



June 18, 2014

TO: Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WPFMC)
FROM: William Pickering - Special Agent in Charge, Pacific Islands Division
SUBJECT: NOAA OLE Report for the 160th WPFMC Meeting

Enforcement Activities

During this period 60 incidents were reported to the Pacific Islands Division (PID). These incidents were categorized as: 34-Protected Resources; 23-Fisheries Management; and 3-Sanctuary.

INVESTIGATIONS

A military contractor initially charged with Smuggling and Endangered Species Act (Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [CITES]) violations pleaded guilty to Count #2 (ESA violation) of the federal indictment during a change of plea hearing in U.S. District Court - District of Hawaii.

The aforementioned case involves the alleged removal of numerous corals and giant clam species from the Republic of Marshall Island's waters and importing said items into Hawaii. All the species were listed in Appendix II of CITES. NOAA's Pacific Islands Regional Office - Habitat Conservation Division provided assistance in identifying the aforementioned items. This case was investigated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NOAA-OLE, Homeland Security Investigations, and Customs Border Protection. Sentencing is scheduled for June 26, 2014.

PATROLS / MONITORING / INSPECTIONS

An OLE Enforcement Officer conducted coordinated dockside inspections of four (4) foreign flagged longline fishing vessels with JEA partner DMWR Conservation Officers in American Samoa. The vessels inspected included DONG YU #1509, CHONG MYONG #705, CHARNG SHING YUAN #168 and HUA NAN YU #711. No violations were found.

An OLE Enforcement Officer conducted an aerial fisheries patrol onboard a USCG C-130 of the Rose Atoll and the Southern Boundaries of American Samoa. No violations were detected.

OLE Enforcement Officer went to sea onboard the USCGC Munro for a multi-day patrol, where during said patrol two (2) Hawaii longline fishing vessels were boarded and inspected for compliance. No violations were found.

