

Alaska Division

Alaska supports a massive seafood industry with 60 percent of all U.S. seafood landings by weight. The seafood industry is Alaska's largest private sector employer, accounting for approximately one in every seven Alaska jobs.

Alaska's coastal communities are uniquely dependent on living marine resources and healthy marine ecosystems. In addition to the vital role that commercial and recreational fishing play in Alaska's economy, subsistence fishing serves as an irreplaceable source of food for much of rural Alaska. Subsistence traditions are interwoven into the cultural identities of Alaska Natives and coastal communities.

Division Priorities

Sustainable Fisheries

Patrol and investigation to deter and detect:

- Fisheries observer assault, sexual assault, sexual harassment, harassment, and safety violations.
- Violations involving prohibited and protected species bycatch.
- Fishing during closed seasons or in closed or protected areas.
- Violations that negatively impact Fisheries Management Plans, stock health, or agency data collection including but not limited to observer data, electronic monitoring, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements.
- Charter fishing violations of a recurrent nature that negatively impact management and resources or result in unfair competitive advantages.
- Illegal subsistence fishing by individuals without subsistence rights.



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Protected Resources

Patrol and investigation to deter and detect:

- Intentional illegal killing or injuring of Steller sea lions, Cook Inlet beluga whales, and other marine mammals.
- Violations resulting in marine mammal stranding, vessel strikes, entanglement, injury, or mortality.
- Harassment of whales and other marine mammals during commercial or recreational activities.
- Commercial vessel incursions into closed or protected areas.
- Illegal and wasteful harvest of marine mammals.
- Violations of the Lacey Act involving marine mammal products.
- Violations of Marine Mammal Protection Act incidental take authorizations including permitting and reporting.



IUU Fishing/International

Collaborate with law enforcement partners and utilize emerging technologies to deter and detect:

- Illegal fishing and transshipments by foreign vessels.
- Maritime Boundary Line incursions by foreign fishing and fishing support vessels.
- Illegal or unreported imports of Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) species.
- Export of illegal product from the U.S.
- Illegal seafood export, imports, and transfers at Canada-Alaska maritime boundaries and land borders.



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Seafood Fraud

Patrol and investigation to deter and detect seafood mislabeling, misreporting, and misbranding violations with significant impact on marine resources or commerce.

Wildlife Trafficking

Patrol and investigation to deter and detect trafficking of:

- Marine wildlife and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) through ports of entry.
- Illegally harvested and/or illegally commercialized marine resources.

Outreach and Education

- Conduct trend analyses to highlight existing violation trends and focus outreach and education efforts.
- Build new--and foster existing--relationships with industry and the public.
- Engage in the rule making process to promote clarity, consistency, enforceability, and voluntary compliance.
- Partner with Alaska Native village and council governments to encourage responsible authorized harvests for subsistence.

