



NOAA FISHERIES



Office of Law Enforcement Alaska Enforcement Division

June Report To
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council



October 2025 to March 2026

Report fisheries or marine mammal violations,
call our National Hotline at 1-800-853-1964

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/enforcement>

NOAA Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement, Alaska Division

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NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, Alaska Division has produced built-in reports and analyses for the Council, contained in Chapter 5 of the North Pacific Observer Program 2025 Annual Report (OLE acknowledges the estimable work of Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis's analyst team with gratitude), and throughout the 2025 Cost Recovery Report and within the pertinent Appendices. In addition, the section of our reports generated by our General Counsel Enforcement Section colleagues, formerly entitled "Case Updates," is now contained in B3, NOAA General Counsel Report, as a memorandum entitled "Notices of Violation and Assessment Issued or Settled from October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026." OLE continues to produce our Annual Report to Council each December.

1. Enforcement Operational Highlights

From October 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), Alaska Division (AKD) conducted extensive patrols for the purposes of preventing and detecting marine resource violations. Patrols were conducted on foot and in vehicles at docks, marinas, launches, and waterfronts, at sea in vessels and aircraft, and jointly with partner federal and state law enforcement agencies including the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Park Service (NPS). Partnering with other agencies leverages all available resources and expertise to achieve their most efficient use, provide greater service to the public, and avoid duplicative enforcement efforts.

In October, OLE conducted 30 dockside inspections, boarding 23 vessels. During the month, OLE also conducted four at sea patrols and boarded three vessels. Nine recordkeeping and reporting violations were addressed with compliance assistance, three written warnings and two summary settlement offers were issued for improper reporting or failure to have permit on board, four seizures of unlawfully possessed fish were made, and multiple summary settlements for IFQ overages in excess of 10% were issued.

From October through March, OLE conducted a total of 15 at-sea patrols aboard its patrol vessels homeported in Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Seward, Homer and Kodiak, and those of its partner agencies.



In November, an Enforcement Officer conducted a joint aerial patrol with the United States Coast Guard observing Bristol Bay Red King Crab, Eastern and Western Bering Tanner Crab, and Community Development Quota fisheries. The officer then spent time spanning late November to early December conducting dockside inspections of CP longline vessels, CP A80 vessels, crab, and halibut vessel landings. Seabird avoidance gear was



distributed, compliance assistance was given for minor recordkeeping and reporting discrepancies, fix-it tickets were issued for improperly marked gear, and multiple overages were detected and catch seizures

made. They also conducted, with the USCG, a joint boarding of the MV NO2 POHAH, a Panamanian flagged refrigerated cargo ship anchored in Captain's Bay near Unalaska, AK where it was receiving deliveries from U.S. flagged catcher/processors and motherships.

The 2026 annual observer operation in Dutch Harbor by a Special Agent (SA) and Enforcement Officer (EO), was conducted in January and February in collaboration with the Workplace Violence Prevention and Response (WVPR), local Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis (Observer Program) staff, and Alaska Wildlife Troopers. The operation focused on investigating observer complaints involving safety, sexual assault and sexual harassment (SASH), harassment, intimidation, coercion, interference, sample biasing, and suspected failures to meet vessel and plant operational requirements. OLE and WVPR provided vessel crews with outreach materials to 38 vessels and processors. Thirty-seven vessels were boarded in furtherance of 30 investigations. Also in February, a southeast EO traveled to Kodiak to conduct an operation inspecting processors and vessels in furtherance of observer statements on potential noncompliance. They also participated in three at-sea patrols in the area. The EO detected and issued SSOs for failure to follow Catch Monitoring and Control Plan, sample bias/interference with observer duties, inaccurate recordkeeping and reporting, failure to log and inaccurate trip logging in Observer Declare and Deploy System, failure to maintain operable VMS, and fail to register new VMS unit.

In March, an EO conducted investigations of eight charter outfits in southeast Alaska for retaining 21 halibut on closed days. Enforcement Officers conducted nine dockside boardings in March, resulting in the issuance of four compliance assistance for minor recordkeeping and reporting discrepancies, one IFQ overage SSO, and one written warning for failure to maintain operable VMS.

2. Outreach and Education

NOAA OLE outreach and education efforts facilitate and encourage responsible and sustainable uses of marine resources. NOAA agents and officers visit communities throughout Alaska and utilize multiple online and in-person venues to deliver a strong message of resource protection. The table below provides highlights of formal outreach efforts from October 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026. Note: OLE was restricted from conducting the majority of outreach events during much of this timeframe due to being relegated to mission-critical travel.

Table 2-1: Outreach, Education and Compliance Assistance

Date	Description
12/15/2025	Compliance Analyst Liaison (CAL) facilitated the annual Aleutians East Borough (AEB) fishermen’s meeting. Agencies presenting were OLE, ADFG, SF, USCG, IPHC, and observer and EM providers.
12/22-1/2/26	An SA and EO hosted virtual meetings with O’Hara, Fishermen’s Finest, US Seafoods, Bristol Wave Seafoods, and Arctic Storm/Arctic Fjord to cover the 2025 potential violations reported by the observers. Training on Ensuring a Safe Working Environment for Observers was provided.
1/5-1/9/26	In person meetings were conducted by an SA and CAL in Seattle with Aleutian Spray Fisheries, Golden Alaska, Phoenix Processor LL, Glacier Fish and North Star to discuss the potential violation summary of observer statements in 2025. Training on Ensuring a Safe Working Environment for Observers was also provided for those who requested it. Outreach letters were distributed containing regulatory guidance for the fleets.
1/6/2026	An SA and CAL attended and presented to the Amendment 80 captain’s meeting in Seattle, accompanied by FMA staff. Noncompliance trends were discussed, and OLE fielded questions from the fleet and distributed outreach letters.
1/13/2026	An SA and CAL attended the Kodiak Trawl Fleet meeting hosted by Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association, providing regulatory guidance and reminders and fielding questions from the vessels and processors in attendance.
1/30/2026	An SA met with American Seafoods to discuss potential violations reported by observers in 2025.
3/6-3/8/2026	EOs and CAL hosted a booth at the Great Alaska Sportman’s Show in Anchorage Alaska, providing regulatory expertise, fielding questions from the public, and distributing outreach and educational materials.