

**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

Office of Law  
Enforcement

# FY 2021 Quarter 4 Enforcement Overview

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting



January 27, 2022

# Gulf of Mexico Snapshot

- 352 Opened Incidents
- 3 Cases referred to General Counsel
- 28 Summary Settlements (\$300-\$1500)
  - Retention during closure/undersize possession
  - TED/BRD Requirements
  - Fishing Within Sanctuary Preservation Areas
- Remaining were unfounded, boardings, fix-its, compliance assistance or WWs.

# ENFORCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Illegal sale of live bait in MS (criminal Lacey Act)
  - Probation and monetary fine; investigated with MDMR officers
- Texas based captain operated charter w/o permits
  - \$24,000 Penalty assessed
  - Judge noted: “respondent’s non-permitted fishing undermined permitted fishermen ...gave him an unfair business advantage...”

# Enforcement Partnerships & Referrals

- **GMFMC Enforcement Partners**



- **64 Overall Enforcement Referrals**

- Encompasses entire SED
- Within GMFMC:
  - FWC, USCG, TPWD



# SPECIAL OPERATIONS/PATROLS

- **Operation Sanctuary Savior (Mini-Season)**

- Week long presence patrol, **5 boat crews** and interagency participation
  - Patrolled all SPAs
  - 248 vessel stops, 1161 people contacted
- 
- Undersize/over the limit lobster, illegal moorings, no dive flag displayed, fishing in SPAs, groundings, charter fishing requirements





# CURRENT SPOTLIGHT

- **Effective February 7, 2022:** Port restrictions on all Mexican fishing vessels that fish in the GOM. These vessels will be prohibited from entering U.S. ports and will be denied port access and services
- SEFHIER Outreach and Enforcement
- Unpermitted Charter Operations

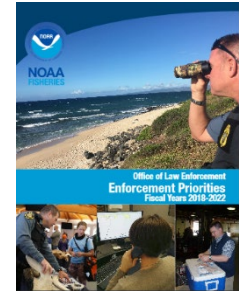


# OLE Resources

**NOAA OLE Website:**

**<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/about/office-law-enforcement>**

- Enforcement Priorities; Annual Reports
- Vessel Monitoring Information (system requirements and type approvals)
- IUU Information



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**<https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/subscriber/new>**

- Proposed/Upcoming notices
- Bahamian/US EEZ fishing
- Unpermitted Charters

**NOAA Office of General Counsel Enforcement Actions:**

**<https://www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office7.html>**



**SED OLE Fishery Council Report (Quarterly)**

- Effort throughout 3 regional councils; in Briefing Book

# QUESTIONS

