
B8 NPFMC OLE REPORT

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OPERATIONS – JEA PATROL P/V STIMSON

- Participants – OLE, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
- Western GOA and Bering Sea
- 19-day patrol: 26 Commercial Fishing Vessels boarded; 3 processor inspections.
- 57 investigations:
 - 13 Summary Settlement Offers
 - 3 incidents referred to GCES.



OPERATIONS – OBSERVER A SEASON OP

Dutch Harbor Observer Operation

- 47 investigations (from 170 observer statements)
 - 12 investigations ongoing
 - 35 resolved during the operation
 - 32 Compliance Assistance
 - 3 unfounded or lack of evidence



OPERATIONS – NONPELAGIC TRAWL

- Surveillance, Boardings, and Investigations
 - Alaska Wildlife Troopers
 - USCG
- Vessels Fishing in Non-Pelagic Trawl restricted areas:
 - BS Red King Crab Savings Areas
 - Middleton Island GOA Slope HCA
 - Kodiak Type I, Type II
 - Marmot Bay Tanner Crab Protection Area
 - Stellar Sea Lion Protection Areas



OPERATIONS - NONPELAGIC TRAWL

RESULTS (THROUGH MID-APRIL)

- **OLE reviewed 802 trips** in waters that prohibit use or possession of NPT gear
 - **702** in RKCSA
 - **100** in GOA (40 Type I/II; 24 Marmot; 36 GOA Slope HCA)
- **12 vessels with metallic components** other than connectors aft of fishing circle and forward of mesh >5.5”
- Most vessels possessed floatation in excess of buoyancy for net sounders (200lbs)
- **39 investigations**
 - **32** in the Red King Crab Savings Area (RKCSA)
 - 5 fully compliant; 26 no action ; 1 review for referral to GCES
 - **7** in GOA (Slope Habitat Conservation Area)
 - 5 no action; 1 Summary Settlement; 1 referred to GCES



OPERATIONS - NONPELAGIC TRAWL: TRAWL GEAR PERFORMANCE STANDARD

- OLE monitoring requires significant at sea EffSort, Cost, and Intrusion into operations
- Observer statements – Source of all complaints
 - 51 reported occurrences 2009-2015
 - 80% were crab reported in the nets forward of the codend (outside observer sample population)
 - 28 OLE investigations - 2 written warnings



OPERATIONS - NONPELAGIC TRAWL: TRAWL GEAR PERFORMANCE STANDARD

Observer challenges:

- Dangers on deck
- Prioritization of duties
- Crab collections disruptive to haulback
- Limited access or view of nets during haulback
- Fragmented crab (uncounted)
- Outside sample population
- Vessels required to discard PSC crab “immediately and with a minimum of injury”



OPERATIONS - NONPELAGIC TRAWL : NOTES

- Codends are regulated within the trawl definitions. However, the intent to regulate them is unclear (Section 4 of the BBRKC analysis)
- The salmon excluder floats exemption applies only to Incentive Plan Agreement member vessels in the BSAI
- OLE lacks an effective way to enforce -
 - Trawl Gear Performance Standard
 - GOA 10% pelagic trawl gear bottom contact limit in nonpelagic trawl gear closed areas



NOAA published NOTICE ON PREVENTING OBSERVER HARASSMENT as a reminder to vessel owners and operators about their responsibilities in ensuring a safe work environment for observers.

<https://media.fisheries.noaa.gov/2023-04/Notice-on-Preventing-Observer-Harassment.pdf>

REWARD AVAILABLE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT SHOOTING OF STELLER SEA LIONS IN CORDOVA

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/reward-available-information-about-shooting-steller-sea-lions-cordova>



QUESTIONS?

