Stewardship

- Marine Environmental Protection
- Living Marine Resource
- Aids to Navigation
- Ice Operations



# MLE-4 Program Missions

| Living Marine Resources (LMR)                                 |  | Other Law Enforcement   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| Domestic Fisheries Enforcement                                | Enforcement of Federal fisheries laws and regulations                      | Foreign Fishing Vessel (FFV) Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fisheries Enforcement | Foreign fishing vessel enforcement on high seas or Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of shiprider nations |
| Marine Protected Resources (MPR) Enforcement and Conservation | Protection, assistance and enforcement related to MPR laws and regulations | FFV EEZ Enforcement   | Foreign fishing vessel enforcement on illegal incursions into US EEZ                                   |



# Primary Fisheries Enforcement Authorities

- Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA): MSFCMA is the principal law governing marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters, and the primary source for the Coast Guard's domestic fishery enforcement and regulation program. The MSFCMA directs the Coast Guard, in conjunction with NOAA to enforce its provisions.
- Lacey Act: The Lacey Act states it is unlawful for any person to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce, any fish, wildlife or plant taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of any law, treaty or regulation of the United States, any foreign law, or any Indian tribal law.
- Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1531 et seq.): The Endangered Species Act stipulates that all Federal agencies will use their authorities to support the recovery of listed species, and directs that the regulations and permits issued under the auspices of the Act shall be enforced by the Secretary of the Department in which the Coast Guard is operating.
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act: The National Marine Sanctuaries Act provides the framework for designating and managing parts of the ocean deemed to be of "Special National Significance".



# Additional Fisheries Enforcement Authorities

- Antarctic Conservation Act of 1978 (16 USC 2401 et seq.)
- Antarctic Living Marine Resources Conservation Act of 1984 (16 USC 2431 et seq.)
- Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act (16 USC 5101 et seq.)
- Atlantic Salmon Convention Act (16 USC 3601)
- Atlantic Tuna Conventions Act of 1975 (16 USC 971 et seq.)
- Central Bering Sea Enforcement Act of 1992 (16 USC 1823 et seq.)
- Eastern Pacific Tuna Licensing Act of 1984 (16 USC 972 et seq.)
- Fur Seal Act of 1966 (16 USC 1151 et seq.)
- High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act (16 USC 1801)
- High Seas Fishing Compliance Act of 1995 (16 USC 5501 et seq.)
- North Pacific Anadromous Stocks Convention Act of 1992 (16 USC 5001 et seq.)
- North Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 (16 USC 773 et seq.)
- Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Compliance Act of 1995 (16 UCS 5601 et seq.)
- Pacific Salmon Treaty Act of 1985 (16 USC 3631 et seq.)
- Sponge Act (16 USC 781 et seq.)
- Tuna Conventions Act (16 USC 973 et seq.)
- Whaling Convention Act (16 USC 916 et seq.)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (16 USC 1361 et seq.)
- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (16 USC 1431 et seq.)
- South Pacific Tunas Act (16 USC 973 et. seq.)
- Striped Bass Conservation Act (16 USC 1851 et seq.)



# Fisheries Enforcement Competencies

- Five Regional Fisheries Training Centers
- Course attendance every 18 months
- Includes agency partners and industry representatives

| Competency                       | Certifications |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Alaska LMR BO                    | 83             |
| California LMR BO                | 83             |
| Caribbean LMR BO                 | 25             |
| Gulf of Mexico LMR BO            | 178            |
| International Pacific LMR BO     | 51             |
| Northeast LMR BO                 | 222            |
| Northwest LMR BO                 | 79             |
| South Atlantic LMR BO            | 117            |
| Western & Central Pacific LMR BO | 54             |
| Total                            | 892            |





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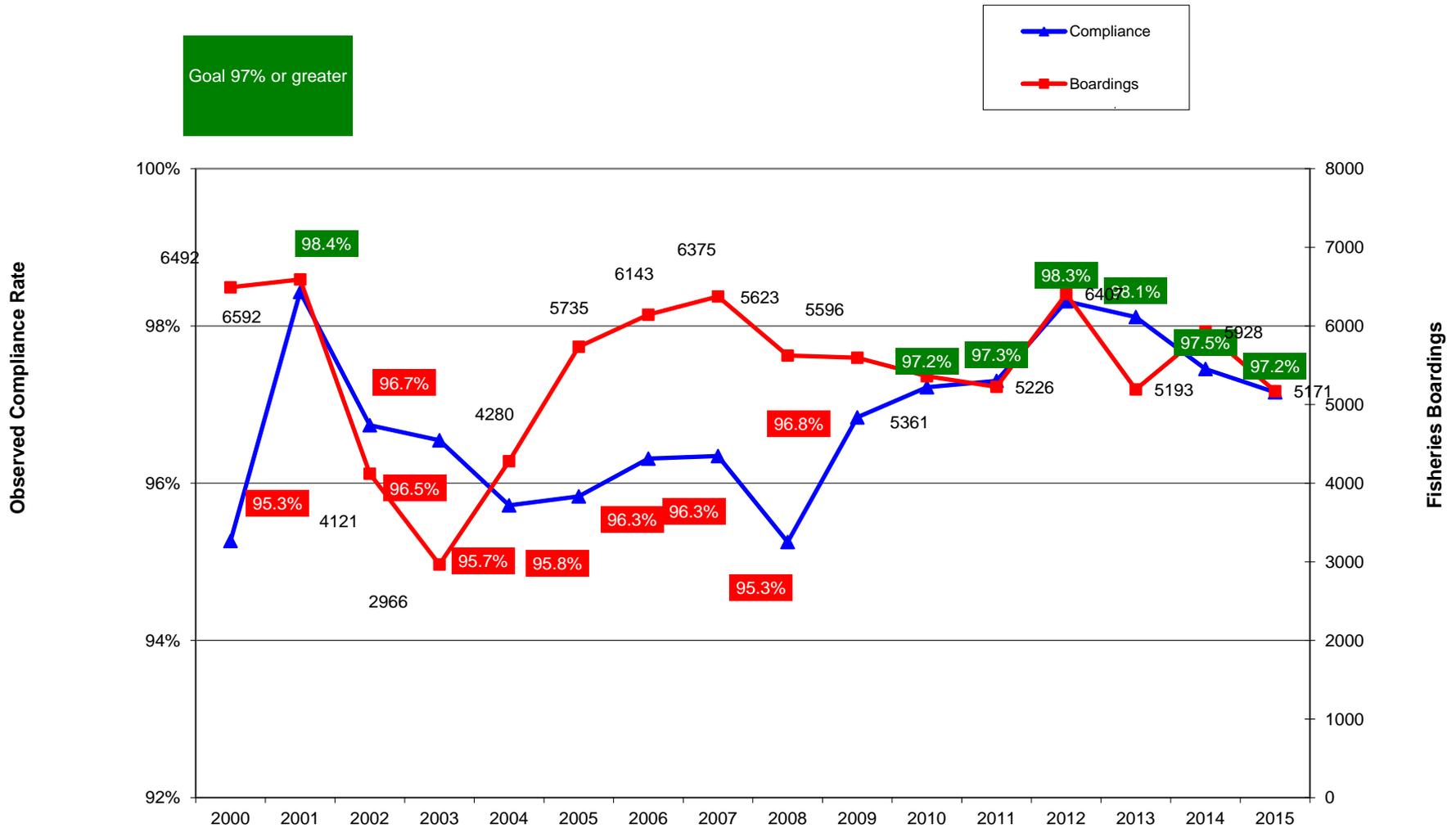
# Domestic Fisheries Enforcement

# Domestic Fisheries

- Activities to prevent, detect, and suppress violations of U.S. Federal or state fishery laws and regulations applicable to U.S. flagged commercial, charter, or recreational fishing vessels or foreign flagged fishing vessels that are authorized to fish within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). These enforcement activities implement regulations that manage domestic fishing and protect marine resources, ensuring a level playing field and supporting sustainable fishery management. This mission element does not include activities intended to ensure compliance with safety regulations.
- Includes enforcement of all federal fisheries regulations through the MSFCMA.
  - Over 140 federally managed fisheries, each with a distinct fisheries management plan governed through RFMCs or regional bodies such as the ASMFC.



# Domestic Fisheries – What are we doing?





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# Other LE Missions

# Foreign Fishing Vessel – EEZ Enforcement



- Activities to detect, intercept and interdict FFVs engaged in unlawful fishing activities within the U.S. EEZ.
- This includes the number of detected illegal fishing incursions into the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Incursions detected by both the USCG and other sources are included when the reports are judged by operational commanders as being of sufficient validity to order resources to respond.



# Threat Areas for EEZ Incursions

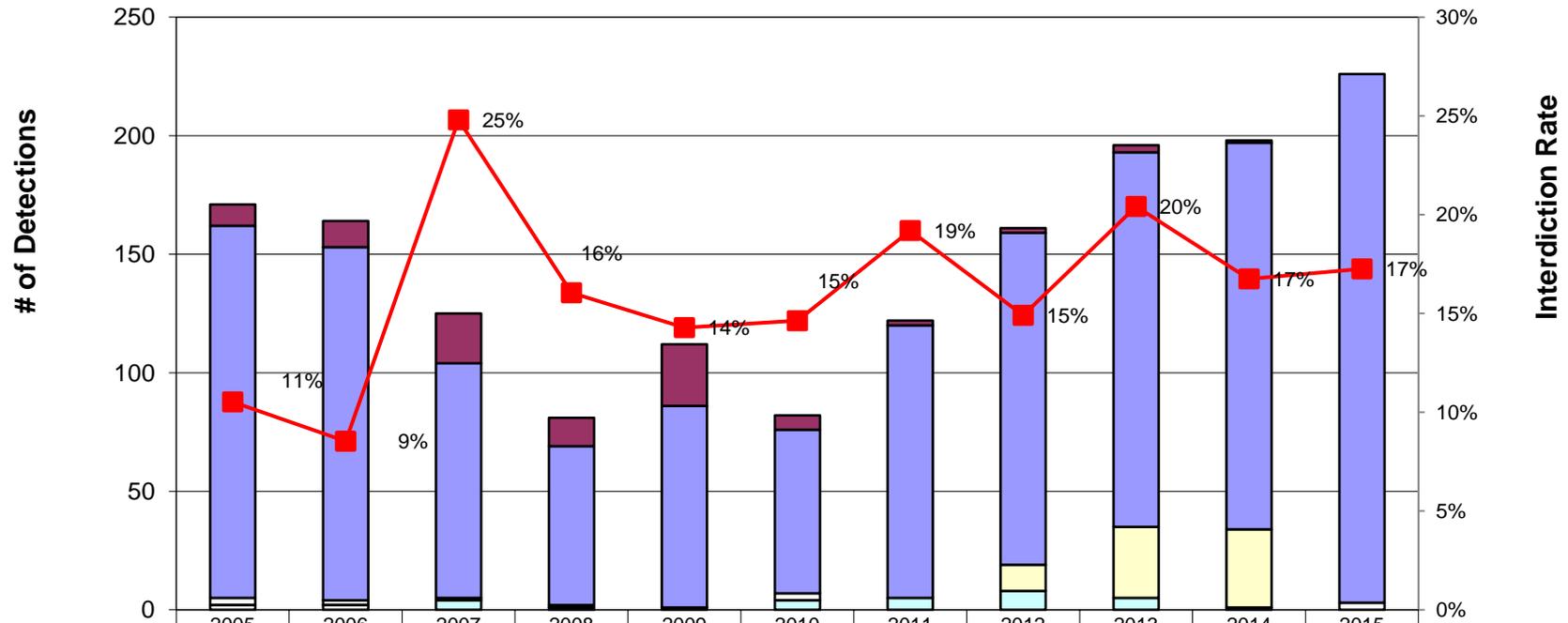
- US/Mexico border
  - High amount of lancha activity
- US/Canada border – Great Lakes
  - Canadian gill-netters
- US/Russia Maritime Boundary Line
  - Russian/Korean catcher/processors
- Remote Pacific Island EEZs
  - CNMI (Guam)
  - Wake Island
  - Johnston Atoll
  - Howland & Baker
  - Palmyra
  - Jarvis/Kingman Reef



# Foreign Fishing Vessel – EEZ Enforcement

## What are we doing?

EEZ Incursions by HTA/Year



|                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Western/Central Pacific EEZs | 9   | 11  | 21  | 12  | 26  | 6   | 2   | 2   | 3   | 1   | 0   |
| US-MX Border-GOMEX           | 157 | 149 | 99  | 67  | 85  | 69  | 115 | 140 | 158 | 163 | 223 |
| US/RS MBL                    | 3   | 2   | 1   | 1   | 0   | 3   | 0   | 11  | 30  | 33  | 3   |
| Other                        | 2   | 2   | 4   | 1   | 1   | 4   | 5   | 8   | 5   | 1   | 0   |
| Interdiction Rate            | 11% | 9%  | 25% | 16% | 14% | 15% | 19% | 15% | 20% | 17% | 17% |

# Challenges

- Tyranny of Distance
  - Largest EEZ in the World (3.4 Million Square NMs)
  - Expansion of Marine Protected Areas
  - Limited Monitoring and Surveillance Capabilities
  - Resource Hour Constraints
    - Loss of Major Cutter and Aviation Resource Hours
- Lack of Governance on the High Seas
  - Limitations of RFMOs



# Questions?

