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Tab R, No. 3

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

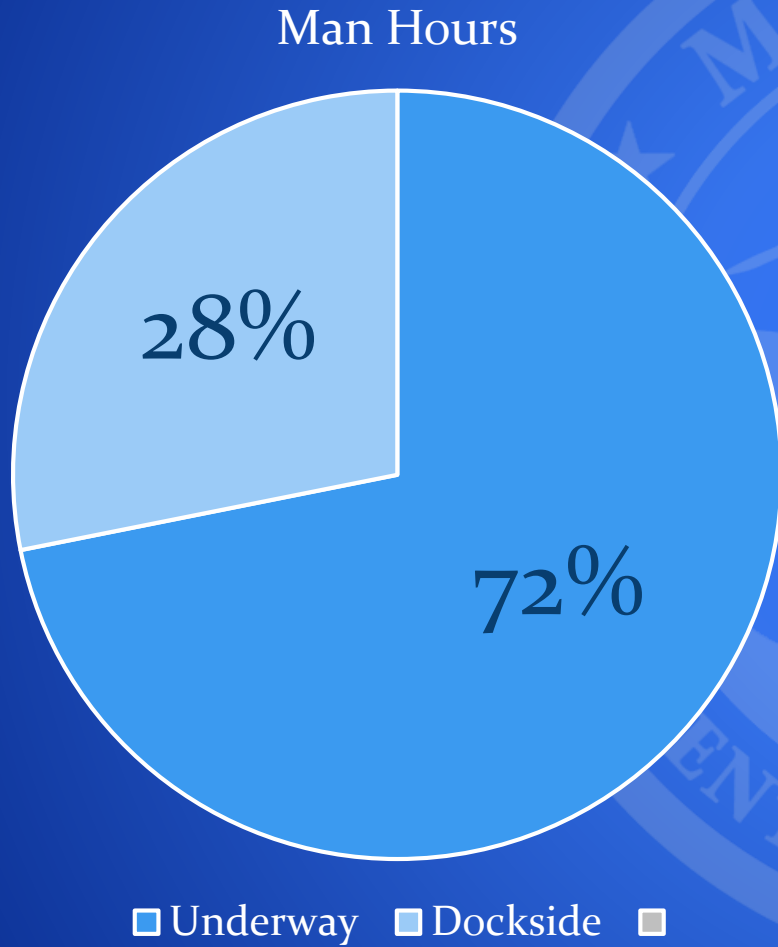
JEA 2020 Updates

May 2019 to Present

Senior Master Sergeant Patrick Carron



Enforcement Effort



- MDMR Officers conducted patrols of state and federal waters consisting of 4,204 man hours and 1,399 vessel hours
- While engaged in enforcement patrols, MDMR contacted 1,427 stake holders

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Enforcement Priority Summaries

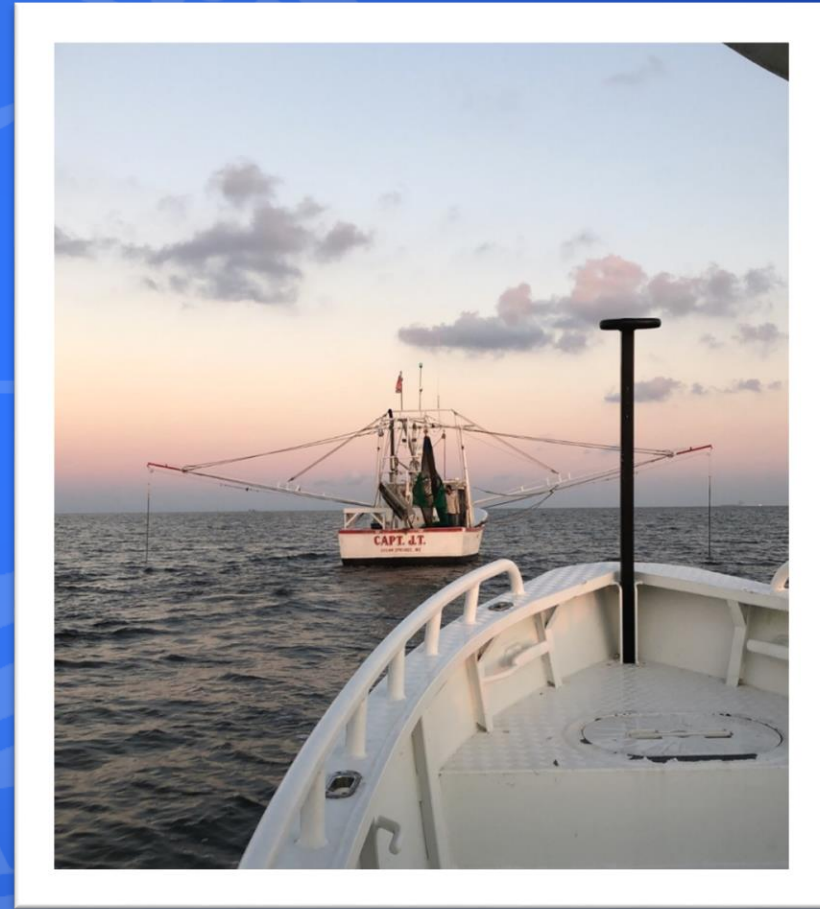


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TED Enforcement

- 148 Commercial Contacts,
15 Recreational Contacts
- 59 Commercial Vessels,
3 Recreational Vessels
- 12 Enforcement Actions
- Observed Compliance: 93%



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Reef Fish Enforcement



- 598 Recreational Contacts, 17 Commercial Contacts
- 157 Recreational Vessels, 2 Commercial Vessels
- 8 Enforcement Actions
- Observed Compliance: 99%

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IFQ Landing Enforcement

- 155 Commercial Contacts
- 64 Commercial Vessels,
 - o Recreational Vessels
- o Enforcement Actions
- Observed Compliance: 100%



IUU/Lacey Act Enforcement



- 45 Commercial Contacts,
0 Recreational Contacts
- 9 Commercial Vessels,
0 Recreational Vessels
- 2 Enforcement Actions
- 96% Observed Compliance

HMS and General Enforcement

- 245 Recreational Contacts, 151 Commercial Contacts
- 81 Recreational Vessels, 70 Commercial Vessels
- 19 Enforcement Actions
- Observed Compliance: 95%



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Notable Cases

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Southern District of Mississippi

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Gulf Coast Business Owner Pleads Guilty To Illegal Interstate Seafood Conspiracy

Gulfport, Miss. - Khiem Dinh Vh, 56, of D'Iberville, Mississippi, an unlicensed wholesale seafood dealer who operated a business known as "Gulf Coast Seafood" in Jackson County, pled guilty today before U.S. District Judge Sul Ozerden to conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act, which makes it unlawful to sell in interstate commerce any fish taken in violation of state law, announced U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst, Deputy Special Agent in Charge Manny Antonaras of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Acting Chief Kyle Wilkerson of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Office of Marine Patrol.

Vu made his initial appearance and waived indictment earlier today before the Honorable Robert P. Myers, Jr., United States Magistrate Judge, at the federal courthouse in Gulfport.

Pursuant to the Criminal Information, Vu pled guilty to conspiring to violate the Lacey Act by selling fish to seafood markets in the Atlanta, Georgia metropolitan area. Vu bought the seafood from commercial fishermen and other seafood dealers in Biloxi and Pass Christian, and then transported the seafood to the Atlanta area for resale without having a wholesale seafood dealer license, as required by Mississippi law. As administered by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi regulates the seafood industry to preserve fish stocks and protect the local fishing market.

For the conspiracy charges, Vu faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years of supervised release. He will be sentenced by Judge Ozerden on December 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

United States Attorney Hurst praised the efforts of the federal and state investigative agencies for their diligent work in the investigation of this matter. The case was investigated by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gaines Cleveland.

Component(s):

USAO - Mississippi, Southern

Updated September 2, 2020

U.S. Attorneys » Southern District of Mississippi » News

Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Southern District of Mississippi

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Jackson County Bait Operator Pleads Guilty to Illegal Seafood Trafficking

Gulfport, Miss. – Joshua Jerome Moak, 36, of Moss Point, Mississippi, who operated a business known as "Moak's Minnows" in Jackson County, pled guilty today to violating the federal Lacey Act, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Darren LaMarca; Manny Antonaras, Assistant Director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Law Enforcement; and Chief Kyle Wilkerson of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Office of Marine Patrol. The federal Lacey Act makes it unlawful to sell in interstate commerce any fish taken in violation of state law.

Moak pled guilty before U.S. District Judge Taylor McNeel. He made his initial appearance and waived indictment earlier today before U.S. Magistrate Judge John Gargiulo at the federal courthouse in Gulfport.

In the felony information to which Moak pled guilty, he was charged with violating the Lacey Act by selling live shrimp and minnows to bait shop operators in Alabama and Florida. Moak caught the bait in Mississippi waters and then transported the bait to out-of-state bait shop operators without having a license and otherwise complying with requirements of Mississippi law. As administered by the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi regulates the seafood industry to preserve fish stocks and protect the local fishing market.

"The U.S. Department of Justice is committed to prosecuting unlicensed dealers and others who jeopardize our nation's fisheries by illegally transporting catch in interstate commerce in violation of state law," said Acting United States Attorney LaMarca. "Preserving our nation's fishing industry is essential to the sustainable management of our fisheries resource."

For the Lacey Act charge, Moak faces a maximum of five years of imprisonment. In addition to possible imprisonment, the defendant faces a maximum fine of \$250,000, and three years of supervised release. Sentencing has been scheduled for June 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. before U.S. District Judge Taylor McNeel.

Acting United States Attorney LaMarca praised the efforts of the federal and state investigative agencies for their diligent work in the investigation of this matter. The case was investigated by NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and Mississippi Department of Marine Resources. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gaines Cleveland.

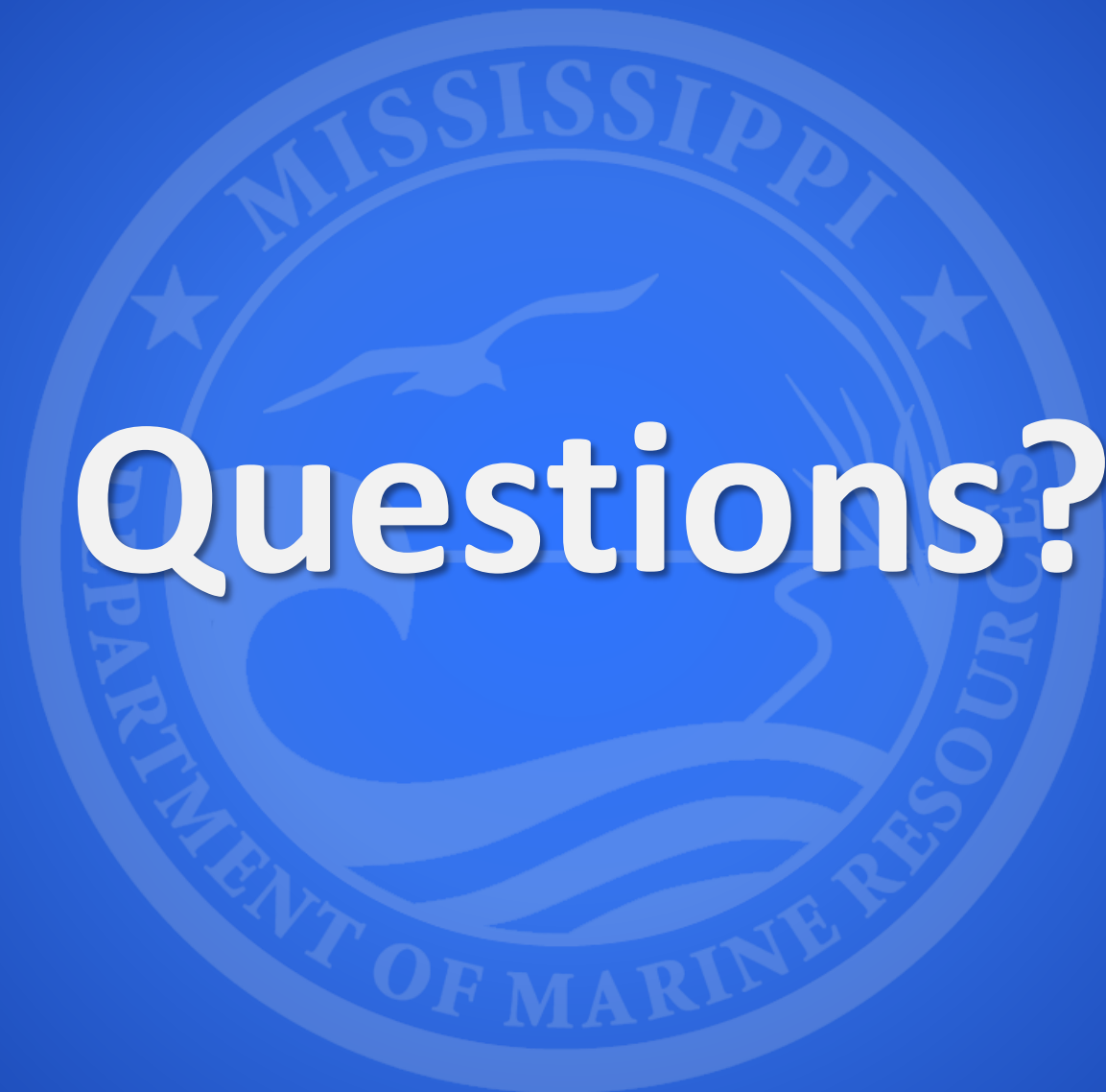
Topic(s):
Wildlife

Component(s):
USAO - Mississippi, Southern

Updated March 25, 2021

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Questions?

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