



GCES Report to Western Pacific Fishery Management Council  
for its 206<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii  
March 24, 2026

The website for NOAA's Office of General Counsel/Enforcement Section (GCES) publishes case information on charging and resolution of cases monthly under the tab "Charging Information." See <https://www.noaa.gov/general-counsel/gc-enforcement-section/enforcement-charging-information>.

Since the last council meeting, activity has occurred in the following NOAA enforcement cases:

- (1) **PI2313975**; Zhoushan Wanxin Ocean Fisheries Co Ltd., was cited under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failure to properly stow gear and unpermitted fishing activities by the F/V NING TAI 51 while the vessel was inside the U.S. EEZ near Johnston Atoll. Further prosecution was declined by GCES after China reported that it imposed a domestic penalty of approximately \$390,000 USD for the violations.

This case is now closed.

- (2) **PI2550703**; Crewman Cong Thuan Huynh was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with assaulting or interfering with a NMFS-approved observer or harassing or sexually harassing an authorized observer, while onboard the F/V AZURE. A \$9,500.00 Notice of Violation and Assessment of civil monetary penalty (NOVA) was issued.

The NOVA was served on March 4, 2026; the matter is on-going.

- (3) **PI2407705**; Pavlo Filatov was charged under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) with one count violating the special restrictions for Hawaiian spinner dolphins and one count of assaulting an authorized officer or impeding an investigation. A \$34,499.00 NOVA was issued.

The parties participated in court-ordered mediation, but we were unable to resolve the matter, and the presiding EPA Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) terminated the process in February. We anticipate a new scheduling order by the ALJ setting this matter for evidentiary hearing in 2026.

Other updates will be provided during spoken remarks during the meeting.

