



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NOAA Office of Enforcement
Pacific Islands Enforcement Division
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

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159 CM

March 10, 2014

TO: Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WPFMC)
FROM: William Pickering - Special Agent in Charge, Pacific Islands Division
SUBJECT: NOAA OLE Report for the 159th WPFMC Meeting

Enforcement Activities

During this period 37 incidents were reported to the Pacific Islands Division (PID). These incidents were categorized as: 16-Protected Resources; 13-Fisheries Management; and 9-Sanctuary.

INVESTIGATIONS

F/V Sapphire III – This investigation was initiated in regards to a Hawaii based longline vessel incursion into the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Contact was made with the vessel's captain and he was instructed to exit the Monument without delay. The following day the same vessel again engaged in what appeared to be fishing activity within the Monument. The owner of the vessel was subsequently contacted and advised that the vessel's voyage was being terminated. A NOVA totaling \$59,616.48 was subsequently issued.

F/V Princess Jasmine - This investigation was initiated in regards to a Hawaii based longline vessel incursion into the Main Hawaiian Islands Closed Longline Area (MHI). The vessel is alleged to have conducted one (1) fishing set in the MHI. The investigation is complete and is being forwarded to GCES for prosecution.

A PID Special Agent continues to work with Maui DOCARE Officers on an investigation into a Green Sea Turtle take after a citizen found the animal slaughtered at Ma'ālaea Beach on the Island of Maui. The turtle appeared to have some type of wound on its head and the meat was gutted and removed.

The U.S. Attorney's Office declined to prosecute a recreational fishing vessel operator for allegedly shooting at dolphins. The U.S. Attorney Office as well as GCES expressed concerns about the age of the primary witness - a young child.

PATROLS / MONITORING / INSPECTIONS

PID Special Agents and Enforcement Officers conducted vessel patrols with the NOAA-OLE Safe boat in the waters surrounding the Islands of Oahu and Maui as part of the seasonal Humpback Whale enforcement program. These at sea patrols resulted in the several interactions



with dolphin, and whale watching tour operators regarding approach regulations for Humpback Whales.

VMS

PID greatly appreciates the Council's lead role in the ongoing "Hawaii Longline Electronic Reporting Project," and our VMS staff continues to work with the Council, the Science Center, and the Observer Program in this mutually beneficial endeavor.

PID's VMS team has moved, along with the rest of our staff, to NOAA's new office on Ford Island/IRC. The new facility was designed with special conduit between OLE's office space and the roof-top "antenna farm," and we are in the process of installing a new VMS system that will for the first time enable us to bench test new software on VMS units and the newly approved tablet interface.