



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

*Pacific Islands Division*

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163 CM

June 8, 2015

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

**FROM:** William Pickering – Assistant Director

**SUBJECT:** NOAA OLE Report for the 163<sup>rd</sup> WPFMC Meeting

Enforcement Activities

During this period, 87 incidents were reported to the Pacific Islands Division (PID). The 87 incidents were categorized as: 45-Protected Resources; 7-Marine Sanctuaries Act; and 35-Fisheries Management.

INVESTIGATIONS

A PID Special Agent has an ongoing investigation involving the death of a Hawaiian baby Monk Seal on the Island of Kauai that apparently had been killed by dog bites. This recent case is being worked jointly with Hawaii DOCARE on Kauai and with the assistance from NOAA's Office of Protected Resources. Currently, the Special Agent has been gathering records of statements and necropsy findings related to the attack, and continuing to coordinate this inquiry with DOCARE.

A PID Special Agent is conducting an investigation which involves a U.S. flagged fishing vessel operating in Forum Fisheries Agency waters under the South Pacific Tuna Treaty. This investigation was initiated based on allegations that the vessel violated the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Implementation Act, i.e. setting FADS during the WCPFC FAD closure period. The primary witness in this case is located in the Solomon Islands and recently provided a written statement regarding the alleged violations.

At the request of the Sea Turtle Recovery Program, a PID Special Agent conducted outreach to numerous charter vessel, kayak, dive and snorkel operators at Kealahou and Napo'opo'o Bay on the Big Island of Hawaii after reports were received that unknown operators were allegedly telling visitors that it was okay to feed the Green Sea Turtles. The Special Agent also met with members of the public the Big Island and explained to them the ESA viewing rules and regulations.



## VMS

PID greatly appreciates the Council's role in the ongoing "Hawaii Longline Electronic Reporting Project." Our VMS staff continues to work with the fishing vessel owners, the Council, the Science Center, the Observer Program, vendors and others in this ambitious mutually beneficial endeavor. PID/OLE has already installed over 100 new VMS units on Hawaii longline vessels during the last few months and is working to complete the remaining vessel installations as quickly as possible. We are also pleased to report that OLE purchased and shipped 24 new VMS units of the same type to American Samoa regarding the Electronic Reporting project. By the time this Council meeting takes place, said installations in American Samoa should be well underway.