



# NOAA FISHERIES



## Office of Law Enforcement Alaska Enforcement Division

June Report To  
North Pacific Fisheries Management Council



October 2024 to March 2025

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**

**Report to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council**

**June 2025**

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## 1. Enforcement Operational Highlights

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, Alaska Division would like to draw attention to the following web story, published May 29, 2025:

[NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement Foils Crab Trafficking Plot in Alaska](#)

[\*Kodiak fisherman sentenced to prison and banned from fishing for trafficking diseased crab.\*](#)



From October 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, 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 and avoid duplication of effort.

An Enforcement Officer (EO) boarded Canadian Coast Guard Ship (CCGS) SIR WILFRID LAURIER in Yokohama, Japan for Phase II of Operation North Pacific Guard (NPG). The objectives of NPG were: 1) to detect and deter illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing in the North Pacific; 2) to inspect vessels in the North Pacific Fisheries Commission (NPFC) and West Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) convention areas and ensure compliance with all Conservation and Management Measures; and 3) document and report all discovered violations to the corresponding Regional Fishery Management Organization (RFMO) and Flag State.



NOAA-OLE worked alongside Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada Fisheries Officers along with U.S. Coast Guard boarding officers conducting High Seas boardings and inspections. Four vessels were boarded, leading to the discovery of 24 bags of uncorrelated, non-connected shark fins, a violation of fishing and retaining catch during a closed season which had an estimated value of two million dollars, vessel-marking violations, and vessel monitoring system violations. Combatting Illegal Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fishing remains one of NOAA-OLEs National Priorities. IUU activities undermine global efforts to maintain sustainable fisheries and conserve maritime resources. Furthermore, IUU undermines international agreements and jeopardizes food and economic security.

With our USCG partners, OLE conducted five joint aerial patrols of the Bering Sea, Aleutian Islands and/or approaches to the US Arctic aboard C130s: two in October, one in November, one in January, and one in February. Ten suspected violations were detected, with two closed following further investigation, four resulting in the issuance of summary settlements and four associated with ongoing investigations.

From October through March, OLE conducted a total of 29 at-sea patrols aboard its patrol vessels homeported in Ketchikan, Sitka, Juneau, Seward, Homer and Kodiak, and those of its partner agencies.

In December, an EO joined enforcement partners aboard USCG cutter (USCGC) BERTHOLF (WMSL-750) to conduct boardings in the Bering Sea, resulting in compliance assistance for a recordkeeping and reporting (R&R) violation, and two summary settlements, one for possession and reporting of prohibited species catch and another for failing to label and declare fish imported by a foreign-flagged cargo vessel.

The 2025 annual observer operation in Dutch Harbor, involving Special Agents (SAs) and EOs, was conducted in January and February in collaboration with the Workplace Violence Prevention and Response (WVPR) Regional Coordinator, local Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis (Observer Program) staff, and AWT. 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, and WVPR met with observers to provide in-season reminders on the resources available to them through the WVPR program. Approximately 40 interviews were conducted during the operation, and approximately 25 vessels were boarded in furtherance of investigations. OLE conducted investigations into 11 SASH complaints, seven Hostile Work Environment complaints, two complaints involving the general health and safety of observers, two complaints of interference/sample biasing, and three complaints involving failure to meet C/P vessel operator responsibilities. Investigations by management program are as follows - A80: 44%; AFA 28%; Open Access: 24%, and IFQ/CDQ: 4%.

In February, an EO joined enforcement partners aboard USCGC BAILEY BARCO (WPC-1122) for a patrol of the Central and Western Gulf of Alaska. Seven vessels were boarded yielding compliance assistance for R&R and seabird avoidance gear (SAG) violations, two summary settlements for illegal possession and reporting of prohibited species, and two ongoing investigations.

In March, an EO joined enforcement partners aboard the Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) large patrol vessel STIMSON for a patrol of the Western Gulf and Bering Sea. Shoreside processor inspections in remote ports and at sea vessel boardings yielded compliance assistance for nine violations involving R&R and/or VMS, two summary settlements, one for significant R&R violations and another for failing to log multiple trips for observer coverage, and five ongoing investigations.

Joint patrols with the USCG and AWT in the Bering Sea also supported a larger, ongoing joint operation focused on detecting the unlawful export of fish product from Alaskan ports and waters by foreign flagged refrigerated cargo vessels receiving offloads from U.S. vessels harvesting under varied LAPPs. To date, OLE and enforcement partners have conducted 21 foreign vessel boardings, issued two summary settlement offers to delivering C/Ps for false reporting of catch and failure to report offloads, seized unreported catch from three delivering C/Ps, referred one foreign vessel to CBP for overstaying its Advanced Notice of Arrival by 30 days, and continue to pursue 10 open investigations. So far, 174 MT of unreported or illegally harvested groundfish and 31 unreported offloads have been detected.



## 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, 2024, to March 31, 2025.




**Table 2-1: Outreach, Education and Compliance Assistance**

Date	Description
10/22/2024	Compliance Analyst Liaison (CAL) and Sustainable Fisheries (SF) staff met with representatives of Aleutians East Borough (AEB) and Chordata, and a Council representative, to discuss eLogbook requirements to allow for a letter to be issued so they may modify eLogbooks for use on participating trawl electronic monitoring (TEM) vessels in 2025.
11/6/2024	The Deputy Special Agent in Charge, a Supervisory Enforcement Officer (SEO), an SA, and the CAL attended an outreach meeting hosted by SF staff to discuss the pending implementation of TEM regulations with representatives of trawl processors located throughout Western Alaska. Topics discussed included Catch Monitoring Control Plans (CMCP), observer sampling, and processor/observer communications and offload coordination.
11/12/2024	Assistant Director (AD) and CAL, with Fisheries Monitoring and Analysis (FMA) and SF staff, hosted a delegation from the Republic of Korea. They are capacity building to

	establish an Electronic Monitoring (EM) program for their transshipment fleet, and were visiting to learn about Alaska's EM programs. CAL presented an enforcement-focused slideshow detailing the effectiveness of AKD's outreach efforts, and incremental increases in severity of enforcement actions, at driving positive changes in fleet behavior and improving data quality for catch accounting over time. AD and CAL provided discussion and suggestions for building out a successful program.
11/19/2024	An EO performed outreach with Westminster University. They met with students and discussed sustainable fisheries, NOAA OLE's mission and activities, and basic information about the fishing industry in Alaska.
11/20/2024	EOs met with Alaskan Coastal Natives, where they discussed the Alaskan Native history and culture, tried on native handicraft clothing, and sampled a variety of Native dishes.
11/22/2024	CAL attended a fleet meeting hosted by AEB representatives where a Councilperson was in attendance. CAL answered TEM, pelagic trawl definition and enforcement, and VMS questions.
11/26/2024	An SA, Investigative Support Technician Observer Program Liaison, and CAL attended a Halibut Deck Sort meeting between FMA, SF, OLE, and Alaska Seafood Cooperative representatives. OLE provided updates regarding potential noncompliance issues reported by the Observer Program and self-reporting by the industry.
12/17/2024	CAL, in collaboration with AEB representatives, facilitated the multi-agency Annual Fishermen's Meeting. Agencies/stakeholders with presentations and updates were USCG, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), SF, FMA (Observer Program), AIS, Inc., Saltwater, Inc., International Pacific Halibut Commission, and OLE CAL and SA. OLE presented regulatory reminders and updates, and responded to questions from industry and Councilperson in attendance. Online and in-person attendees exceeded 40.
1/3/2025- 1/17/2025	SAs, SEO, and CAL hosted and attended multiple meetings with interested industry representatives and operators from Fishermen's Finest, Ocean Peace, Bristol Wave, Phoenix Processing Limited Partnership, Alaska Seafood Cooperative Amendment 80 Captain's Meeting, American Seafoods, and Alaska Groundfish Data Bank and Alaska Whitefish Trawlers Association, to discuss observer statements, noncompliance trends, and provide Ensuring a Safe Working Environment for Observers training for interested parties.
1/17/2025	Trident Seafoods representatives presented to SF and OLE CAL about their 2025 Exempted Fishing Permit for modifications to pelagic trawl gear.



1/28/2025	<p>CAL, with a Trident Seafoods representative and a Councilperson, presented to a Washington state-based group of middle schoolers who formed a First Lego League team for competition. The '24-'25 competition explored technology in the ocean focused on sustainable fisheries and monitoring. This project combined robotics, computing, AI, programming, and Legos; the WA team project used a camera and AI to recognize a picture of a salmon to actuate a mechanical door to release the PSC catch from the “trawl alley.” CAL presented on OLE's role in fisheries management, involvement in the Council process, and in EFP processes for testing new technologies. The team went on to compete internationally against 50 teams representing 45 countries, and placed 3rd for Engineering Excellence!</p> 
02/14/2025-02/16/2025	An SEO, EO, and CAL represented OLE AKD at the 2025 Anchorage Boat Show. The Team assisted with inquiries by various constituents including IPHC/IFQ, GAF, Charter, Sport, and MMPA/ESA.
3/18/2025	EO and AWT partners, during a patrol, visited the False Pass community school to conduct outreach with students. After a classroom discussion on OLE and AWT roles and missions, and local marine mammals, everyone participated in a basketball game in the school gym.

### 3. Case Updates

#### **Notices of Violation and Assessment**

#### **Covering Activity from October 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025**

The NOAA Office of General Counsel, Enforcement Section (GCES) issued and served Notices of Violation and Assessment (NOVA) in the following civil administrative cases. 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. Additional details regarding the settlement and structure of the settlement payments, including the factors considered in reaching settlement, are omitted. Where no information is provided regarding resolution of the case, the matter remained open at the end of the reporting period.

1. AK2105310; F/V US Intrepid – Crewman Zedrick Moli (aka Zedrick Allen) was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) with harassing and sexually harassing a female fisheries observer. An \$18,000 NOVA was issued and the NOVA became a final administrative decision due to default.

2. AK2207018; F/V Foreigner – Owner Anastasia Basargin and Operator Arseny Reutov were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with operating a vessel without an operable VMS. A \$7,500 NOVA was issued.
3. AK2207388; F/V Ocean Invictus – Owners Ocean Bay, Inc. and Kilokak, Inc. and Operator Robert Graham were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to retain pollock, an IR/IU species, up to the maximum retainable amount. A \$5,750 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$5,175.
4. AK2205793; F/V Cape Caution – Operator Kerby Glen Mitchell was charged under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act with fishing for halibut in violation of the Act's annual management measures. Specifically, he possessed onboard a vessel Pacific halibut that had been filleted, mutilated, or otherwise disfigured in any manner. About 232 pounds of chunked Northern Pacific halibut were forfeited by abandonment. A \$2,050 NOVA was issued and the case settled for \$1,845.
5. AK2300524; F/V New Venture – Owner New Venture Fisheries LLC and Operator Peter T. Wilson, Jr. were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with fishing for Pacific cod in violation of an in-season action, closure, or adjustment. \$5,031 in seized proceeds were forfeited by abandonment. A \$5,750 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$5,175.
6. AK2310754; F/V Jennifer Lee – Owner Jennifer Lee, Inc. and Operator Adam Lee Swanson were charged jointly and severally under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act with failing to return halibut discards to the sea with a minimum of injury. An \$8,800 NOVA was issued and the case settled for \$7,920.
7. AK2202348; F/V Northern Eagle – As previously reported, Owners American Seafoods Company, LLC and Northern Eagle, LLC were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to ensure no salmon of any species passed the observer collection point. A \$15,000 NOVA was issued. During this reporting period, the case settled for \$13,500.
8. AK2205596, AK2301221; F/V Evie Grace – Owner Evie Grace Fisheries, LLC, and Operator Robert B. Langdon were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with observer sampling interference, unlawful discard of a Rockfish Program species, and with exceeding maximum retainable amounts of bycatch. A \$35,918 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$33,368.
9. AK2301222; F/V Gambler – Owner Gambler Tendering, LLC and Operator Kyle Potter were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with operating a vessel without transmitting from a vessel monitoring system when required, and with catching and retaining Pacific cod from waters adjacent to the Gulf of Alaska without all required designations and/or endorsements, and/or when directed fishing for Pacific cod was not open. A \$29,621.38 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$7,000.
10. AK2307285; F/V Unimak – Owner Unimak Vessel, LLC and Operator David L. Ostrom were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the maximum retainable amount of pollock on one fishing trip and failing to timely submit one product transfer report. A \$4,514 NOVA was issued.
11. AK2205728; F/V Norse Maid – As previously reported, Operator/IFQ hired master Nick A. Carlson was charged under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act with failing to log one fishing trip in the Observer



Deploy and Declare System as required. A \$4,500 NOVA issued. During this reporting period, the NOVA became a final administrative decision due to default.

12. AK2206415; F/V Mirage – Owner JJ Mirage LLC and Operator Jeffrey Turner were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with illegally discarding IFQ sablefish caught with fixed gear when any IFQ permit holder aboard held unused sablefish IFQ and with failing to record discard information in their vessel's Daily Fishing Logbook. An \$8,250 NOVA was issued and the NOVA became a final administrative decision due to default.

13. AK2302108; F/V Kevleen K – Owner Kevleen K Vessel LLC and Operator Christopher Studeman were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with processing and landing West Bering Sea Tanner crab for personal use without ensuring that a landing report and receipt were generated and that catch was weighed by a Registered Crab Receiver. A \$2,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$1,800.

14. AK2303313; F/V Unimak – Owner Unimak Vessel LLC and Operator Sam Wright were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the maximum retainable amount of pollock. A \$2,892 NOVA was issued.

15. AK2302107; F/V St. Dominick – As previously reported, Owners Brown Bear Fisheries, Inc. and Big Bear, LLC and Operator Nicholas Johanson were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to redeploy or remove longline pot gear within five days of deploying the gear to fish for IFQ sablefish. A \$3,600 NOVA was issued. During this reporting period, the case settled for \$2,880.

16. AK2303286; F/V Arica – Owner Arica Vessel, LLC and Operator John C. Nelson were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the maximum retainable amount of pollock on one fishing trip and failing to timely submit one product transfer report. A \$20,818 NOVA was issued.

17. AK2306519; F/V Dominator – Owner Trident Seafoods and Operator Jamie Potter were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the maximum retainable amount of squid and sablefish. A \$4,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$3,600.

18. AK2306853; F/V Alaska Victory – Owner AK Victory, Inc. and Operator David D. Bishop were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with Vessel Monitoring System requirements. A \$36,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$32,400.

19. AK2307521; F/V Pacific Star – Owner Pac Star, Inc. and Operator John P. McCarthy were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the maximum retainable amount of bycatch on one trip in 2023. A \$4,836 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$4,361.

20. AK2307659; F/V Defender – Owner O'Hara Corporation and Operator Dean Slater were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with directed fishing in an Atka Mackerel no fishing zone. An \$89,834 NOVA was issued.

21. AK2307659B; F/V Defender – Owner O'Hara Corporation and Operator Michael Burgett were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with directed fishing in an Atka Mackerel no fishing zone. A \$102,137 NOVA was issued.

22. AK2403856; F/V Lady Lee Dawn – Owner/Operator Alvin J. Newman Jr. was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with Vessel Monitoring System requirements. A \$10,000 NOVA was issued.
23. AK2404901; F/V US Intrepid – Owner U.S. Fishing, LLC and Operator Erin Blaine Moore were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with Vessel Monitoring System requirements and for failing to submit two product transfer reports as required. A \$38,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$20,700.
24. AK2201034; F/V Carlynn – Owner Carlynn, Inc. and Owner/Operator Robert Becker were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to maintain safe conditions for the protection of observers, failing to provide adequate accommodations for observers, and intimidating and harassing observers. A \$28,500 NOVA was issued.
25. AK2301219; F/V Mar del Norte – Owner North Sea Fisheries, LLC and Operator Riley Spence were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the maximum retainable amount of Pacific cod and rockfish. A \$17,639 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$15,000.
26. AK2303309; F/V North Star – Owner North Star Vessel LLC and Operator Joshua Buchan were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the maximum retainable amount of pollock. A \$23,408 NOVA was issued.

### **Written Warnings**

#### **Covering Activity from October 1, 2024 to May 29, 2025**

GCES issued and served Written Warnings in the following cases:

1. AK2306971; F/V G Joyce – Owner Fireweed Lodge, LLC and Operator Adam Bean were issued a Written Warning under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act for possessing an undersized halibut.
2. AK2409434; F/V Sea Mare – Owner RDS Fisheries, LLC and Operator Robert M. Johnson were issued a Written Warning under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for failing to record information in Cook Inlet EEZ salmon fishery daily fishing logbook (DFL) as required.
3. AK2409443; F/V Wits End – Owner Emmet Francis Heidemann and Operator Dimian Vasily Kalugin were issued a Written Warning under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for failing to record information in Cook Inlet EEZ salmon fishery DFL as required.
4. AK2409533; F/V Realist – Operator Kyle R. Hock was issued a written warning under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for permitting and VMS violations on a single day of the Cook Inlet salmon fishery.
5. AK2411209; F/V Outlook – Owner and Operator Nestor Sergei Ivanov and Owner Irina Ivanov were issued a Written Warning under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for possessing salmon harvested in state waters on a vessel commercial fishing for salmon in the Cook Inlet EEZ Area.