



Fisheries Enforcement

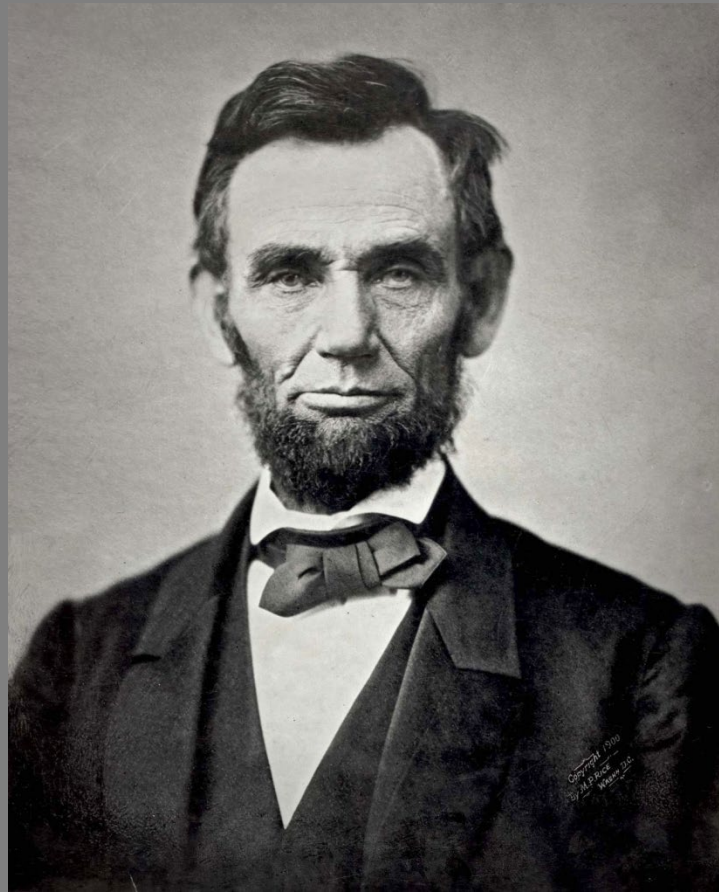


**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Office of Law
Enforcement



October 18, 2023

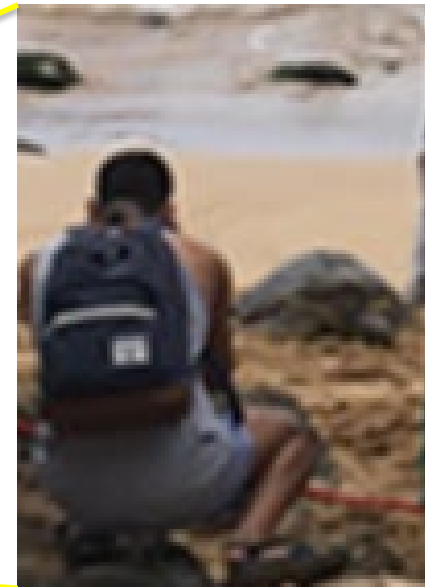


“Laws without enforcement are just good advice.”

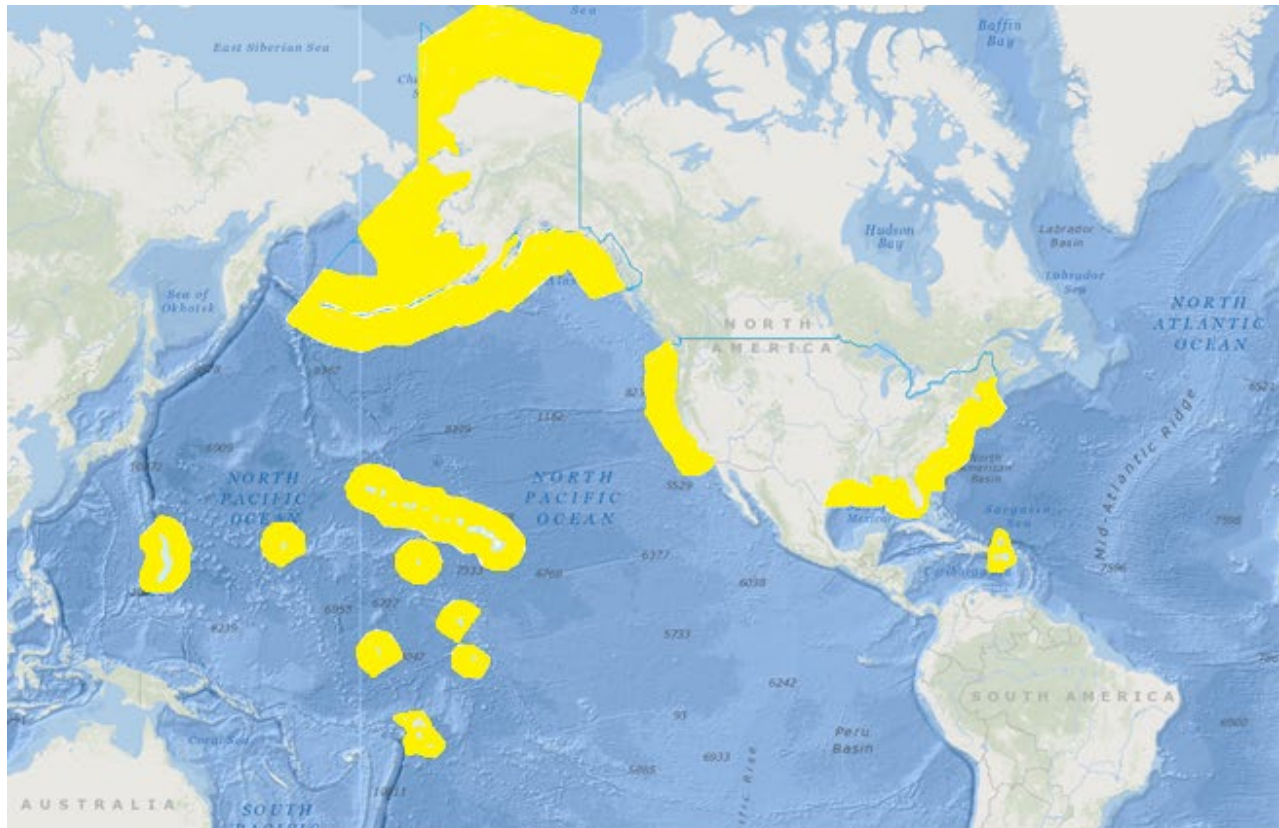
-Abraham Lincoln

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's Jurisdiction



3.36 million square miles of open ocean

More than 95,000 miles of U.S. coastline

15 National Marine Sanctuaries and 2 Marine National Monuments

High seas and international trade relating to U.S. treaties and international law

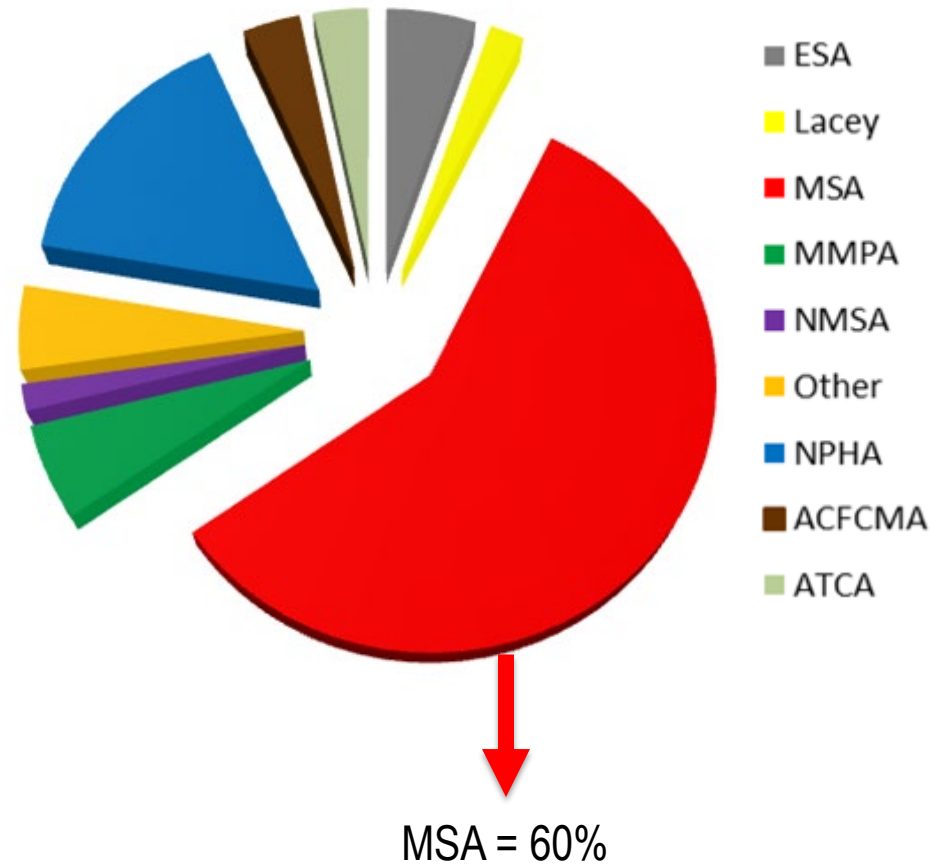
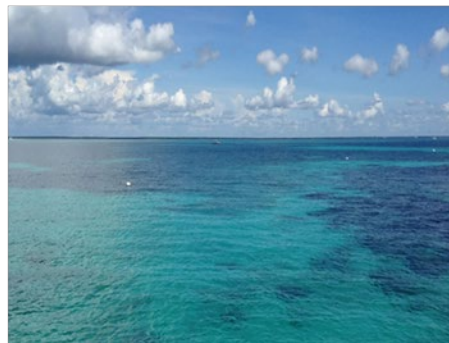


We are where you are



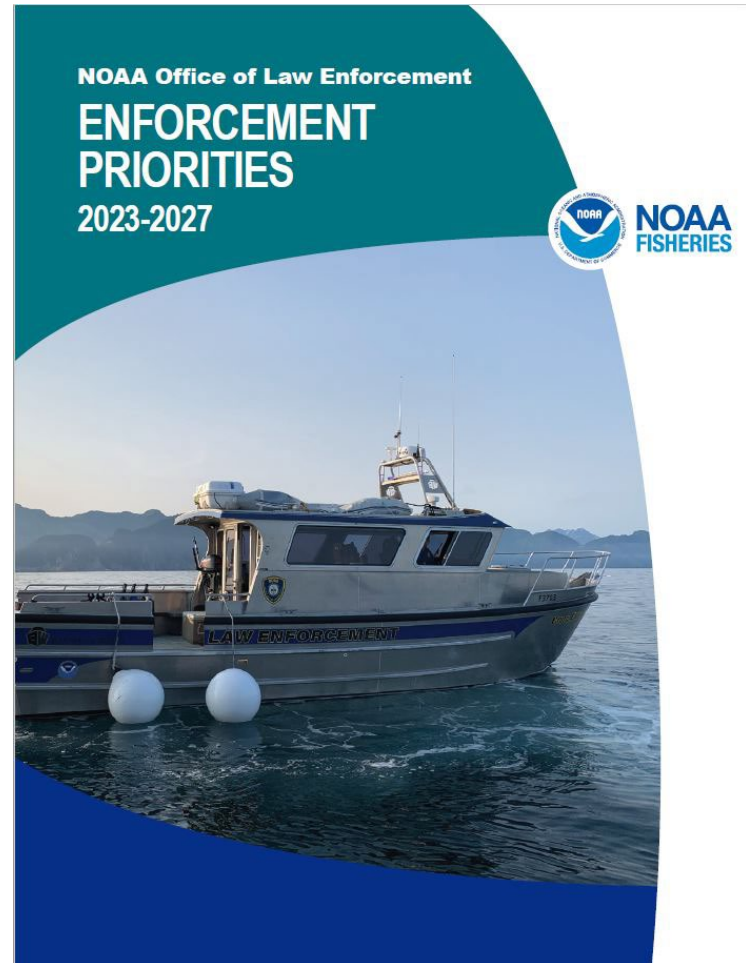
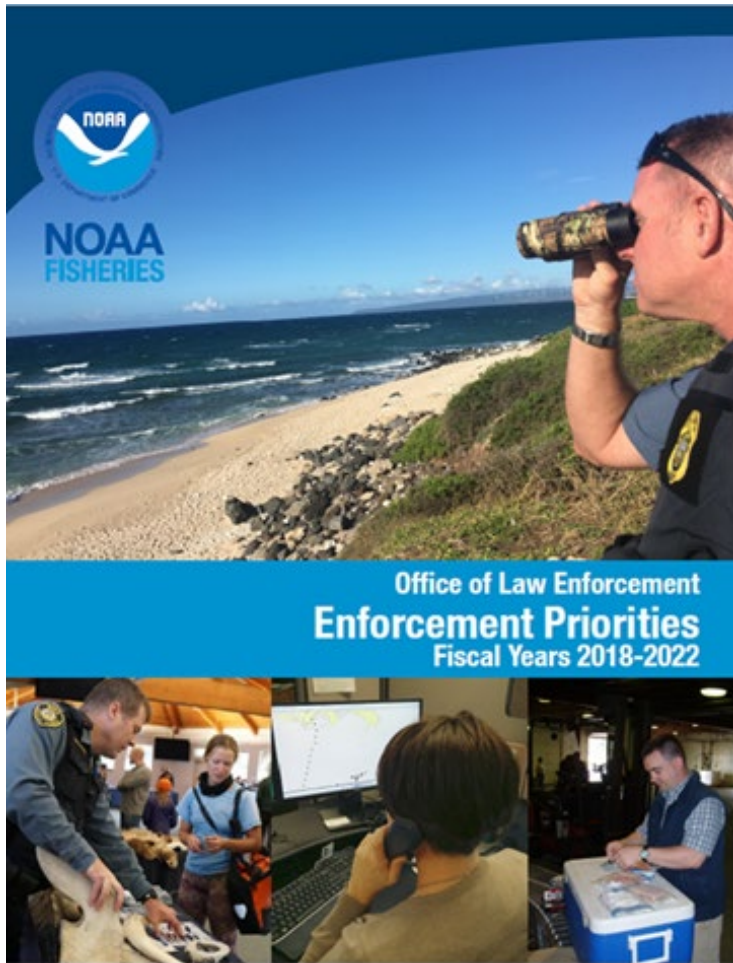
Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD
Five Divisions co-located with Regional Offices (NE, SE, AK, WC, and PI)
51 field offices throughout the United States and U.S. territories

OLE Enforcement Activity



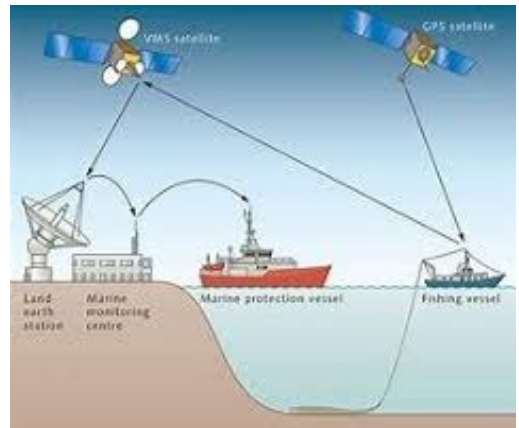
ACFCMA - Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act
ATCA - Atlantic Tunas Convention Act

OLE's Enforcement Priorities

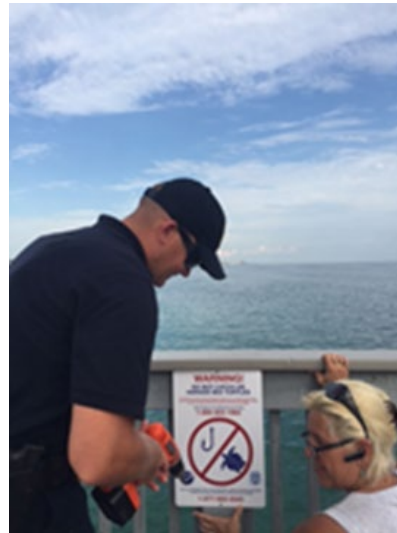


How we accomplish our priorities

- Outreach and compliance assistance
- Patrols, inspections and monitoring
 - Criminal and civil investigations
- 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



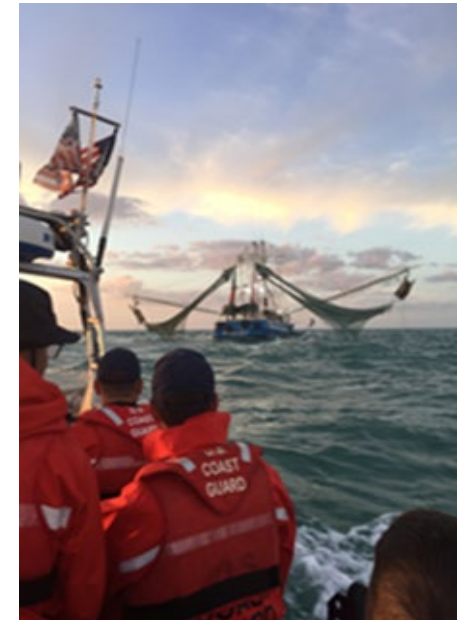
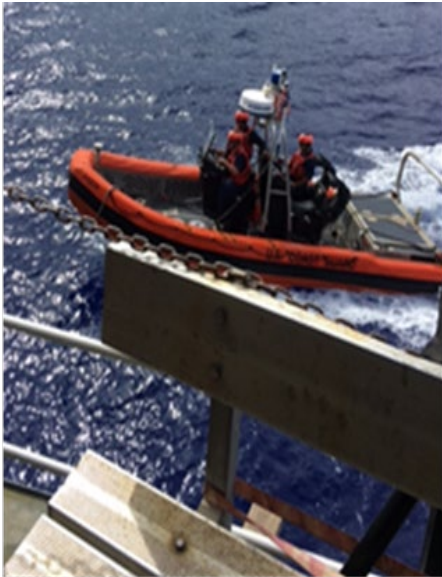
Partnerships

- **Cooperative Enforcement Program (JEAs)** with 29 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**



Partnerships – United States Coast Guard

- USCG has concurrent jurisdiction with NOAA to enforce the statutory and regulatory provisions of the MSA.
 - Living Marine Resources (LMR) = 1 of USCG's 11 missions.



Why does a strong enforcement program matter?

Enforcement is critical to fisheries management

Effective Enforcement:

- Sustains fish stocks for commercial, recreational, and tribal users
- Helps prevent 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 marine protected areas
- Levels the playing field for all industry participants
- Holds accountable those who violate the law



How can Councils help?

Effective regulations:

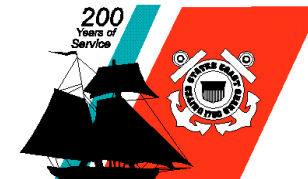
- Simple and easy to understand
- Few as possible and/or concise



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

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/ole

24-7 enforcement hotline to report suspected violations

1-800-853-1964



NOAA FISHERIES
Office of Law Enforcement



Questions ?

