Merger

Staffing

Enforcement Priorities

General Counsel Enforcement Section
Merger of the Northwest and Southwest Divisions commenced in June 2014

- Formalized with implementation of the FY2015 Budget October 1, 2014
- Acting Northwest Division Senior Agent In Charge (SAC) William Giles named Assistant Director for the West Coast Division.
- Acting Southwest Division SAC Martina Sagapolu named Deputy Agent in Charge (DSAC) for the West Coast Division.
West Coast Division - Area Of Responsibility

- **Primary**: California, Oregon, & Washington
- **Secondary**: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming

- 1,293 Miles of Coast Line and 7,863 Miles of Tidal Shorelines
- 339,275 Square Miles Of Land
- 222,471 Square Nautical Miles
- Five National Marine Sanctuaries
- 36 Major International Airports
- 21 Major International Seaports
- U.S. – Canada Border 427 Miles + 900 Miles
- U.S. – Mexico Border 140 Miles + 372 Miles
ADVANTAGES TO MERGING

- Consistent West Coast Enforcement Policies
  - Need for consistency was first recognized in 1998 in response to the multiple ESA listings of Salmon coast wide.
    - West Coast Enforcement Coordinator Position
      - PFMC Representation
      - Sanctuary SAC Representation
      - USCG Training
ADVANTAGES OF MERGING

- One West Coast Fisheries Council Pacific Fisheries Management Council

- In Common Fisheries Management Plans:
  - Salmon / ESA
  - Groundfish (87 species, most range coast wide)
  - Trawl Rationalization / LEP Fixed Gear LEP are coast wide programs
  - Highly Migratory Species
    - Swordfish and Bluefin tuna are only species in the complex that are unique to California
  - Coastal Pelagic Species
ADVANTAGES OF MERGING

- Other Management Efficiencies
  - IT
  - Budgeting
  - Training/Trainers
  - Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) Management
  - Consolidation of Offices
  - Reduction in Higher Management Positions
STAFFING CHANGES

- Changes were made to the Agent to Enforcement Officer Ratio

  Investigative Functions performed by a Criminal Investigator, the Special Agent.

  Patrol Functions performed by the Enforcement Officer.

- Patrol activity performed by OLE Officers, CDF&W Wardens, and USCG Boarding Officers who discover violations in progress, (citations issued) and forward intelligence to the Special Agents for follow-up of more complex suspicious activity and/or alleged violations.
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
West Coast Enforcement Division

Organization Structure:

- Current Staffing Model
- Current & Planned Staffing Model
NOAA Fisheries
Office of Law Enforcement
West Coast Division (Current)

Planning Document – February 5, 2015
NOAA Fisheries
Office of Law Enforcement
West Coast Division (Current & Planned)

Planning Document – February 5, 2015
2012 - 2017 Enforcement Priorities

Priority Definitions:

High Priority—Identifies areas of significant importance to NOAA, NMFS, OLE, stakeholders, and the public and require the utmost attention to ensure the sustainability of the identified resources or program.

Medium Priority—Identifies areas requiring continued attention by OLE to maintain the level of compliance desired to obtain maximum protection of the resource or program.

Low Priority—Designation under this category may illustrate that the program or area is receiving a high degree of compliance by industry and the public. Or perhaps the violations are minor or technical in nature and have little to no impact on the resource. Low priority should not be interpreted as “no priority” and this designation does not translate into selective enforcement or no enforcement.
Sanctuary Enforcement Priorities

Marine Sanctuaries Act

HIGH PRIORITY
• Discharges
  - Discharging or depositing any material injurious to sanctuary resources (e.g., pollution issues)
• Vessel groundings
  - Vessels or tows that become grounded within the boundaries of any marine sanctuary
• Vehicular operations
  - Unlawful operation of motorized personal watercraft, aircraft, etc.

MEDIUM PRIORITY
• Prohibited taking or possession
  - Unlawful removal or possession of historical artifacts, or protected marine resources, from within the sanctuary boundaries
• Restricted areas, Marine Protected Areas
  - Unlawful operation of a vessel in a closed area within any sanctuary boundary
General Counsel Enforcement Section

Web Site:  http://www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office.html

- Enforcement Decisions
- Enforcement Charging Information
- Penalty Policy and Schedule including Summary
  Settlement Schedule (SS)
Contact Information

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