

NOAA

Office of Law Enforcement

Alaska Enforcement Division

December Report
To
North Pacific Fishery Management Council



Highlights - April to September 2018
Summaries - Annual

Report fisheries or marine mammal violations,
call our National Hotline at 1-800-853-1964
http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/ole/ak_alaska.html

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1. Enforcement Operational Highlights

From April 1 to September 30, 2018, the Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), Alaska Division (AKD) conducted extensive patrols for the purposes of enforcement and education. In addition to daily dockside and vessel patrols, AKD conducted several multiday patrols. Patrols were often coordinated with partners including U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), or Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT). The following patrols highlight successful enforcement and education.

Three AKD Enforcement Officers collaborated with USCG and AWT officers to conduct patrols in Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay during Memorial Day Weekend onboard the OLE Patrol Vessel (P/V) Cape Elizabeth. Officers contacted 336 individuals and boarded and inspected commercial, sport, charter, and subsistence vessels. The operation resulted in 36 boardings. Cases included logbook violations, operating a charter halibut vessel without a valid Charter Halibut Permit on board, failure to log retained halibut on fishing licenses, and subsistence halibut fishing in a closed area. Additionally, AWT initiated 8 cases including failure to record retained charter halibut on fishing licenses and fishing without a license. The USCG addressed 22 safety violations.



Two Enforcement Officers and a Special Agent responded to a Steller sea lion located near a hospital, high school and airport, in Sitka. The officers discovered the animal in a wooded area near the road approximately a quarter mile from the ocean. To ensure the safety of the public and the sea lion, the officers taped off the area, notified local nearby businesses, and began consulting with Protected Resources Division (PRD) to get the animal back in the ocean. Two attempts to guide the animal back to the ocean failed. A decision was made to sedate the Steller sea lion and

transport it to the water. Once the sedation wore off, the sea lion returned to the ocean. This situation was uncharted territory for AKD and PRD. It was a great opportunity to educate the public on sea lions and safety around marine mammals. (Pictured)

Enforcement officers successfully completed a 10-day joint patrol with AWT aboard the P/V Enforcer from Juneau. The operation centered on charter halibut and the summer commercial salmon troll fisheries. AWT issued numerous State citations and OLE initiated a federal case.

Three Enforcement Officers conducted a 6-day joint U.S. Border operation with CBP, AWT, and USFWS to inspect vehicles leaving Alaska. The team contacted the occupants of 782 vehicles to detect and deter fisheries, marine mammal, and wildlife trafficking violations. Officers identified charter halibut anglers who had failed to log halibut on sport licenses as well as leads on several potential illegal operations. AWT cases involved a caribou harvest, CFEC, and numerous potential residency investigations. USFWS seized loose eagle feathers, provided warnings regarding the attempts to transport wildlife parts into Canada, and assisted with declarations for game parts.



An AKD Enforcement Officer participated in a joint patrol with the USCG near Sitka, AK. Officers boarded numerous vessels and provided compliance information to subsistence halibut fishermen and to eco tour vessel operators. The USCG terminated two vessel trips for safety violations and provided written warnings to four vessel operators for safety and registration violations. The AKD officer forwarded State violations to AWT and participated in a USCG search and rescue operation that resulted in the safe return of three individuals - two of the individuals were in possession of illegal drugs and are under investigation.

In July, AKD officers patrolled 950 nautical miles in the Gulf of Alaska and Prince William Sound onboard the P/V Cape Elizabeth. Two NOAA Enforcement Officers and an Alaska Wildlife Trooper contacted 284 individuals and boarded 29 vessels - 6 commercial, 8 charter, and 15 recreational. Officers also inspected five fish processing plants. Five federal and two state investigations were initiated as a result of the patrol. Additionally, officers provided community outreach and education in Seward, Cordova and Chenega.

In June OLE and AWT conducted a joint operation from Wrangell on the Stikine River to inspect salmon being shipped from Canada via the Stikine River to Wrangell for processing and/or transshipment.

A Dutch Harbor Enforcement Officer and personnel from USCG Marine Safety Detachment Dutch Harbor conducted a joint boarding of a fishing vessel to address Observer complaints of a hostile work environment and safety issues.



An Enforcement officer conducted a nine-day Joint Patrol in the Bering Sea onboard the USCGC MELLON. During the patrol, multiple IFQ vessels were boarded and inspected. Seven fisheries violations were detected resulting in two Summary Settlements, four Written Warnings and one Compliance Assistance. The USCG identified additional safety violations.

A Kodiak enforcement officer conducted a three-day patrol aboard the USCGC HEALY (Arctic Ice Breaker) along the east side of Kodiak Island to the 3A/3B line for IFQ vessels. The enforcement officer worked with USCGC HEALY boarding team on vessel and fish identification, vessel contact information, boarding procedures, and completed a tour/inspection of the remote Ocean Beauty seafood plant in Alitak.



Two Enforcement Officers completed a multi-day patrol onboard the OLE P/V Natoma Bay beginning in Ketchikan, AK. The patrol covered 1063 nm and multiple areas of Southeast Alaska. Officers followed up on four investigations, boarded 35 vessels, and initiated 17 new cases (state and federal). Officers seized chunked charter halibut, an illegal sized charter halibut, a subsistence halibut skate with too many hooks, and a subsistence

halibut used for bait. Investigations included: a charter vessel without a CHP and logbook; an IFQ vessel with unmarked buoys and no IPHC logbook; and an operator who was in possession of sport and subsistence halibut onboard the same vessel. OLE also forwarded several state violations to the AWT.

2. Outreach and Education

NOAA OLE outreach and education efforts facilitate responsible and sustainable use of marine resources. NOAA agents and officers visit communities throughout Alaska utilizing multiple venues to deliver a message of resource protection. The table below provides an account of AKD formal outreach efforts from April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018.



Table 2.1 – NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Outreach and Education Efforts

Date	Location	Description
April 3 – 5, 2018	Chicago, IL	End Violence Against Women Conference: A Special Agent presented a poster titled: “Sexual Harassment/ Assault in the Fishing Industry: A Multidimensional and Collaborative Approach to Supporting Victims, Investigating Crimes, and Reducing Risk”. The agent’s poster received Honorable Mention.
April 5 – 8, 2018	Anchorage, AK	Great Alaskan Sportsman Show: An Enforcement Officer and NOAA PRD staffed an interactive booth and answered questions regarding marine mammals and sport, charter, and commercial fishing regulations.
April 11, 2018	Juneau, AK	Alaska Wildlife Troopers: An Enforcement Officer taught a class on IFQ halibut/sablefish, charter halibut, and halibut subsistence to AWT
April 14, 2018	Kodiak, AK	Kodiak Children Fair: Several Enforcement Officers staffed a booth to foster understanding of marine wildlife, not feeding marine mammals, not approaching sick animals, and concerns that should be reported to NOAA. Over 100 children and parents stopped at the booth.
April 15, 2018	Anchorage, AK	Ft. Richardson Library, JBER: An Enforcement Officer and an Air Force Conservation Enforcement Officer participated in a student education night. The officers discussed the importance of marine resources. Over 70 students, parents, and staff participated in this interactive educational event.

April 26, 2018	Homer, AK	Homer Charter Halibut Meeting: Two Enforcement officers attended the Homer Charter Halibut Meeting. Speakers included AWT, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, State Parks, and OLE. Approximately 25 people attended.
April 27 - 29, 2018	Soldotna, AK	Kenai Sport Show: An Enforcement Officer attended a public outreach booth at the Kenai Sport Show. OLE had marine mammal parts on display and provided multiple information handouts; over 600 attended.
May 5 – 6, 2018	Anchorage, AK	Great Aviation Gathering: Enforcement officers provided outreach and education during the Aviation Gathering to raise awareness of potential violations that can be observed from the air.
June 2018	Angoon and Prince of Wales Island, AK	Various Remote Fishing Lodges: Charter Halibut outreach to guides and staff.
June 6, 2018	Ketchikan, AK	An Enforcement Officer joined AWT to provide a presentation on charter compliance to The Sportsman’s Cove Lodge. Over 20 guides and deckhands attended.
June 11 – 15, 2018	Vigo, Spain	International Fisheries Observer and Monitoring Conference: A Special Agent’s poster was presented on the frequency of safety and harassment violations and factors that impede disclosure. The poster won 3rd place at the conference.
July 30, 2018	Glacier Bay National Park, AK	Two Enforcement Officers taught a class on IFQ halibut/sablefish and charter and subsistence halibut at Glacier Bay National Park. NPS and OLE officers discussed charter halibut investigations.
July 5 – 10, 2018	Bethel, Naposkiak, Oscarville, Mekoryuk and Nome, AK	Two Enforcement Officers visited Western Alaska Communities and contacted over 150 residents. Officers provided outreach and learned about fishing and hunting practices.
July 26 – 29, 2018	Haines, AK	Southeast Alaska State Fair: Enforcement Officers staffed an OLE outreach booth and spoke to over 375 people about federal fisheries and marine mammal regulations.

September 1, 2018	Anchorage, AK	Second Annual Beluga’s Count: Citizens volunteered to watch for and count belugas at stations along upper Cook Inlet. The event continued at the Alaska Zoo where an Enforcement Officer provided information and answered questions about whales and NOAA OLE.
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3. Case Updates

OLE conducted a criminal investigation leading to a successful prosecution by the U.S. Attorney’s Office for Alaska:

AK1501338; F/V Iron Hide – Two individuals were sentenced under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) for the take of Steller Sea Lions near Cordova. One was sentenced to five years of probation, three months of home incarceration, 400 hours of community service, a \$20,000 fine, and required to write an apology letter to be published in National Fisherman magazine. The other individual was sentenced to four years of probation, one month home incarceration, 40 hours of community service and a \$5,000 fine.

The following civil cases were charged, settled, or adjudicated by NOAA Office of General Counsel, Enforcement Section (GCES) during April 1, 2018 to September 30, 2018:

1. AK1603670 – Individual was charged under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act for offering sport-caught halibut for sale. A \$600 Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA) was issued. Case pends.
2. AK1604340; M/V Le Soleal – Owner of French-flagged cruise ship was charged under the Marine Mammal Protection Act for taking Northern fur seals by level B harassment. It was alleged that small boats, carrying tourists, were launched from the ship and approached within 10 meters of a breeding area on St. Paul Island, causing disruption of the seals’ behavioral patterns. A \$3,000 NOVA was issued. Case pends.
3. AK1604543; F/V Cash Money – Issued a \$4,100 NOVA to vessel operator for subsistence gear violations, unlawfully disposing of gear upon approach of a law enforcement officer, and failing to make his subsistence halibut registration certificate available for inspection. Administrative Law Judge denied respondent’s untimely request for a hearing and upheld the \$4,100 NOVA.
4. AK1606765; Big Fish Charters – Charter halibut business owner was charged under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act for failing to submit required logbook reports and Guided Angler Fish landing reports, and for unlawfully fishing while serving as the charter vessel operator. A \$37,000 NOVA was issued. Case pends.

5. AK1706793; Lisianski Inlet Lodge – Charter halibut business owner was charged under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act for failing to ensure charter anglers signed the logbook and for submitting inaccurate logbook pages. A \$5,500 NOVA was issued. Settled for \$4,950.
6. AK1800146; F/V Woniya – Owner and operator were charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for retaining IFQ Sablefish on a vessel in excess of the unharvested IFQ held by all IFQ permit holders onboard for the regulatory area in which the vessel was deploying fixed gear. A \$2,000 NOVA was issued. Settled for \$1,800.
7. AK1800612; F/V Walter N – Owner and operator were charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for landing more than 300,000 pounds of unprocessed Pollock in the Gulf of Alaska from a catcher vessel in violation of the daily catch limit. A \$9,252.29 NOVA was issued. Settled for \$5,252.29.
8. AK1800813; F/V Pacific Ram – Owner and operator were charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for landing more than 300,000 pounds of unprocessed Pollock in the Gulf of Alaska from a catcher vessel in violation of the daily catch limit. A \$5,262.56 NOVA was issued. Settled for \$3,262.56.
9. AK1800814; F/V Ocean Hope – Owner and operator were charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for landing more than 300,000 pounds of unprocessed Pollock in the Gulf of Alaska from a catcher vessel in violation of the daily catch limit. A \$3,622.34 NOVA was issued. Settled for \$3,322.34.
10. AK1800956; F/V Tribute – IFQ permit holder/operator and vessel owners were charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for intentionally making false prior notice of landing reports and signing false landing receipts to conceal IFQ sablefish violations. A \$91,472.00 NOVA was issued. Case pends.

4. Incident and Summary Settlement Information

From October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 NOAA officers and agents opened 2124 incidents including 1105 Magnuson-Stevens Act, 727 Northern Pacific Halibut Act, and 292 others: Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Lacey Act, and other federal and state. (Figure 4.1)

The majority of incidents were closed or completed- of 1805 closed incidents, 1008 required no enforcement action - no recorded violation or minor/mitigated violation(s). 319 incidents remained under investigation. (Figures 4.2 and 4.3)

Figure 4.1 – Incidents by percent **October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018** categorized by primary law, program, or regulation type.

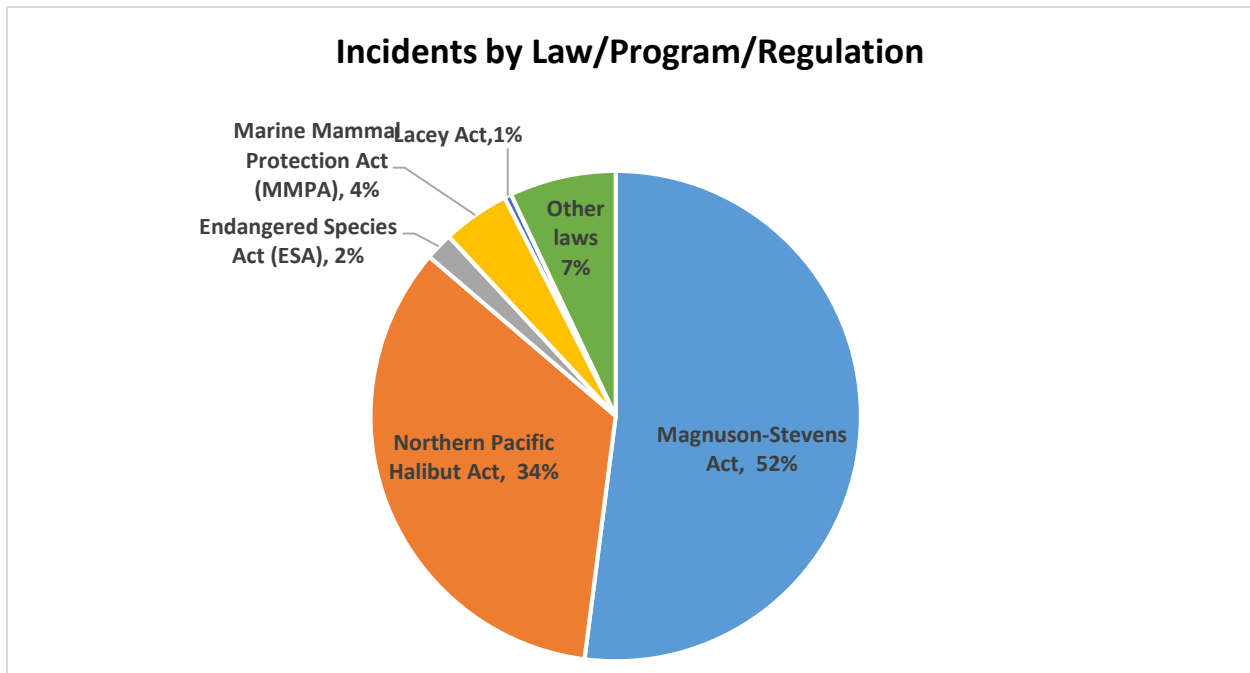


Figure 4.2 – Incident dispositions for incidents created October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018

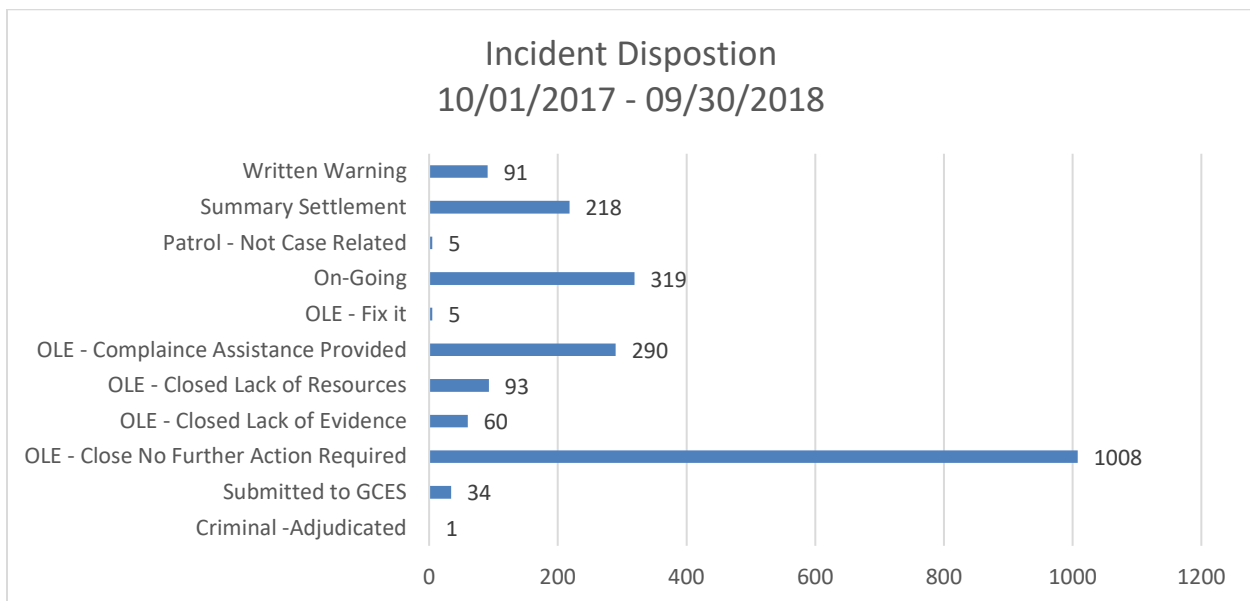
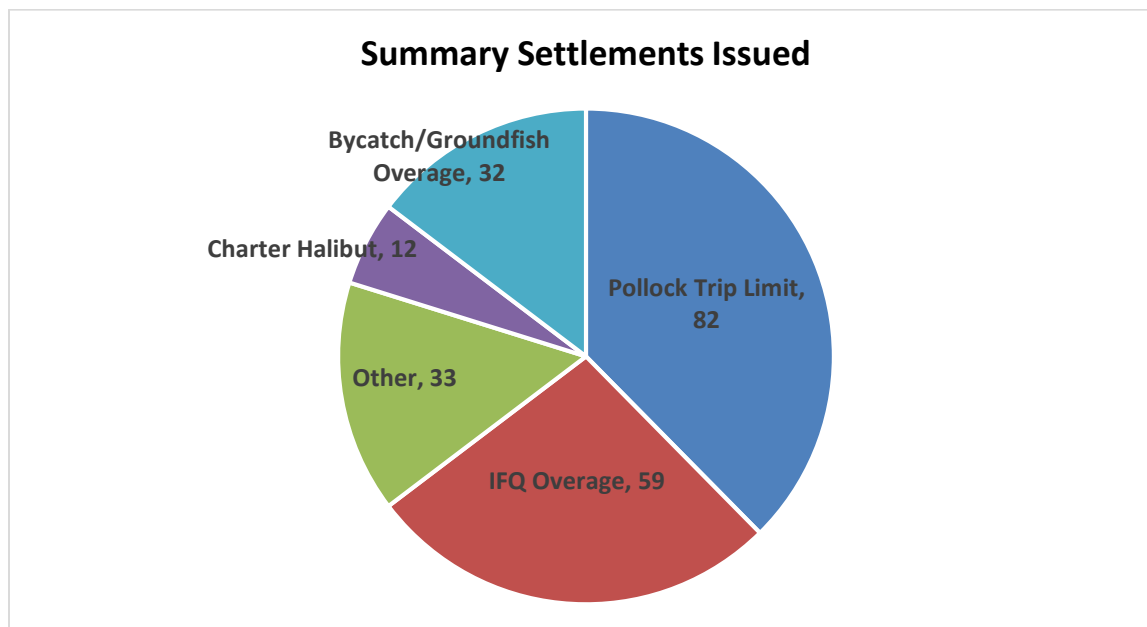


Figure 4.3 Summary Settlements Issued October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018



** Other includes invalid FFP, MMPA, observer trip logging, vessel safety, fishing gear, record keeping and reporting, sport halibut, and flow scale violations.*

5. Pollock Trip Overages

Over the previous six years, OLE observed an upward trend in Gulf of Alaska 300,000 pound, pollock trip-limit overages. (Figure 5.1) In 2018 following enforcement and outreach efforts, pollock trip overages fell from 1:10 to 1:20 deliveries (Table 5.1). In 2017, 23 vessels landed between 4 and 15 overages. In 2018, most vessels (30) landed none or very few overages (0 – 2) and six vessels landed between 4 - 7 overages.

In 2018, AKD provided outreach on pollock trip-limit overages to the GOA trawl sector during industry meetings, at community events, and through coordinated emails. AKD issued summary settlements under the Alaska Summary Settlement Penalty Schedule and several cases are being prepared for submission to NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Section for review and disposition.

Figure 5.1 Significant Pollock Trip-Limit Overages, 2012 to 2018

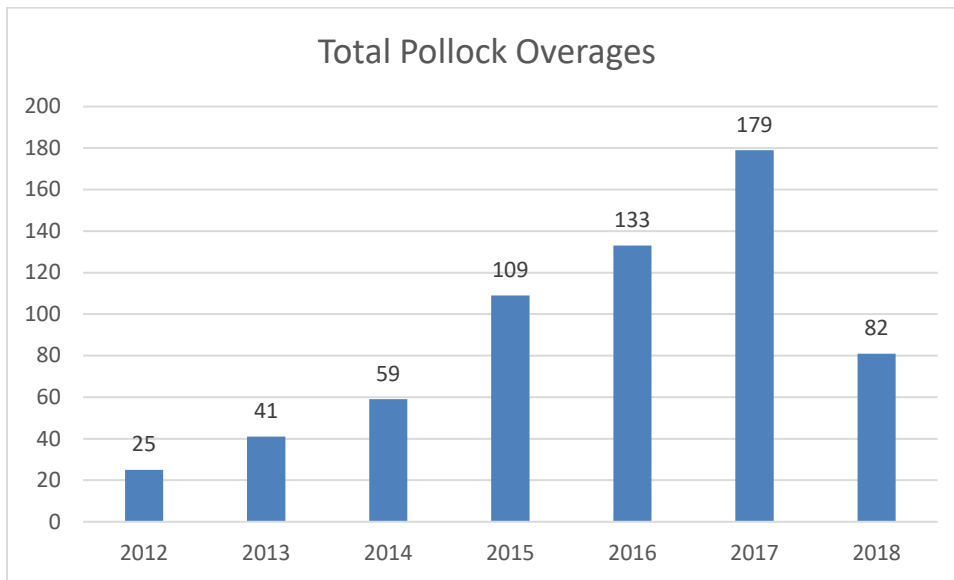


Table 5.1 Comparison of Total Pollock Trip-Limit Overages to Deliveries, 2012 to 2018

Year	Pollock TAC*	Overages	Deliveries	Overage: Delivery*
2012	102426	25	1300	1:52
2013	106887	41	1043	1:25
2014	157610	59	1592	1:27
2015	181807	109	1860	1:17
2016	238604	133	2129	1:16
2017	191183	179	1835	1:10
2018	157455	82	1623	1:20

*Weights in metric tons

6. Observer Program

The Magnuson-Stevens Act and implementing regulations identify observer monitoring and compliance roles. Observers frequently communicate with vessel operators about potential violations and provide an opportunity for voluntary compliance. Strong rapport between observers and vessel crew can help to facilitate this relationship. Observers are not required to communicate potential violations to the vessel captain and likely will not if it could negatively affect their work environment or data.

Enforcement Partners in Alaska

AKD maintains a strong partnership with the Observer Program to protect observers and fisheries data used to manage marine resources. Reports of assault, sexual harassment, interference/sample bias, intimidation, coercion, hostile work environment, and observer safety are the highest OLE priorities.

The Coast Guard may assist AKD or the Observer Program to help evaluate safety concerns for vessels carrying observers or to assist with investigations at sea. In coordination with AKD and/or the Observer Program, the Coast Guard may attempt to locate a vessel and conduct a vessel safety boarding.

AKD and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers collaborate under a Joint Enforcement Agreement. Enforcement Officers and AWT frequently work together during investigations, patrols, and at-sea or dockside boardings to investigate violations. During patrols, officers are encouraged to interact with observers to build trust and to allow reporting opportunities. AKD also forwards some observer incidents to AWT for investigation. This relationship increases AKD's response to observer concerns and provides coverage in additional areas of the State.

AKD also collaborates with local law enforcement, such as the Unalaska Police Department (UPD). If an observer is involved in a situation falling under local authority, AKD may provide support to the observer and offer assistance to the local police department for the investigation.

Observer Program Support Highlights

Glacier Fish Company worked with AKD to advance observer work environments and compliance by developing strategies to improve crew-observer interactions, prevent violations, and encourage crew bystander intervention. Glacier Fish has demonstrated an understanding of the importance of observer safety and positive work environments for observers and their employees. AKD is seeking additional fishing industry partners to work with for improved compliance and prevention strategies.

Dutch Harbor Enforcement Officer, Sonya Jordan, demonstrates strong dedication to observer safety and well-being. EO Jordan has the specialized training and experience to handle observer victim cases. She has a strong working relationship with the Unalaska Police Department and with advocate organizations, including Unalaskans Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence. She has investigated and assisted with several cases involving observers.

Reports of Potential Violations

AKD provides a segment of training to observers annually and works closely with the Observer Program and observer providers to address incidents affecting observer safety, sampling, and work environments. Each observer statement received by AKD is evaluated and prioritized. In

addition to enforcement actions, AKD utilizes compliance data to track violation trends. Trend analysis helps to focus and prioritize AKD enforcement efforts.

To determine whether investigations are necessary, AKD investigative support staff, officers, and agents review all statements to identify violation(s) and determine the appropriate level of response. Officers address many first-time offenses or low-level infractions by compliance assistance or issuance of a warning and support staff refer serious violations to an agent, officer, or enforcement partner for investigation.

During 2018, AKD received 856 observer statements resulting in 269 new incidents. 180 incidents remain under investigation and 89 were completed resulting in 39 requiring no further action (many resolved by the observer and operator); 15 compliance assistance; 4 written warning; 9 lack of evidence; 5 unfounded (investigation found no violation); 15 no violation (no violation alleged); 1 summary settlement; and 1 forwarded for prosecution.

Additionally, 45 of 856 new observer statements were added to 2017 ongoing investigations resulting in 2 no further action; 10 compliance assistance; 6 summary settlement; and 27 ongoing investigations. Table 6.1 summarizes statements by partial and full coverage categories.

For compliance rates, AKD considers the number of observer deployment days in each coverage sector. Table 6.2 summarizes the total observer deployment days by sector.

Table 6.1 Observer Program statements received by coverage sector and subject, 2016 - 2018.

STATEMENT TYPE	FULL COVERAGE			PARTIAL COVERAGE			TOTAL		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
OLE PRIORITY									
Harassment - Sexual	12	5	8	2	1	3	14	6	11
Harassment-Assault	0	1	3	1	0	0	1	1	3
Interference/Sample Biasing	30	28	14	12	1	2	42	29	16
Intimidation, coercion, hostile work environment	41	23	26	11	2	2	52	25	28
Disruptive/Bothersome Behavior - Conflict Resolved	31	19	22	8	1	1	39	20	23
Safety-NMFS	44	26	51	12	3	12	56	29	63
Total OLE Priority	158	102	124	46	8	20	204	110	144

STATEMENT TYPE	FULL COVERAGE			PARTIAL COVERAGE			TOTAL		
	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018	2016	2017	2018
LIMITED ACCESS PROGRAMS									
AFA	21	20	28	N/A	N/A	N/A	21	20	28
Amendment 80	67	62	63	N/A	N/A	N/A	67	62	63
Catcher Processer Longline	47	22	17	N/A	N/A	N/A	47	22	17
Rockfish Program	3	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	1
IFQ Retention	6	1	2	31	16	10	37	17	12
Total Limited Access Programs	144	106	111	31	16	10	175	122	121
PROTECTED RESOURCES & PROHIBITED SPECIES									
Gulf of Alaska Salmon	N/A	N/A	N/A	46	36	26	46	36	26
Amendment 91 salmon	100	72	70	N/A	N/A	N/A	100	72	70
Prohibited Species	77	57	46	18	16	10	95	73	56
Marine Mammals	0	1	4	1	0	1	1	1	5
Seabird	13	2	1	22	15	7	35	17	8
Total Protected Resources & Prohib	190	132	121	87	67	44	277	199	165
ALL OTHER STATEMENT TYPES									
Contractor Problems	7	4	12	0	0	0	7	4	12
Failure to Notify	50	51	35	20	15	11	70	66	46
Inadequate Accommodations	11	4	9	2	1	1	13	5	10
IR/IU	19	34	39	41	17	16	60	51	55
Miscellaneous Violations	9	2	6	10	2	0	19	4	6
MS-CDQ	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Reasonable Assistance	31	27	37	19	9	18	50	36	55
Record Keeping and Reporting	156	90	151	327	179	83	483	269	234
Restricted Access	2	2	7	1	1	0	3	3	7
Observer Coverage (directly from Program)	N/A	N/A	N/A	89	238	80	89	238	80
All Other Statement Types	285	214	297	509	462	209	794	676	506
TOTAL STATEMENTS RECEIVED	777	554	653	673	553	283	1450	1107	936

Table 6.2 Observer deployment days by coverage sector, 2016 - 2018.

Deployment Days			
	2016	2017	2018*
PARTIAL COVERAGE	5966	3478	3441
FULL COVERAGE	39085	37586	34148
TOTAL	45051	41064	37589

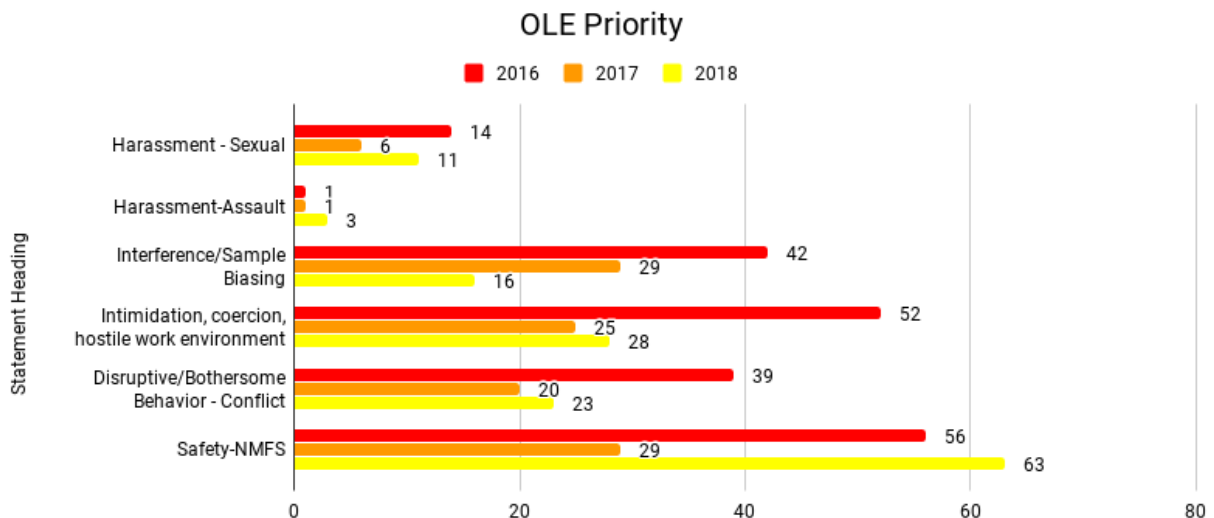
*As of 11/28/18

OLE Priority Cases

OLE’s highest priority cases involve offenses affecting observers and observer data. OLE received fewer statements of interference and sample bias in 2018. However, trends were flat or increasing in the areas of sexual harassment, intimidate/coerce/hostile environment, and safety (Figure 6.1). AKD received 11 sexual harassment statements; 8 under investigation, 2 witness reports, and one referred to Unalaska Police Department (UPD). AKD received 3 assault statements; 2 referred to UPD authority, and 1 witness account.

Observer safety statements more than doubled in 2018 (63) over 2017 (29). Observer safety statements break down as follows: 23 work area safety concerns, 4 drug and alcohol use, 3 failure to conduct a safety orientation, 7 crew sleeping during wheel watch or leaving a watch post for a short period, 7 watertight doors open during rough weather. The remaining statements included concerns about living area conditions; safety equipment; no tsunami warning; and single statements for flooding, smoke, embark/disembark safety, noise, and crew altercations.

Figure 6.1 - All OLE Priority statements 2016 - 2018.

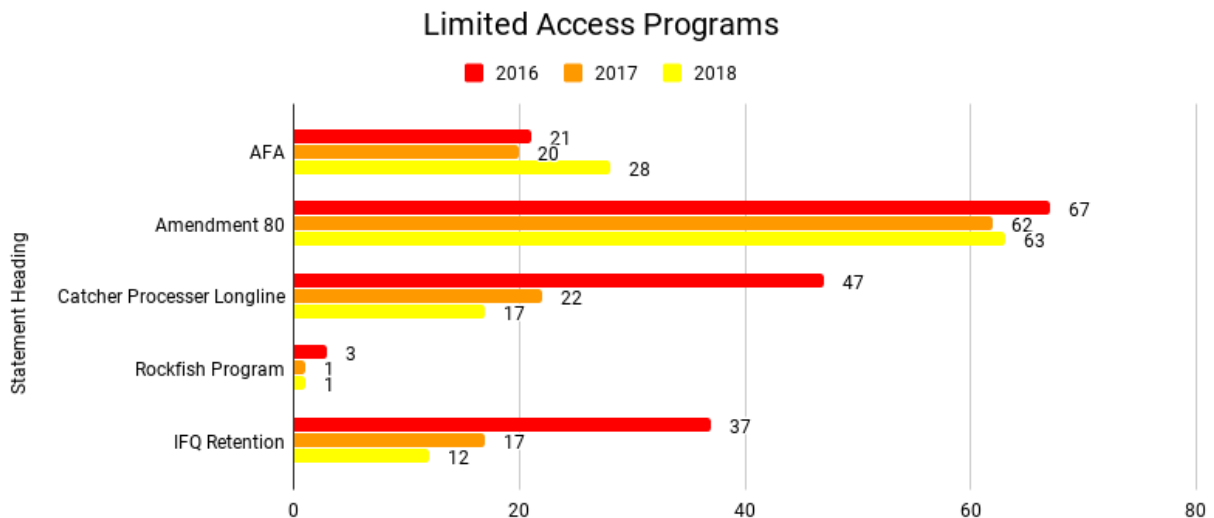


Limited Access Programs

There was a small decline in statements involving Limited Access fisheries coinciding with increased AKD outreach and compliance assistance efforts. Observers in the Amendment 80 fleet generate the most statements – 63 statements or roughly half of all (121) limited access statements.

AKD received 33 statements directly related to the Halibut Deck-Sorting EFP. Most statements involved halibut mishandling during deck-sort activities (14), running fish over the flow scale while the observer was conducting deck-sorting sampling duties on deck (10), exceeding the deck sorting time limit (4), observer deck safety (3), and sample bias (1). One statement involving coercion and hostile work environment is under investigation

Figure 6.2 Total Limited Access Program statements received in 2016 to 2018.



Protected Resources and Prohibited Species

Statements involving Protected and Prohibited Species decreased each year from 2016 to 2018, with the exception of marine mammal incidents. Marine mammal incidents included feeding or harassing marine mammals and biasing marine mammal observer samples.

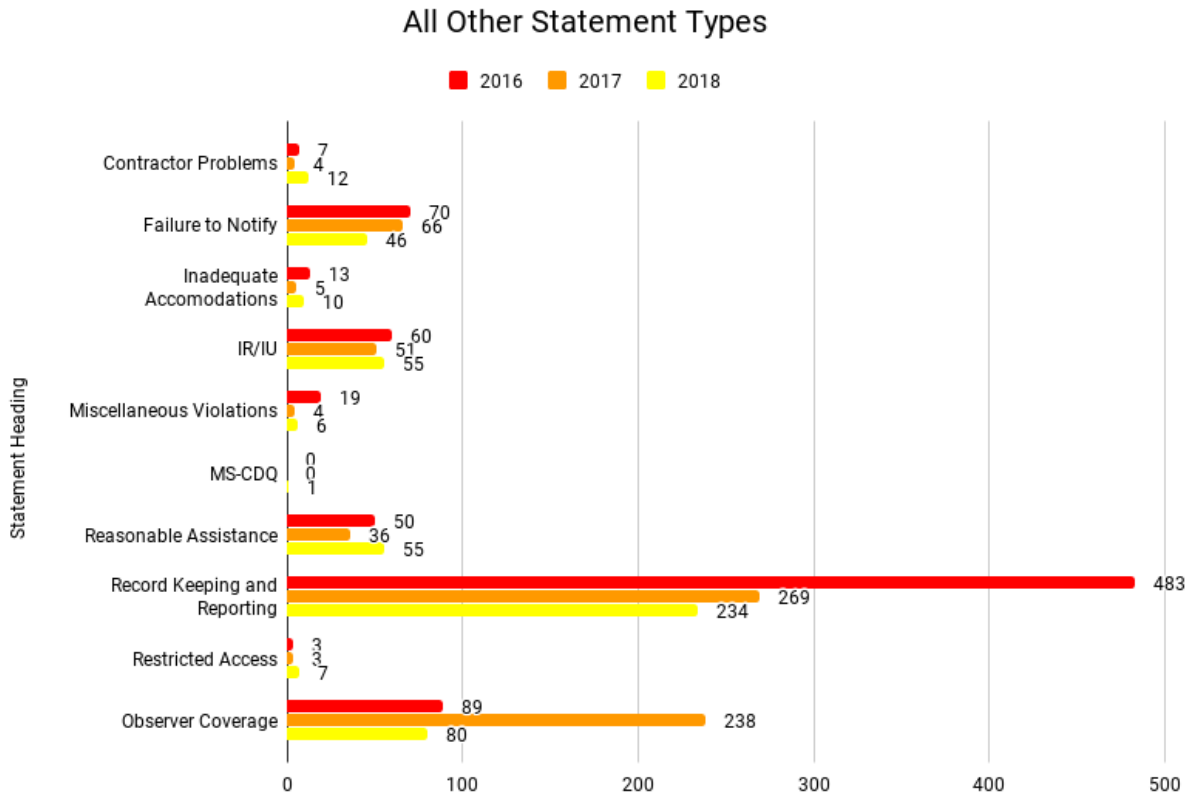
All Other Statement Types

AKD received fewer Other category statements in the partial coverage sector. The most significant drop involved observer coverage issues; 238 reports in 2017 and 80 in 2018. Record Keeping and Reporting issues also declined in the partial coverage sector.

In the full coverage sector, Failure to Provide Reasonable Assistance and Recordkeeping and Reporting concerns rose despite AKD outreach conducted in 2017. Contractor Problem

statements also rose from the full coverage sector and most frequently referenced observers deployed over 90 days in a single contract.

Figure 6.3 Total All Other Statement Types received from 2016 to 2018.



7. Comparative Analysis of Observer Safety and Harassment - Anonymous Survey Results

OLE conducted an anonymous survey of all observers who deployed in the North Pacific Observer Program (NPOP) in 2016 and 2017. The survey sought to quantify how many observers experienced or reported 20 types of safety and harassment incidents. The survey also sought to identify barriers that influence the decision whether to report a victim crime. Survey results will help OLE to improve observer trust and rapport, training, and response. Improved rapport and communication will reduce barriers to disclosure and increase observer confidence in support from OLE.

OLE sent an email with a link to the anonymous survey to all North Pacific observers who deployed in 2016 and 2017. The survey was open for four months to provide an opportunity for deployed observers to take the survey before or after a 90-day assignment. For each of the four population groups, Female 2016, Female 2017, Male 2016, and Male 2017, there was approximately a 25% response rate (Table 7.1).

The survey consisted of 20 questions about observer safety, data, and work environments; and each question was associated with a database statement heading. When applying the lower level of margin of error, five questions in particular were of significant importance to females (Table 7.2) and one to males (Table 7.3).

For female observers, Question 8 involved verbal harassment, with about half of female observers experiencing this behavior in 2016 and approximately 40% experiencing it in 2017. The majority did not report the experience in either year. Question 9 involved verbal sexual harassment with 55% of females experiencing it in 2016 and 45% in 2017. Again, the majority of observers did not report these experiences in either year. Question 13 involved sample interference. Both female and male observers reported interference concerns.

Question 16 involved crew behavior impact on individual observers. In 2016, 42% of female observers found it necessary to change their behavior or work schedule in response to someone else, with the majority not reporting. In 2017, this number decreased to 21%, with the majority reporting. Question 20 involved general safety; female observers in both years reported safety concerns to NMFS/OLE.

Survey participants could choose from a list of common reasons they decided not to report a violation (Table 7.4 Barriers to Disclosure). Many observers reported they did not think the issue was a big deal or they minimized the impact of the concern at the time. It is common for victims to report after time has passed to process the crime and negative impacts.

Table 7.1 Response rate of Anonymous Survey results.

	2016	2017	2016	2017
	FEMALE	FEMALE	MALE	MALE
Responses	50	47	60	54
Population size	193	162	241	217

Table 7.2 Significant Questions from Anonymous Survey - Female respondents. *Values in bold discussed above. The Margin of error when the lower level of the range is applied = 11.96% in 2016, 12.08% in 2017.*

Statement Heading	Question in Anonymous Survey	2016			2017		
		FEMALE			FEMALE		
		Y, R*	Y, U*	No	Y, R*	Y, U*	No
Intimidation, Coercion, Hostile Work Environment	8. At any time while on contract, did anyone ever make offensive comments regarding your age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or race/ethnicity?	6%	44%	50%	9%	30%	62%
Harassment - Sexual	9. At any time while on contract, did anyone ever make unwelcome or unwanted comments of a sexual nature towards you?	16%	40%	44%	6%	38%	55%
Interference/ Sample Bias	13. At any time while on contract, did anyone ever interfere with or bias your sampling procedure, including physical, mechanical, or other sorting or discarding of catch before sampling?	18%	2%	80%	11%	0%	89%
Intimidation, Coercion, Hostile Work Environment	16. At any time while on contract, did anyone's behavior or actions toward you cause you to change your own behavior or work schedule?	18%	24%	58%	13%	9%	79%
NMFS - Safety	20. At any time while on contract, were there unsafe conditions onboard the vessel/at the processor?	16%	6%	78%	21%	2%	77%
CONFIDENCE LEVEL		Confidence 95%.			Confidence 95%.		

**Y, R - Yes, reported to NMFS/OLE, Y, U - Yes, unreported to NMFS/OLE*

Table 7.3 Significant Question from Anonymous Survey - Male respondents. *Values in bold discussed above. The Margin of error when the lower level of the range is applied = 11.96% in 2016, 12.08% in 2017.*

Statement Heading	Questions asked in Anonymous Survey	2016			2017		
		MALE			MALE		
		Y, R*	Y, U*	No	Y, R*	Y, U*	No
Interference/ Sample Bias	13. At any time while on contract, did anyone ever interfere with or bias your sampling procedure, including physical, mechanical, or other sorting or discarding of catch before sampling?	13%	0%	87%	15%	2%	83%
CONFIDENCE LEVEL		Confidence 95%.			Confidence 95%.		

**Y, R - Yes, reported to NMFS/OLE, Y, U - Yes, unreported to NMFS/OLE*

Table 7.4 Common Barriers to Disclosure selected as reasons for not reporting

Common Barriers to Disclosure	2016	2017
I couldn't remember all the details	6	4
I didn't think it was that big a deal	28	18
I didn't want everyone to know what happened to me	5	4
I didn't want someone getting me back for reporting	10	8
I didn't want to get anyone in trouble	14	11
I don't trust NMFS, OLE, my provider, etc.	11	8
I don't want to go to court	8	2
I felt some guilt about what happened	8	1
I thought it was too late to report	5	3
I was afraid I'd lose my job	3	4
Nothing will be done about it anyway	21	15