TO: Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (WPFMC)
FROM: Elizabeth O’Sullivan, Enforcement Attorney/Pacific Islands

SUBJECT: NOAA OGC Enforcement Section Report for the 181st WPFMC Meeting

NOAA OGC Enforcement Section information is readily available on our website. The Enforcement Section website found at http://www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office.html contains links to the Agency’s penalty policy, procedural regulations, enforcement charging information – including cases charged and settled, and Administrative Law Judge opinions. The council, and any interested members of the public, are invited to make use of this resource.

Cases referred from law enforcement. The Enforcement Section currently has ten cases from the Pacific Islands Region under review for consideration of a civil penalty.

Cases charged. The Enforcement Section is currently prosecuting two cases from the Pacific Islands Region:

PI1806581; OCEAN CONQUEST – Respondents were charged with one count of observer interference in violation of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act. Respondents were assessed a civil penalty of $34,000.

PI1806013; OCEAN GALAXY – Respondents were charged with failure to release silky sharks under the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Convention Implementation Act. Respondents were assessed a civil penalty of $119,000.

Cases resolved. The Enforcement Section resolved three Pacific Islands Region cases since the last report:

PI1806583; Ocean Kaimamala – Respondents were charged with fishing in the
Southern Exclusion Zone after its closure in violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Respondents have paid a compromise civil penalty of $2,250.

PI1900139; Jake Koehler – Respondent was charged with one count of taking an endangered Hawaiian monk seal by harassing it while it was sheltering, in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Respondent has paid a total civil penalty of $4,000.

PI1706191; TRIPLE DRAGON – Respondents were charged with one count of fishing without a valid license in violation of the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act. Respondents admitted liability and agreed to pay a compromise civil penalty of $1,350.