



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
NOAA Office of Enforcement  
*Pacific Islands Enforcement Division*  
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February 28, 2015

**TO:** Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council (WPFMC)

**FROM:** William Pickering – Assistant Director, Pacific Islands Division

**SUBJECT:** NOAA OLE Report for the 162<sup>nd</sup> WPFMC Meeting

Enforcement Activities

During this period, 66 incidents were reported to the Pacific Islands Division (PID). The 66 incidents were categorized as: 26-Protected Resources; and 40-Fisheries Management.

INVESTIGATIONS

A PID Special Agent completed an investigation involving alleged sexual harassment against a fishery observer aboard a long line fishing vessel. The case has been forwarded to GCES for review and prosecution.

An investigation was conducted relating to a Hawaii long line fishing vessel where the owner/operator failed to submit the logbooks within 72 hours. A \$500 Summary Settlement was issued.

An investigation was conducted relating to a Hawaii long line fishing vessel where the owner failed to have a valid WCPFC permit and a valid High Seas fishing permit while fishing on the high seas as well as an expired HLLC valid permit. A \$3,000.00 Summary Settlement was issued and has been paid.

An investigation was conducted relating to a Hawaii long line fishing vessel where the owner/operator failed to submit the logbooks within 72 hours. A \$500.00 Summary Settlement was issued and paid.

A PID Special Agent completed an investigation involving a U.S. flagged purse seine vessel for knowingly setting on tuna schools associated with one or more live whales in violation of the MMPA. Case package referred to GCEL for prosecution.

The PID Special Agent on Guam participated in the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) Monitor, Control and Surveillance (MCS) operation Kuri Kuri where he boarded all foreign fishing



vessels arriving on Guam during the period of the operation and forwarded the boarding results to the FFA.

A PID Special Agent issued a \$100.00 Summary Settlement to a recreational vessel operator and passenger for harassing dolphins off of the Big Island of Hawaii.

### PATROLS / MONITORING / INSPECTIONS

Two (2) PID Special Agents traveled to Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands to conduct fishery enforcement and IUU detection training with the Marshal Islands Marine Resources Authority and inspection boarding's of U.S. purse seine vessels offloading in the port of Majuro. The U.S. Ambassador to the Marshall Islands, the Honorable Thomas H. Armbruster, accompanied PID Special Agents on one (1) of the boarding's conducted.

Two (2) PID Special Agents traveled to Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to conduct fishery enforcement and IUU detection training for FSM's National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA), and their National Police Marine Wing. In addition the PID Special Agents conducted a boarding/inspection of a U.S. purse seiner and interviewed its captain while the vessel offloaded in the port of Pohnpei. The National Police Marine Wing and NORMA assisted with this boarding which complemented the training that they had just received from NOAA PID Agents.

During the above operation in FSM the two (2) PID Special Agents met with the Honorable Doria Rosen, U.S. Ambassador to the Federated States of Micronesia and U.S. Consular Officer William Cook where they briefed the Ambassador on OLE's fishery enforcement activities in the Pacific. They also met with NORMA Deputy Director Eugene Pangelinan to discuss mutual cooperation between NORMA and OLE regarding various foreign vessels that fish in FSM water and subsequently land their catch in Guam.

The PID Safe Boat while underway off the Island of Oahu received a Mayday distress call from a 95 ft. commercial tugboat taking on water two (2) miles offshore. The PID patrol boat responded to the distress call and rescued nine (9) exhausted oil covered seamen from the water/debris field, as the tugboat had already sank by the time the PID boat arrived on scene. Once the situation was secure a USCG medium response boat arrived and the rescued seamen were transferred to the USCG patrol boat.

PID Special Agents and Officers continue to carry out Humpback Whale enforcement operations on the Islands of Maui, Oahu, Kauai, and the Big Island, conducting both land and sea patrols on PID's 33' Patrol Boat; and continuous outreach to the public on the regulations protecting Humpback Whales.

A PID Enforcement Officer worked with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Coast Guard, and Honolulu Harbor Police in conducting boarding's of twenty-nine (29) fishing vessels along Pier 17 and Pier 38 in Honolulu Harbor. During these boarding's CBP inspected

documented/non-documented crewmembers, the U.S. Coast Guard inspected vessel safety equipment, and OLE examined the vessels' permits, placards, and hook sizes. No OLE violations were found.

### VMS

PID took delivery of all (140) required new CLS America "LEO" VMS units that will replace every Hawaii longline vessels' VMS unit over the remainder of this fiscal year. PID awaits the delivery of VMS units (already purchased to do the same in American Samoa as "Phase II." PID's role has been to assist with VMS technical advice, logistical coordination, and coordinate/facilitate communication between the key stakeholders (vendors, Council, Science Center, Observer Program, the Hawaii Longline Association and vessel owners/operators).