



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

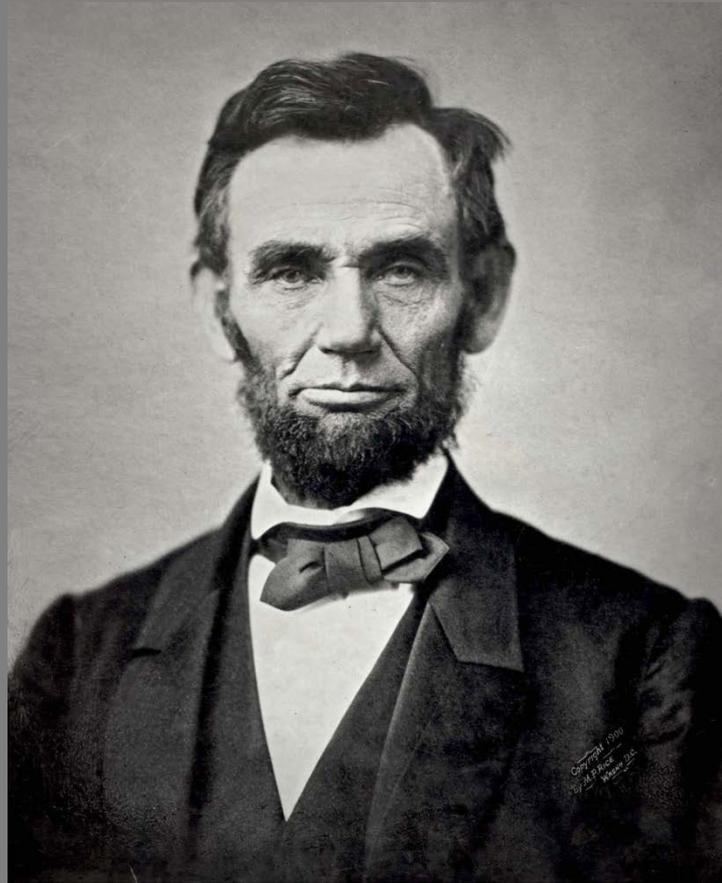
Office of Law  
Enforcement

# NOAA Fisheries Enforcement Programs and Operations



James Landon, Director

May 17, 2017



“Laws without enforcement are just good advice.”

-Abraham Lincoln

# Mission

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) protects natural marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting marine wildlife and their natural habitat for the use and enjoyment of future generations.



# OLE Area of Operations



- 3.36 million square miles of open ocean
- More than 95,000 miles of U.S. coastline
- 13 National Marine Sanctuaries and 5 Marine National Monuments (with USFWS)
- High seas and international trade relating to U.S. treaties and international law

# OLE Divisions



Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD

Five Divisions co-located with Regional Offices (NE, SE, AK, WC, and PI)

53 field offices throughout the United States and U.S. territories

80 Special Agents – 50 Enforcement Officers - 60 Support Staff

# Primary Laws OLE Enforces



- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Lacey Act
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act

# Collaborative fisheries enforcement to implement international treaties and obligations

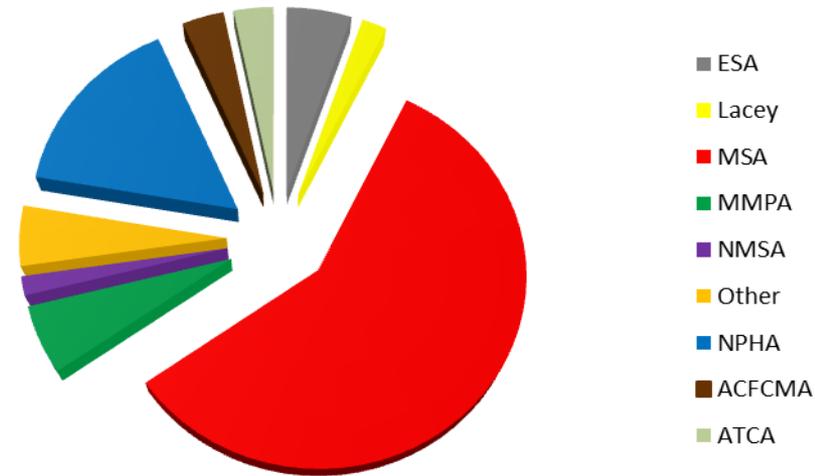
- Investigations of Illegal Unreported & Unregulated (IUU) fishing activity and trafficking in illegal fish and fish product
- Fisheries enforcement technical assistance
- Regional Fishery Management Organizations (RFMO) participation
- Port State Measures and other IUU-related legislation
- NOAA's "Leveling the Playing Field" plan to combat IUU



# 2016 By the Numbers

## Number of Incidents

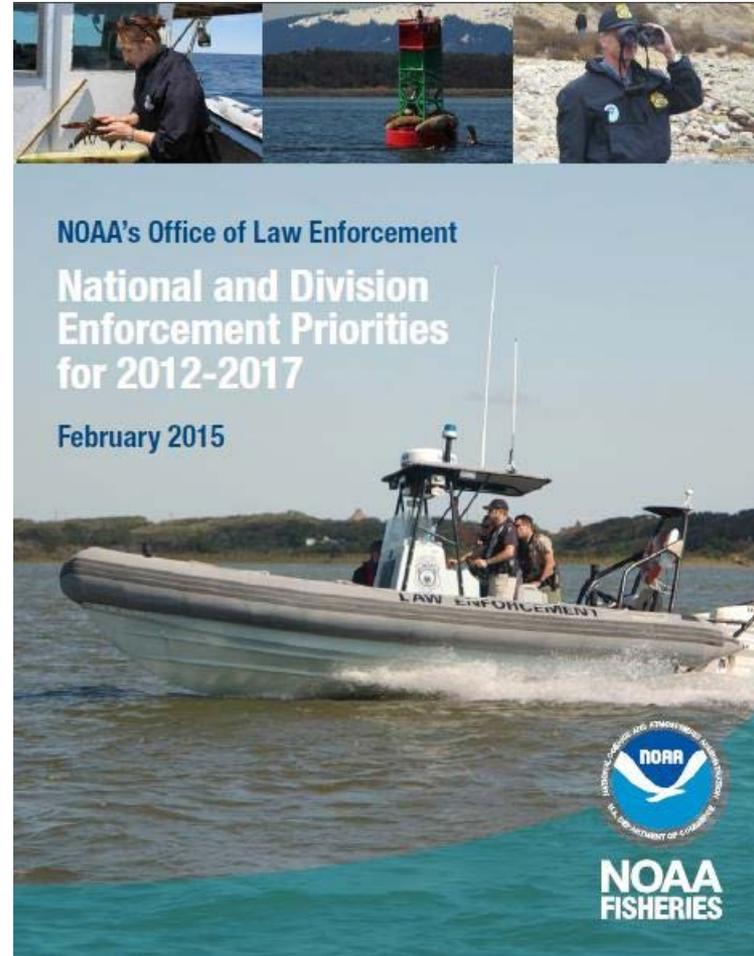
<u>Law</u>	<u>AKD</u>	<u>PID</u>	<u>NED</u>	<u>SED</u>	<u>WCD</u>		
ESA	20	131	31	107	34		323
Lacey Act	15	9	33	50	17		124
MSA	1582	416	936	494	159		3587
MMPA	41	64	95	17	140		357
NMSA	1	77	1	4	17		100
Other	78	66	82	18	69		313
NPHA	972						972
ACFCMA			206				206
ATCA			198				198
<b>Total</b>	<b>2709</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>1582</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>436</b>		<b>6180</b>



# Enforcement Priorities

## National Priorities

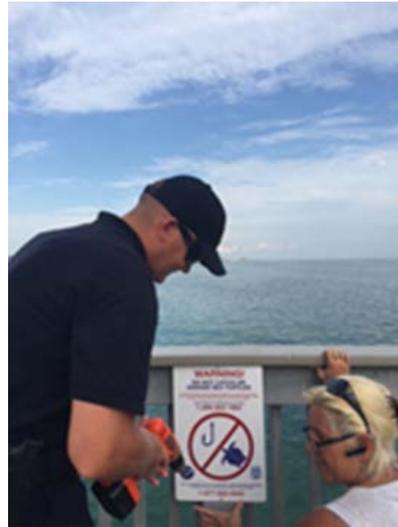
1. Support Sustainable Fisheries and Safe Seafood
  2. Support Recovered and Healthy Marine and Coastal Species and Healthy Habitats
- Next 5-year review is IN PROGRESS
  - Results will provide direction for “priority-based” funding decisions, including within OLE’s Cooperative Enforcement Program



# How we accomplish our priorities

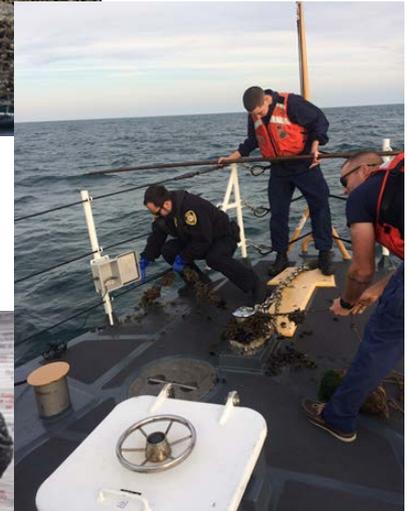
- Outreach and compliance assistance
- Criminal and civil investigations
- Patrols, inspections and monitoring
- Partnerships with state, tribal, federal and nongovernmental organizations
- Collaborative fisheries enforcement to implement international treaties and obligations
- Use of innovative technological tools

# Education, Outreach and Compliance Assistance

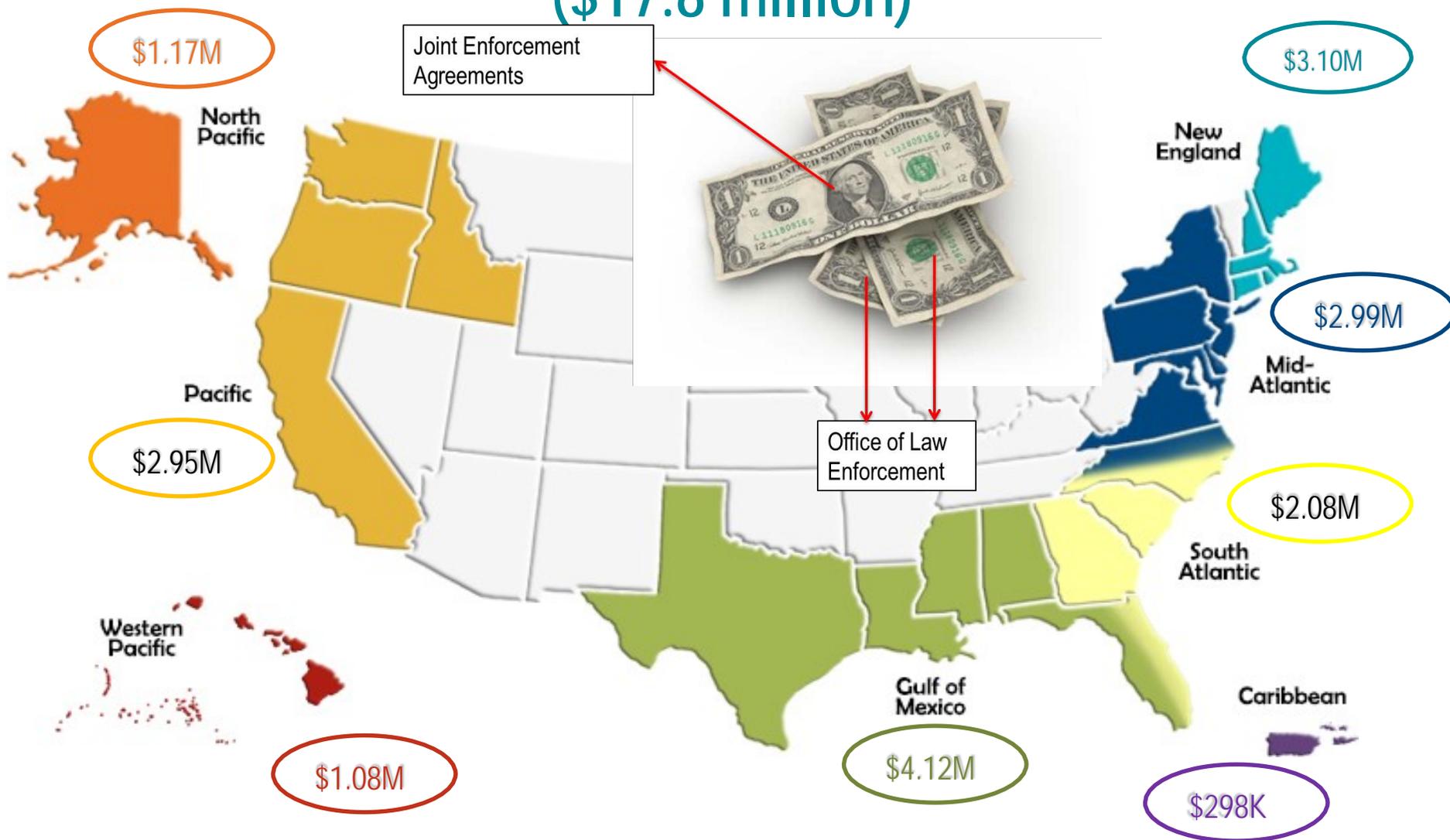


# Partnerships

- Cooperative Enforcement Program (JEAs) with 27 coastal states and U.S. territories
- Federal partnerships with U.S. Coast Guard, Fish & Wildlife Service, Customs & Border Protection, and others
- Civil cases are prosecuted by NOAA's Office of General Counsel's Enforcement Section
- Criminal cases are prosecuted by U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney's Offices



# Funding Levels of JEAs by Council Jurisdiction (\$17.8 million)



# Why does a strong enforcement program matter?

## Enforcement is critical to fisheries management

### Our work

- sustains fish stocks for commercial, recreational, tribal and US territorial users
- prevents the illegal, unregulated and unreported harvesting and trafficking of fish and wildlife
- protects marine mammals and endangered species
- maintains and restores marine and inland water habitats
- conserves coral reefs and marine protected areas
- levels the playing field for all industry participants
- holds accountable those who violate the law



# How can Councils help?

Effective regulations:

- Simple and easy to understand
- Few as possible and/or concise



## Enforcement Considerations For Regional Fishery Management Councils

Developed by NOAA Office for Law Enforcement,  
NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation, and  
The U.S. Coast Guard

October 2007



# Want more information?

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement  
1315 East West Highway., Suite 3301  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

301-427-2300

[www.fisheries.noaa.gov/ole](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/ole)

24-7 enforcement hotline to report suspected violations

1-800-853-1964



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# Any Questions Out There?

