**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**
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OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
ENFORCEMENT SECTION

November 23, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR: Council Members
North Pacific Fishery Management Council

FROM: Andrea Hattan
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Enforcement Section
NOAA Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT: Notices of Violation and Assessment Issued or Settled from April 1, 2026 to October 31, 2026

The NOAA Office of General Counsel, Enforcement Section (GCES) issued and served a Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA), or resolved a NOVA, in each of the following civil administrative cases between April 1, 2026 and October 31, 2026, unless otherwise noted.

A NOVA is not evidence of liability; it is only an allegation. A respondent is entitled to a fair hearing before an administrative law judge at which the government must prove liability by a preponderance of the evidence. This report provides the final settlement amount where applicable. Settlements reflect a compromise of the penalty assessed in the original NOVA. Such reductions may be due to a number of factors, including acceptance of early settlement terms, newly discovered relevant information, a respondent's inability to pay the assessed penalty, as well as other matters as justice may require. Where no information is provided regarding resolution of the case, the matter remained open at the end of the reporting period (*i.e.*, October 31, 2026). For additional details about GCES' work, please visit https://www.noaa.gov/general-counsel/gc-enforcement-section.

1. AK2302329, F/V North Star – As previously reported, Owner North Star Vessel, LLC and Operators Joshua G. Buchan, Keith Pendleton, and Purser Harry Smiley were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Northern Pacific Halibut Act (Halibut Act) with failing to comply with the requirements for halibut deck sorting, failing to comply with catch weighing and flow scale requirements, failing to retain video monitoring data for 120 days after the date the video was recorded, failing to return prohibited species to the sea immediately and with a minimum of injury, and prohibiting or barring by refusal of reasonable assistance an observer from collecting samples or otherwise performing their duties, intimidating or interfering with an observer, discarding catch, or discarding an observer's collected samples. A $53,000 NOVA was issued. Update: the case settled for $37,000.

2. AK2302327B, F/V Baranof – As previously reported, Crewman Jamar Strain was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with intimidating, sexually harassing, harassing, and interfering with an observer onboard a vessel. A $9,500 NOVA was issued. Update: Crewman Strain requested a hearing. The designated Administrative Law Judge has not yet set a hearing date.

3. AK2408451, F/V Tsiu – Owner Bae Olney-Miller, Operator/IFQ Permit Holder Dane C. Tebo, and IFQ Permit Holder Loren Lensegrav were charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act. In Count 1, Olney-Miller, Tebo, and Lensegrav were charged jointly and severally with fishing with bottom contact gear in a Gulf of Alaska Coral Habitat Protection Area. In Count 2, Olney-Miller and Tebo were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to retrieve and remove longline pot gear within five days of deploying the gear to fish IFQ sablefish in the Southeast Outside District of the Gulf of Alaska as required and submitting inaccurate information on an ADF&G Fish Ticket. A $12,542 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $11,287.80.[1]

4. AK2413468, F/V Sea Racer – As previously reported, Owner/Operator Varnavy N. Basargin was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with fishing for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska without a valid Federal Fisheries Permit, inaccurately reporting statistical areas fished, and failing to put the proper markings on marker buoys. A $10,250 NOVA was issued. Update: the case settled for $8,200.

5. AK2312814, F/V Advancer – As previously reported, Owner Full Advance, LLC and Operator Norman E. Johannessen were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to log two fishing trips in the Observer Deploy and Declare System (ODDS) as required. A $5,750 NOVA issued. Update: the NOVA became a final administrative decision due to default.

6. AK2403811, Northern Victor – As previously reported, Owner Westward Seafoods, Inc. and Manager Jacob L. Courson were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to timely submit three product transfer reports. A $2,250 NOVA was issued. Update: the case against Westward Seafoods, Inc. settled for $2,025, and the case against Courson became a final administrative decision due to default.

7. AK2412417, Silver Bay Seafoods-Kodiak, LLC – As previously reported, a shoreside processor was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with utilizing a scale to weigh groundfish that failed to display a valid State of Alaska sticker indicating that the scale was inspected and approved within the previous 12 months. A $21,000 NOVA was issued. Update: the case settled for $16,800.

8. AK2502022 – Anthony Lai Hipp was charged under the Halibut Act with submitting inaccurate information on a Subsistence Halibut Registration Certificate application. A $2,500 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $2,250.

[1] AK2408451, F/V Tsiu was charged in January 2026 and settled in March 2026. The case was inadvertently omitted from GCES's report for the NPFMC June 2026 meeting.

9. AK2518802; F/V Aleutian Beauty – Operator William Edmund Widing and Owners Widing Aleutian Beauty LLC and Peter Thompson were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) requirements on eight trips. A $32,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $16,000.

10. AK2518802B; F/V Aleutian Beauty – Operator Alexander Stubbs and Owners Widing Aleutian Beauty LLC and Peter Thompson were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with VMS requirements on one trip. A $2,000 NOVA was issued but was later rescinded and replaced by a Written Warning.

11. AK2302779; F/V Provider – Owner David G. Reutov was charged under the Endangered Species Act with unlawfully transiting through the Sugarloaf Island Steller Sea Lion Rookery Buffer Site. A $5,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $4,500.

12. AK2408333; F/V Unalaq – Owner UIC Bowhead Transport, LLC and Operator Robert R. Sullivan were charged jointly and severally under the Endangered Species Act with unlawfully transiting through the Ugamak Island Steller Sea Lion Rookery Buffer Site. A $5,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $4,500.

13. AK2412318; F/V Sentinel – Owner/Operator Arseny I. Polushkin was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with fishing for groundfish in the Gulf of Alaska without a valid Federal Fisheries Permit, failing to log a groundfish fishing trip in ODDS, and interfering with, obstructing, and delaying an authorized officer in conducting an investigation, search, and seizure. $8,998.30 in proceeds were previously judicially forfeited. A $19,750 NOVA was issued. Polushkin requested a hearing. The designated Administrative Law Judge has not yet set a hearing date.

14. AK2402782 & AK2504672; F/V Alaskan Star – Owner Alaskan Star Fisheries, LLC and Operator James A. Stevens were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with a NMFS–approved Vessel Monitoring Plan (VMP), with interfering with or biasing the sampling procedure employed in the Electronic Monitoring (EM) selection pool, and with failing to comply with reporting and record-keeping requirements. A $35,500 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $28,400.

15. AK2408556; C/P Constellation – Owner O'Hara Corporation was charged under the Marine Mammal Protection Act with failing to report the incidental mortality and injury of a marine mammal in the course of commercial fishing operations to the National Marine Fisheries Service within the required 48-hour period. A $3,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $2,700.

16. AK2504922; F/V Ocean Invictus – Owner Ocean Bay, Inc., Owner Kilokak, Inc., and Operator Robert Graham were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the maximum retainable amount of Shortraker rockfish in the Gulf of Alaska. A $1,500 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $1,350.

17. AK2302327; F/V Baranof – Owner Romanzof Fishing Company, LLC and Operators Dennis McKibbin, Reynaldo Rubalcava, and James Patrick Sjodin were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with flow scale testing requirements. Romanzof Fishing Company, LLC, McKibbin, Rubalcava, Sjodin, Crewman Ryan Fuller and a

second crewman were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with prohibiting or barring, by refusal of reasonable assistance, an observer from collecting samples or otherwise performing their duties. A $33,500 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $26,775. Romanzof Fishing Company, LLC, McKibbin, Rubalcava, and Sjodin settled. Fuller defaulted. The second crewman has not yet been served.

18. AK2518521; F/V Shemya - Owner Shemya Fisheries II LLC and Operator Sean Paul Hovik were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with VMS requirements on ten trips. A $35,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $31,500.

19. AK2546821; C/P Alaska Spirit – Operator Thomas Durnan was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to submit a U.S. Vessel Activity Report. A Written Warning was issued.

20. AK2413254; F/V Baranof – Owner Romanzof Fishing Company LLC and Operator Dennis Patrick McKibbin were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with recordkeeping and reporting requirements. An $8,250 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $7,425.

21. AK2203417 – Charter Halibut Business Owner Strike Zone Sportfishing, LLC, d/b/a Alaska Strike Zone Sportfishing, Charter Halibut Permit (CHP) Holder Lucas C. Stamm, and Charter Vessel Operators and Charter Vessel Guides Nolan R. Lancaster and Logan H. Gerasimchik, were charged jointly and severally under the Halibut Act with failing to timely submit logbooks for two fishing seasons. Strike Zone Fishing, LLC, Stamm, and Lancaster were charged jointly and severally under the Halibut Act with failing to have a valid CHP on board and failing to have a CHP number and vessel name and registration number recorded in their logbook during a charter vessel fishing trip in area 2C as required. Strike Zone Fishing, LLC and Stamm were charged jointly and severally with failing to submit or submitting inaccurate information to NMFS as required. A $22,000 NOVA was issued and later replaced by a $22,000 Superseding NOVA, which added Stamm.

22. AK2413618; F/V New Venture – Operator Peter Thomas Wilson, Jr. was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with assaulting, intimidating, interfering with, sexually harassing, and harassing a female fisheries observer. A $48,000 NOVA was issued.

23. AK2546801; F/V Robert Magnus – Owner FV Robert Magnus LLC and Operator and IFQ Permit Holder Mauricio Sanchez were charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to ensure all groundfish retained were recorded in eLandings. A $2,500 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $2,250.

24. AK2201393; F/V Constellation – Crewman Pedro Martin Quintana was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with sexually harassing a female fisheries observer. A $9,500 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for $8,550.

25. AK2542401; F/V Irene H – Owner F/V Irene H, Inc. and Operator and IFQ Hired Master Permit Holder Arlin Gene Skonberg were charged jointly and severally under the Halibut Act with possessing, selling, and transporting IFQ halibut that was harvested and landed unlawfully; specifically, 3,360 pounds of IFQ halibut harvested and landed in excess of what the IFQ permits on board authorized, a 247% overage. A $30,068.75 NOVA was issued.

26. AK2606701; C/P Unimak – Crewman Royal James Cameron was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with sexually harassing and harassing a female fisheries observer. A Written Warning was issued.

27. AK2610102; F/V Chelsea K – Owner Ocean Dynasty Limited Partnership and Operator Casimiro Mendes were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with, on two fishing trips, failing to comply with a NMFS-approved VMP, interfering with and biasing the sampling procedure in the EM selection pool, and failing to retain onboard until lawful transfer, an Improved Retention/Improved Utilization (IR/IU) species while directed fishing for that species was open. A $16,000 NOVA was issued.