



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**



# Enforcement Updates

Gulf Council Fishery Management Meeting  
Tampa, FL. June 2026  
Compliance Liaison Matt Walia





# Enforcement Referrals

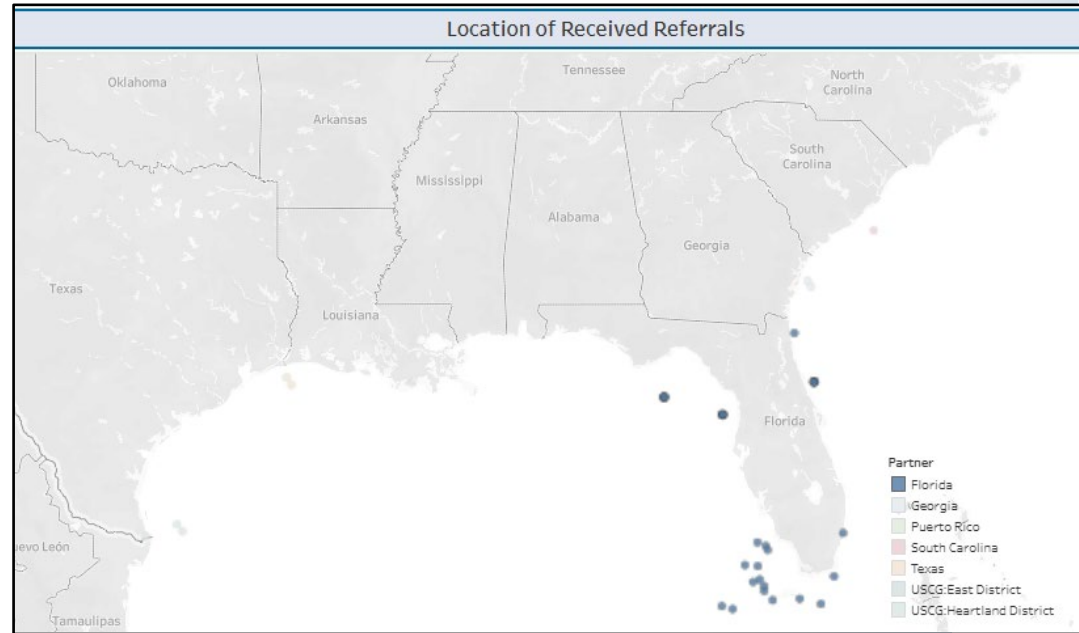
## GFMC Enforcement Partners



## 52 Overall Enforcement Referrals

### (JAN-MAR)

- Encompasses entire SED
- Within GFMC:
  - 37 FWC, 2 TPWD, 6 USCG



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES



# Highly Migratory Species Enforcement

## Bluefin Tuna catch

- Season closed
- No permits
- Retention not reported



## Tournament Registrations

- Failure to Register
- Failure to Report

## Correct Permits/Knowledge

- Charter vs HMS Angler permit

### Atlantic Tournament Registration & Reporting

#### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Tournaments

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) tournaments are fishing events that award points for catches in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Caribbean Sea. Tournament operators must register with NOAA Fisheries, keep records of anglers and their catches.

From this site you may:

[Register Your Tournament](#)

[Report Your Tournament's Catch](#)

[View Registered Tournaments](#)



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES



# International Trade Operation

## George Bush Intercontinental Airport (IAH)

- Inspect Seafood Shipments
  - Accurate labeling
  - Traceability/Source Harvested
  - Field DNA Samples
- Multi-Agency Coordination





# Closed Area Cases

## ➤ Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

- Upper Keys Operation
- Tortugas Recreational Fishing



## ➤ Madison Swanson

- Increased FWC Referrals
- Increased Recreational Activity
  - **No Possession or Transit with Reef Fish**



## ➤ Joint Presence Patrol

- Bottom Longliner >750 hooks
- Undersize Possession
- Dead Discards



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES



# REMINDERS

## Federal Snapper For-Hire Season

- **OPEN June 1**
- Be aware of state boundaries
- Not allowed in federal waters over Memorial Day

## VMS Compliance

- Trip Declarations
- Landing Notifications
- Powerdowns on **existing** vessels only
- New HMS set reports

**KNOW BEFORE YOU GO**

**32% Compliance among Gulf Incidents**



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**



# Report A Violation

NOAA's Law Enforcement Hotline,  
available 24/7 at  
**(800) 853-1964**

- Location, time, and date of the activity.
- Description of the activity.
- Name(s) of the vessel, owner/operator, captain, crew, or additional witnesses.



**NOAA**  
**FISHERIES**

# QUESTIONS



**NOAA**  
FISHERIES