

NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement
Southeast Division

FISCAL YEAR 2026, QUARTER 2
FISHERY MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL REPORT

JANUARY 1, 2026 – MARCH 31, 2026



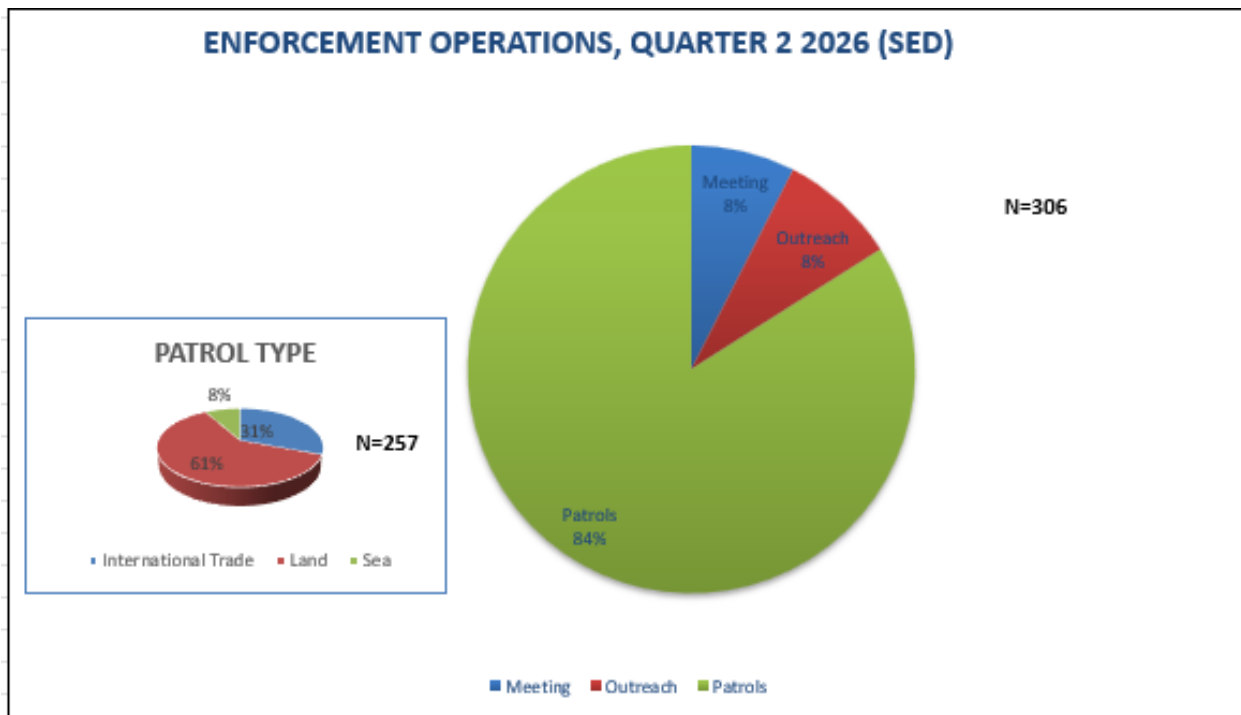
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Enforcement and Compliance

Data represent National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries' Office of Law Enforcement, Southeast Division's (OLE-SED) enforcement efforts conducted throughout FY Quarter 2, 2026, **January 1, 2026- March 31, 2026**. When appropriate, information is separated by council, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC), Gulf Fishery Management Council (GFMC) and Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC).

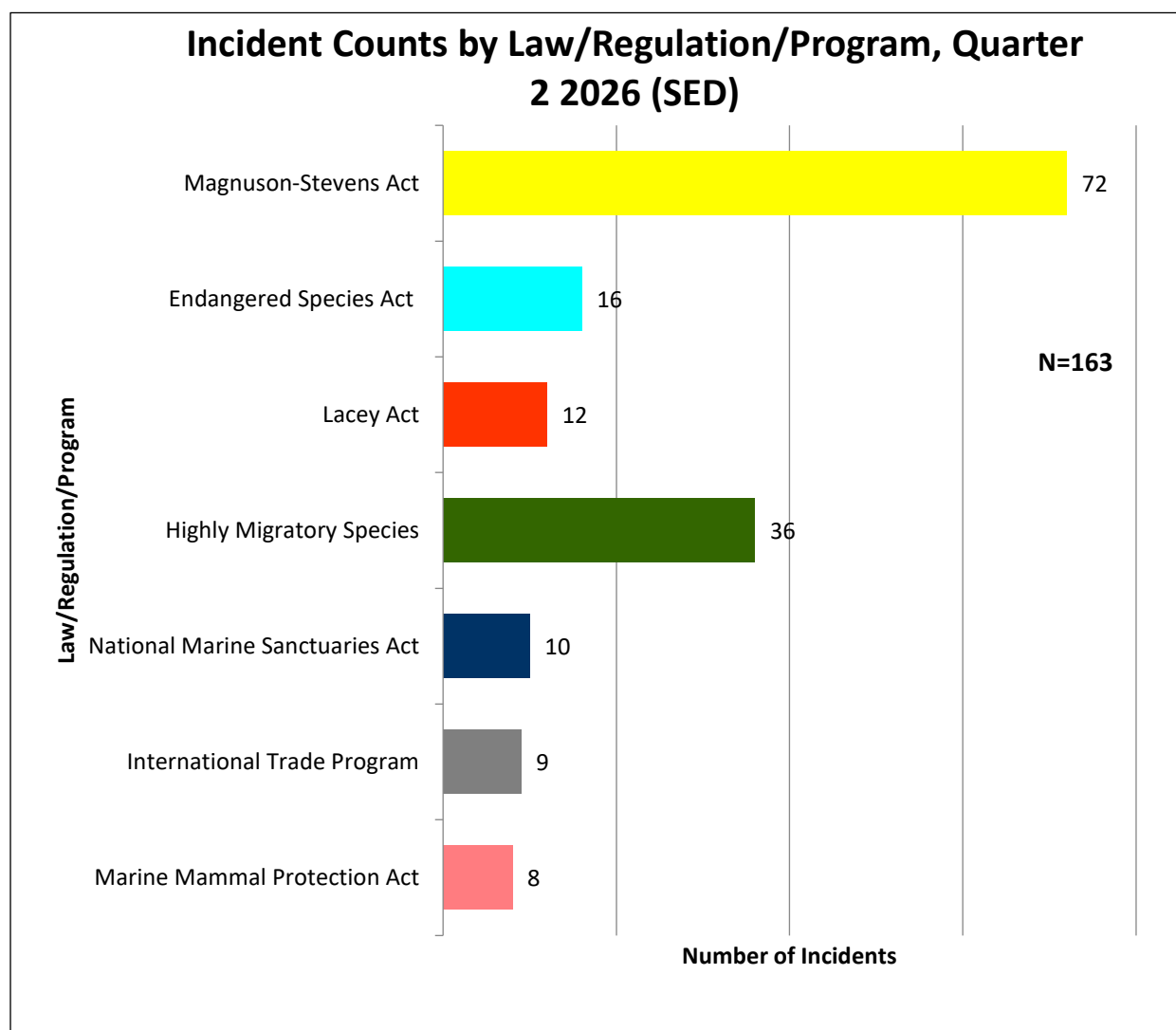
Patrols, outreach and education, compliance assistance, and investigations are the primary activities of OLE's mission to protect marine wildlife and habitat by enforcing domestic laws and supporting international treaty requirements designed to ensure global resources are available for future generations. Enforcement efforts are routinely conducted with multiple federal, state and local partners throughout the division. Multiple IUU/seafood monitoring operations were conducted with state and federal partners in Texas and Georgia. Additionally, an operation focused on enforcing national marine sanctuaries was conducted in the Florida Keys. This quarter, OLE-SED conducted and documented **257** patrols, **26** specific instances of outreach and attended **23** meetings.



Incident Information

During the second quarter, OLE-SED opened **163** incidents, which included **85** counts in the SAFMC area, **90** counts in the GFMC area and **3** counts in the CFMC area¹. These incidents originate from both NOAA personnel and our enforcement partners.

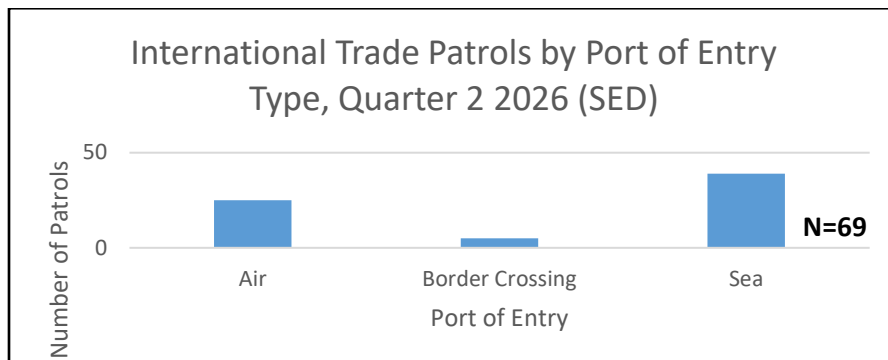
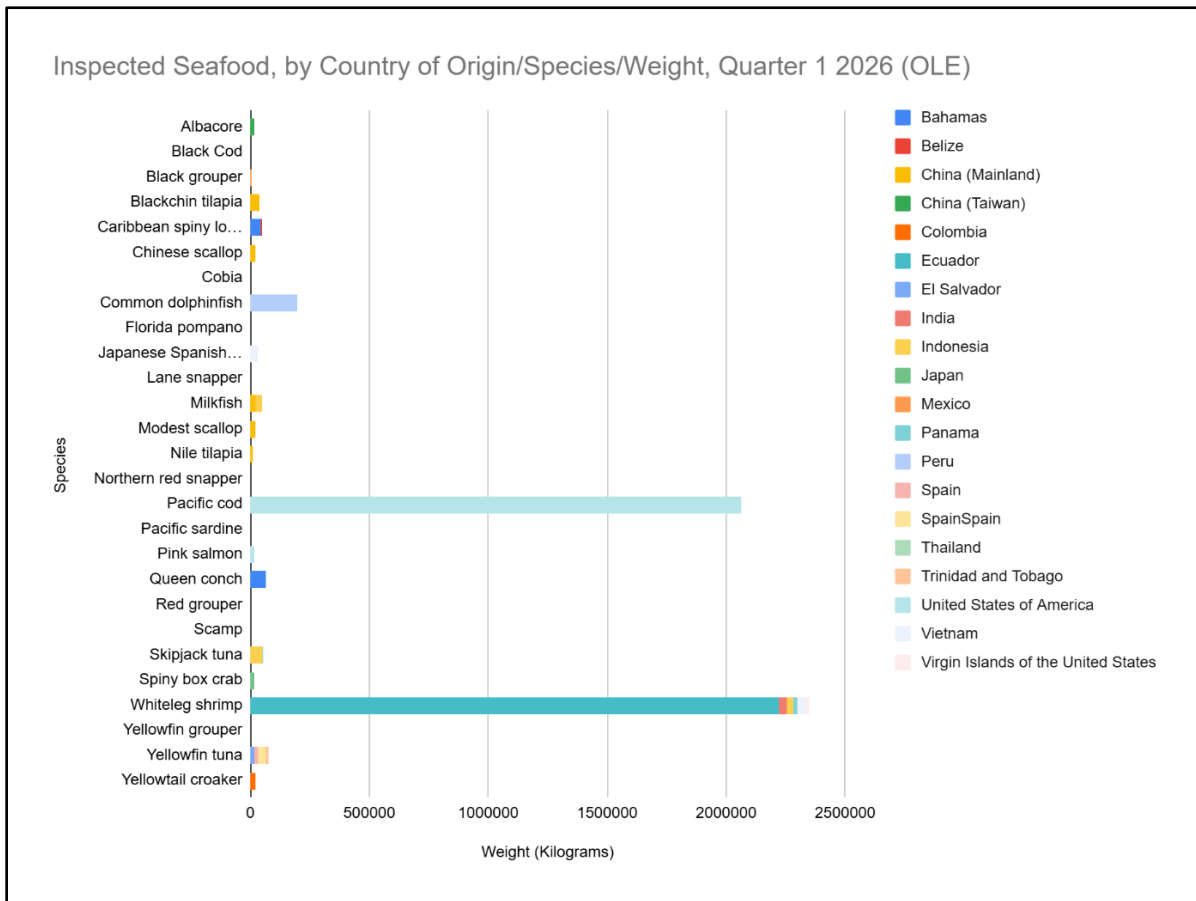
Summary of Incidents by Primary Law/Regulation/Program; Quarter 2, 2026



³ ¹ Incidents occurring in the Florida Keys area are included in both SAFMC and GFMC counts; total individual counts are greater than opened incidents due to multiple counts charged for separate incidents

International Trade Patrols

OLE regularly conducts seafood inspections coming into the U.S. to protect commerce and ensure imported seafood is caught and imported legally. Officers and agents inform other agencies at these port of entry locations of potential seafood fraud and provide training on means of inspection and verification seafood is imported properly into the U.S. Throughout the quarter, NOAA enforcement divisions nationwide inspected **5,107,800** kg of imported seafood from **19** countries. OLE-SED officers conducted **69** international trade specific patrols. Efforts were focused on a variety of airports, land crossings and shipping ports.

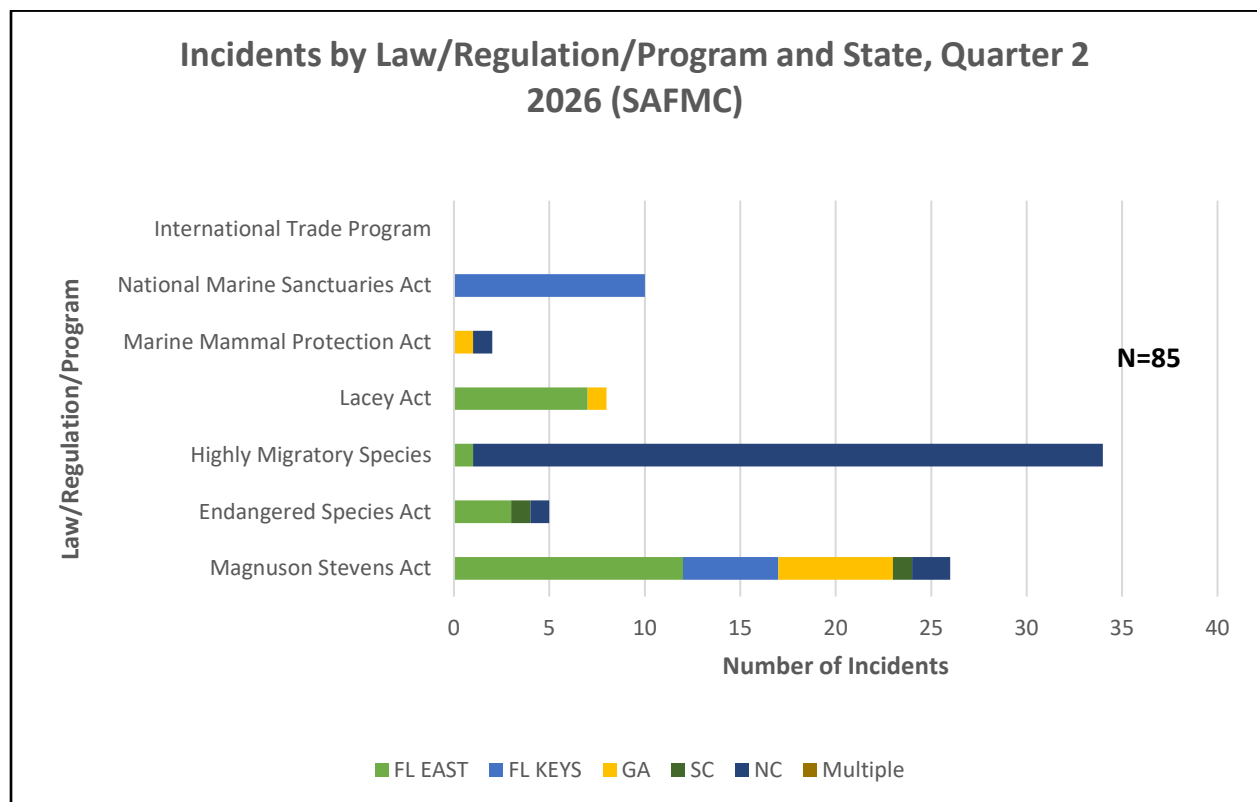


South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Summary

**Total number of incidents listed below includes effort by OLE and enforcement partners, by location

Number of Incidents by Primary Law/Regulation/Program and Location; Quarter 2, 2026 (SAFMC)

Law/Regulation/Program	FL EAST	FL KEYS	GA	SC	NC	Multiple	Total
Magnuson Stevens Act	12	5	6	1	2		26
Endangered Species Act	3			1	1		5
Highly Migratory Species	1				33		34
Lacey Act	7		1				8
Marine Mammal Protection Act			1		1		2
National Marine Sanctuaries Act		10					10
International Trade Program							0
TOTAL	23	15	8	2	37	0	85

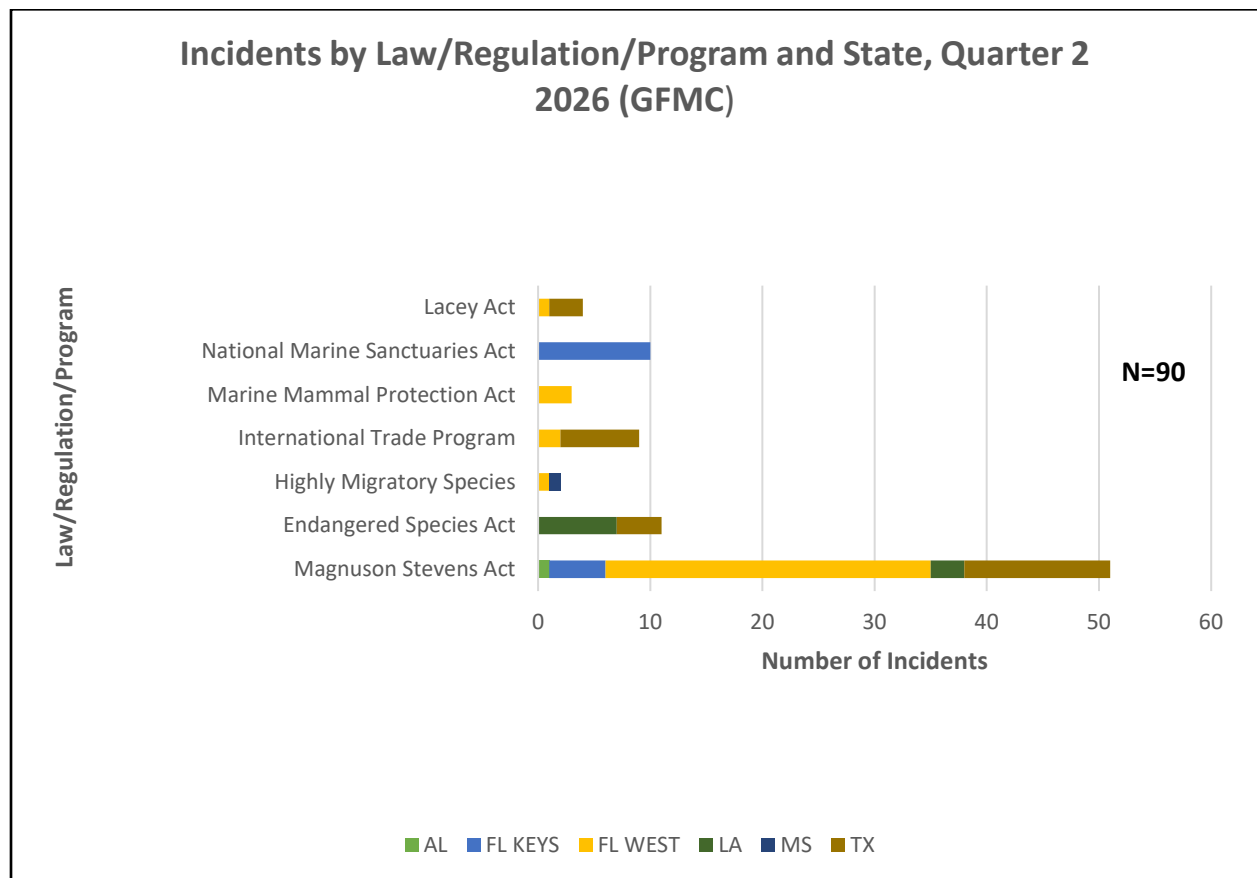


Gulf Fishery Management Council Summary

**Total number of incidents listed below includes effort by OLE and enforcement partners, by location

Number of Incidents by Primary Law/Regulation/Program and Location; Quarter 2, 2026 (GFMC)

Law/Regulation/Program	AL	FL KEYS	FL WEST	LA	MS	TX	Total
Magnuson Stevens Act	1	5	29	3		13	51
Endangered Species Act				7		4	11
Highly Migratory Species			1		1		2
International Trade Program			2			7	9
Marine Mammal Protection Act			3				3
National Marine Sanctuaries Act		10					10
Lacey Act			1			3	4
TOTAL	1	15	36	10	1	27	90

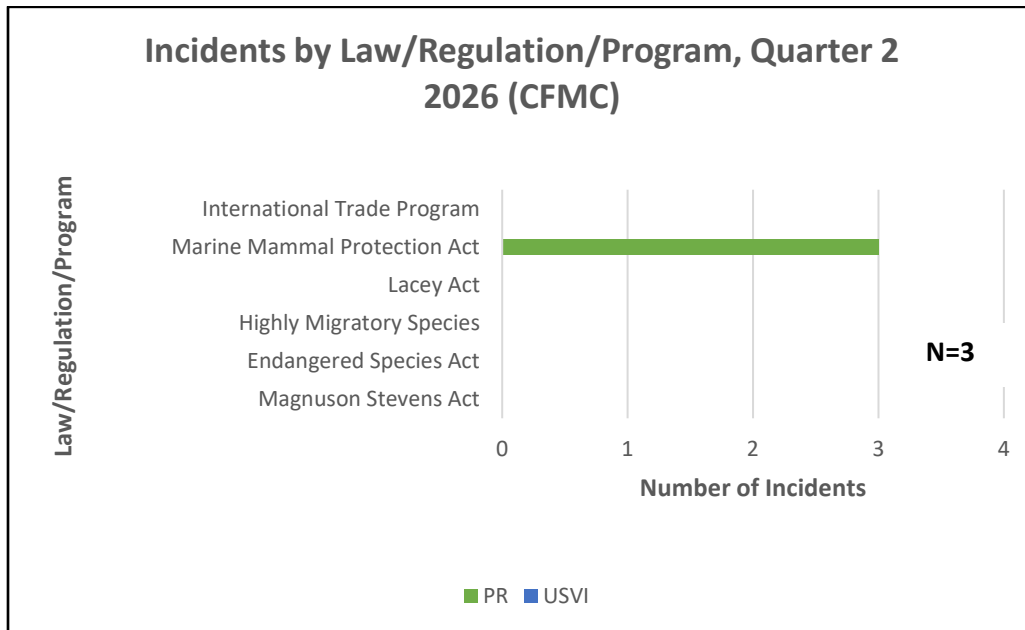


Caribbean Fishery Management Council Summary

**Total number of incidents listed below includes effort by OLE and enforcement partners, by location

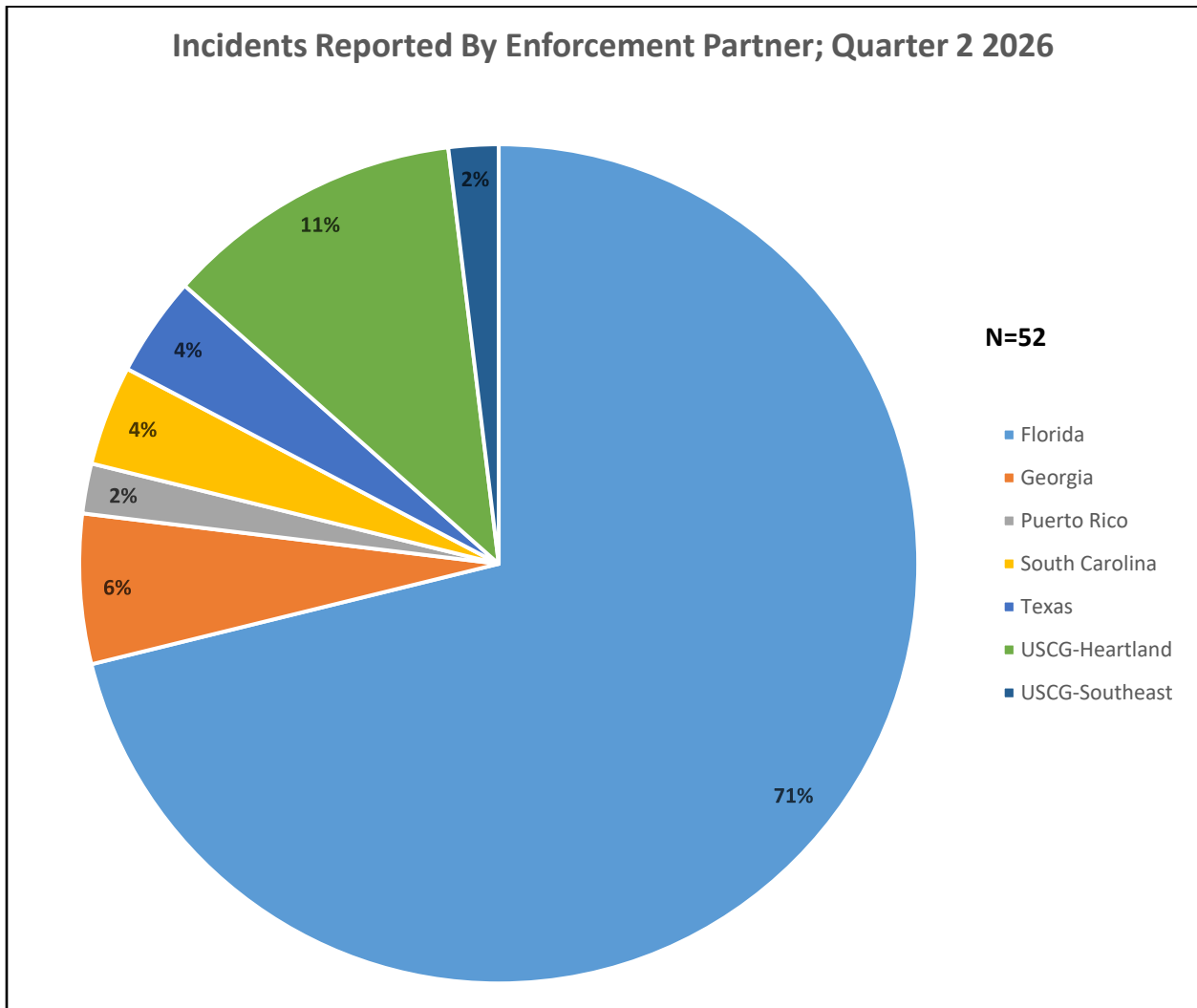
Number of Incidents by Primary Law/Regulation/Program and Location; Quarter 2, 2026 (CFMC)

Law/Regulation/Program	PR	USVI	Total
Magnuson Stevens Act			0
Endangered Species Act			0
Highly Migratory Species			0
Lacey Act			0
Marine Mammal Protection Act	3		3
International Trade Program			0
TOTAL	3	0	3

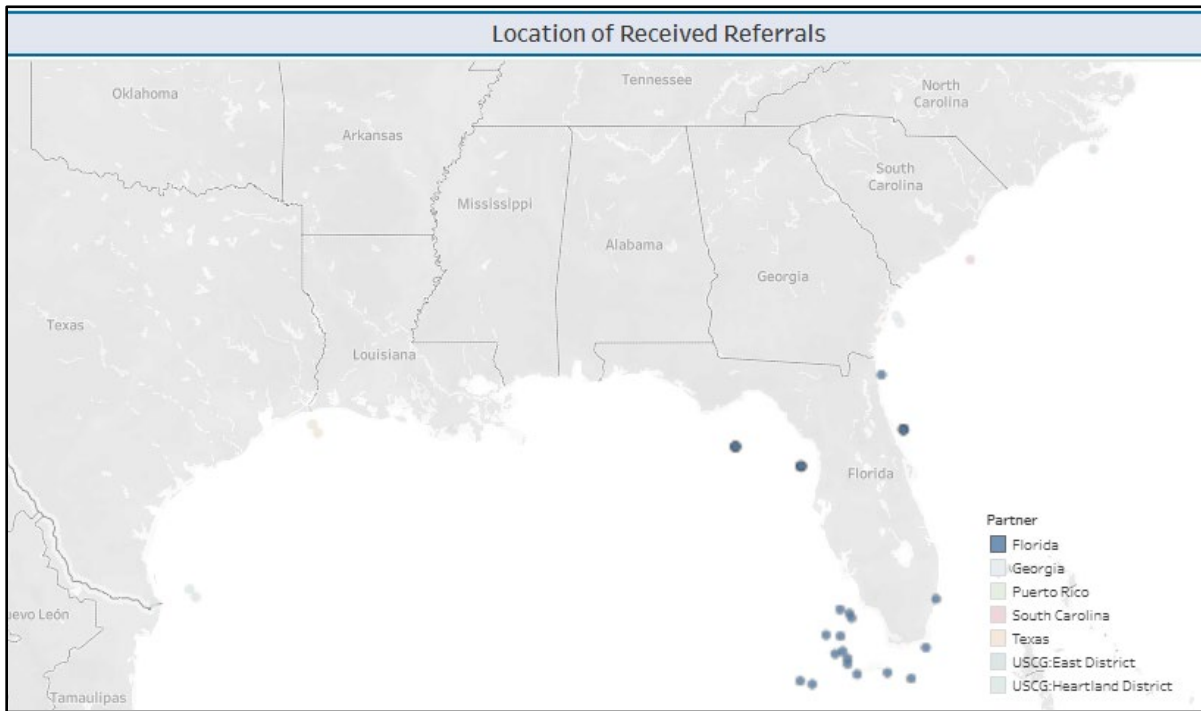


Summary of Cases by Joint Enforcement Agreement and United States Coast Guard Partners

Throughout Quarter 2, 2026, there were 52 cases referred to OLE-SED through Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) and United States Coast Guard (USCG) partners. Below is a summary showing the overall distribution of cases initiated by partner, and a breakdown of case counts by primary law/regulation/program per enforcement partner¹. Effort consisted of dockside vessel boardings, offshore vessel boardings and interaction with the general public and industry members.



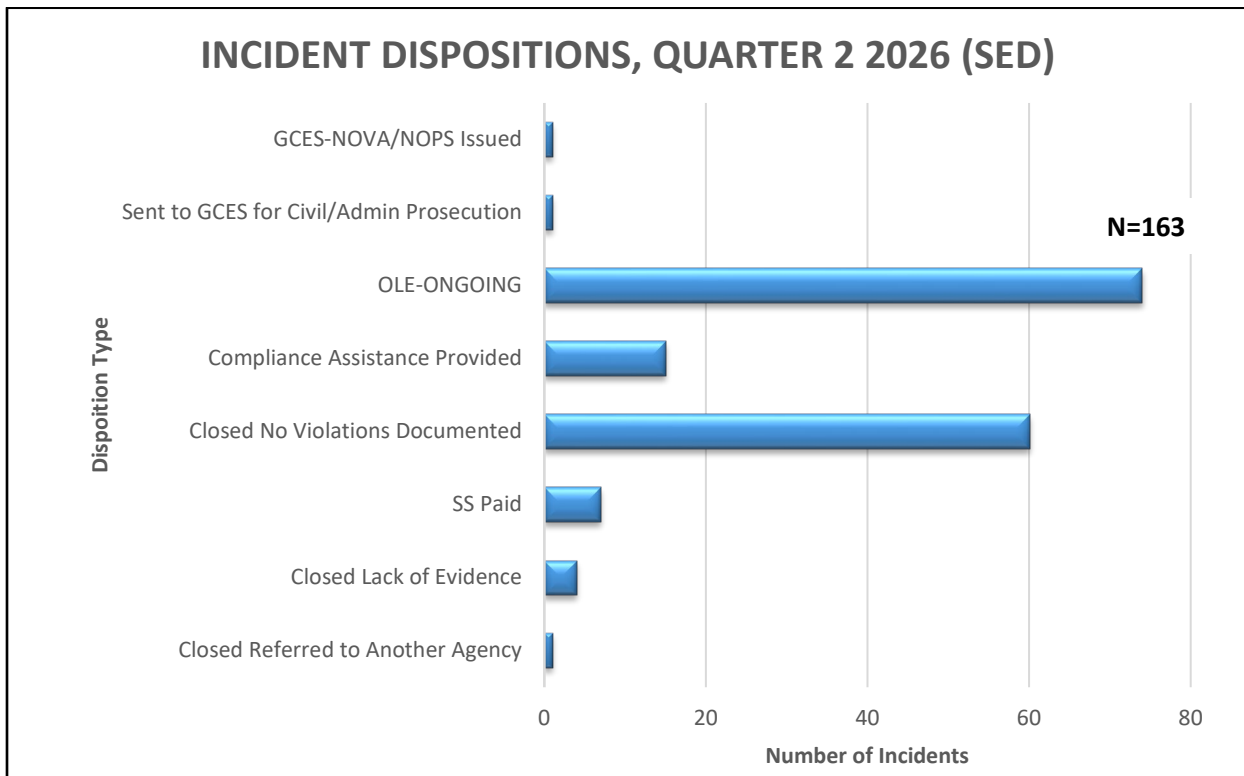
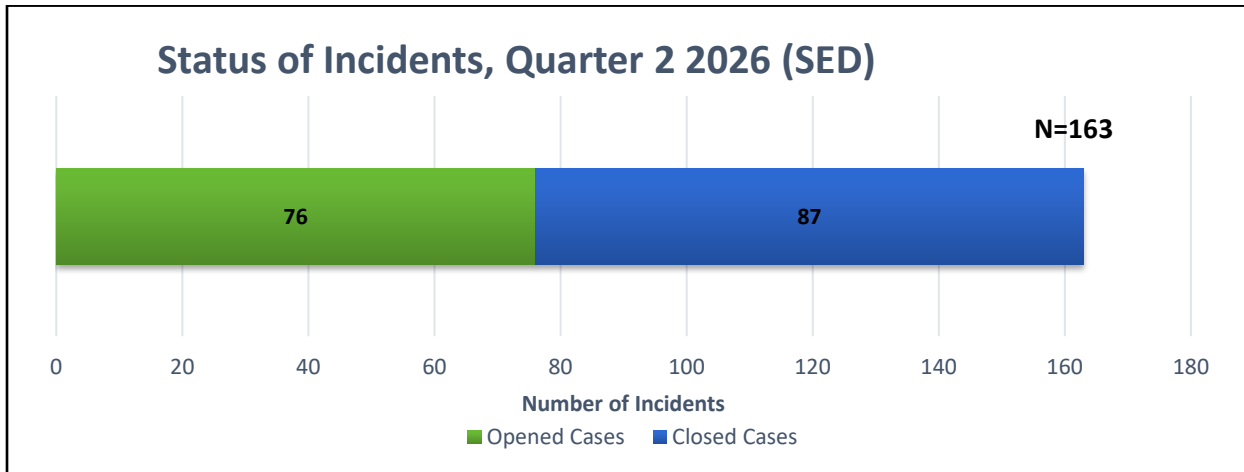
Law/Regulation/Program	FL	GA	PR	SC	TX	USCG-Heartland	USCG-Southeast	TOTALS
Magnuson Stevens Act (MSFCMA)	22	2		1		3	1	29
Endangered Species Act (ESA)	6				2	3		11
Lacey Act	6							6
National Marine Sanctuaries Act	3	1						4
Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)			1	1				2
TOTALS	37	3	1	2	2	6	1	52



¹ total individual counts may be greater than opened cases due to multiple counts charged for separate cases

Caseload Snapshot

Below is a breakdown of the initiated incidents (**163**) throughout the quarter, by status and disposition. The total also includes cases referred to OLE-SED by our enforcement partners. Throughout the quarter, enforcement personnel were able to complete investigations and close **53%** of the incoming workload.



Enforcement Highlights

Highly Migratory Species

A St Petersburg, FL Special Agent (SA) was notified by NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Section (GCES) of a \$5,500 Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA) settlement issued to the owner and captain of a recreational vessel for retaining a trophy-sized blue fin tuna during the bluefin tuna closure. The owner and captain also failed to report the landing and also did not possess a valid HMS angling permit.

A SC SA was briefed by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center staff regarding a subject delinquent in submitting 20+ HMS trip reports over the past six months. Following a phone call from the SA regarding federal reporting requirements, the subject submitted all outstanding reports. The matter has been closed via compliance assistance.

A North Carolina SA was notified of a \$18,000 NOVA issued to a commercial bluefin tuna fisherman in the Outer Banks. The investigation is in reference to the fisherman catching and concealing over the trip limit of Large and Giant Bluefin Tuna as well lying to investigators. The case has already been settled for a fine amount of \$16,200.

A St. Petersburg, FL Enforcement Officer (EO) received a tip regarding an unpermitted HMS shark tournament in Steinhatchee, FL. After confirming the organizers failed to register the event, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) officer monitored the tournament's weigh-in. The organizers subsequently coordinated with the HMS program to register the event retroactively. OLE closed the matter by providing compliance assistance.

Lacey Act

A Houma, LA EO issued a \$3,000 summary settlement offer (SSO) to a captain for Lacey Act and HMS violations. The EO became aware that a vessel fishing in a recreational king mackerel tournament in Mississippi had taken a yellowfin tuna without a HMS permit. During the investigation, and with the assistance of a Miami, FL SA and FWCC, he found the captain had taken the king mackerel caught recreationally in Mississippi back to Florida and sold them commercially under his federal permit, falsifying federal logbooks and state trip tickets to show they were caught aboard a permitted vessel in Florida.



A Harlingen, TX EO, investigated the illegal importation of 67 oysters originating from Mexico. The subject attempted to enter the U.S. with the oysters in unlabeled plastic bags, violating federal labeling requirements. A \$250 SSO was issued for a Lacey Act violation

Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing

A Miami, FL SA collaborated with OLE HQ staff and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to reject an import due to it being out of compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Comparability findings because it was imported from Venezuela.

A San Juan, PR SA reviewed the entry package of a seafood mix being imported from China. The shipment had been put on hold by CBP due to MMPA Comparability findings. The SA reviewed the documents, conducted several calls with the importer and with CBP and determined that the shipment arrived before the MMPA Comparability findings implementation date, therefore, the shipment was released.



A Harlingen, TX EO, assisted Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) with the recovery of approximately 5 nautical miles of illegal longline gear that had been discarded by a Mexican-flagged fishing vessel previously intercepted by the USCG earlier that day. The recovery occurred within federal gulf waters.

Seafood Import Monitoring Program (SIMP) and Port State Measures Act (PSMA)

A Harlingen, TX EO conducted a patrol at the Port of Entry and completed a SIMP inspection on yellowfin tuna entering the United States from Mexico. During the inspection, the EO identified discrepancies in the entry documentation. The EO conducted interviews with the importer, which confirmed the use of incorrect documentation. The EO issued the importer a \$1000.00 SSO.



Officers from Texas along with a HQ SA and forensics personnel conducted an International Trade Operation at George Bush Airport in Houston, TX. During the operation, nine shipments of seafood were inspected and 24 samples of various species of tuna and salmon were obtained for DNA analysis. The tests conducted on scene were consistent with what the product was labeled. To ensure the field test kits were accurate, samples of the same product were sent to the NOAA forensic laboratory for analysis.

Endangered Species Act

A San Juan, PR SA opened an investigation that was referred to by a Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) officer, regarding the potential harassment of

humpback whales. A video was posted on social media showing a diver swimming closely and recording the whales. An interview was performed with a DNER Officer and compliance assistance was provided.



A Harlingen, TX EO assisted TPWD and South Padre Island, TX, Non-Government Organization (NGO) Turtle Inc. in the recovery of protected sea turtles, after they were affected by a cold-stun event that occurred after a cold front hit the Texas gulf coast.

Marine Mammal Protection Act

A North Carolina SA & EO assisted the US Park Service and Carteret County Sheriff's Department with the execution of a federal search warrant on the residence of a fisherman from the theft of federal property. The NC SA discovered a dolphin skull while assisting with the execution of the search warrant. The subject on-scene voluntarily abandoned the skull and a \$250 SSO was issued.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

A St Petersburg, FL SA was notified by GCES of a \$28,137.50 NOVA settlement issued to the owner of an illegal fishing charter service who retained reef fish in the EEZ, used reef fish for bait and operated in federal waters without federal permits.

[SF-2530604] A Jacksonville, FL SA was notified by GCES regarding the issuance of a \$33,500 NOVA. The investigation was coordinated by the Jacksonville SA with two USCG units utilized. Documented violations included prohibited anchoring in Oculina Bank Habitat Area of Particular Concern, possession of Rock Shrimp in prohibited area, possession of Red Snapper during a closed season, and illegal modifications to shrimp net TED and by-catch reduction devices.

National Marine Sanctuaries



EOs conducted an operation in the upper Keys. Patrols focused on the Key Largo Existing Management Area, protected areas and Coral nurseries within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Officers documented violations for fishing in a closed area and for not displaying a dive flag.

Cooperative Enforcement/Partnerships

A Jacksonville, FL SA assisted CBP with identifying and boarding over 20 commercial fishing vessels in the Northeast Florida region. This coordination was accomplished during two underway boardings and one patrol flight where the SA was able to identify and vector CBP, local sheriff marine units, and USCG to the target vessels.

A Jacksonville, FL SA conducted an inspection at a cold storage warehouse with FWCC Investigators and CBP. Red snapper, shrimp, and tiger Shrimp were inspected. Documentation follow ups were conducted through CBP and FWC. One importer failed to have a state import license and the shipment was held by FWC.



A Jacksonville, FL SA was conducting a patrol with FWCC when he received information from a North American Right Whale (NARW) flight survey crew that a shrimp vessel was spotted near St. Augustine, FL with an approximate 2 mile oil sheen trailing the vessel. The survey crew has

been spotting numerous NARWs in the area. Photos and coordinates were received and coordinated with the USCG who then initiated a pollution response.

A Houma, LA EO completed a review of an Alabama Marine Resources Department (AMRD) case referral and submitted a case package to General Council for civil prosecution. AMRD officers boarded a state charter vessel in federal waters who was in possession of/targeting red snapper without a federal Gulf Charter/Headboat for Reef Fish Permit.

Patrols/VMS/Catch Shares

Investigative Support personnel conducted multiple outreach calls to vessel owners and operators; weekly. The outreach involved VMS compliance, including submission of correct forms and power down authorizations.

A San Juan, PR SA along with two SA's from Key West and South Carolina conducted an underway patrol with JEA partner, DNER. The patrol was performed on the west coast of Puerto Rico, covering three federally closed areas. During the patrol, two vessels were boarded with no violations detected.

A Houma, LA EO conducted offloads on 2 IFQ vessels. Prior to one vessel arriving at the dock, the EO found the vessel was not transmitting a VMS signal. The EO was able to interview the captain when the vessel arrived and confirmed the VMS was not functioning, the captain knew it was not functioning and went fishing, and he had been recently warned by VMS staff about the malfunction. The EO confirmed no closed areas were accessed during the most recent trip and the violation was documented.

The new East Florida Coast and Charleston Bump HMS monitoring areas and restricted areas have been added to vTrack. Automated alerts will be set up as reminders of the new VMS reporting requirements with HMS Amendment 15.

Compliance Assistance/Outreach/Education/Public Affairs



Two Harlingen, TX EO's attended a K-12 Career Day fair at a local school. The EO's had the opportunity to speak to nearly 800 students about the importance of NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement's mission and career paths into conservation Law Enforcement.



OLE attended the annual St Petersburg, FL joint Science Fest and Marine Quest open house, held over two days. 900

schoolchildren attended on the school day and visitors to the OLE booth were deputized as junior agents. Over 7,500 people attended the public day. The Compliance Liaison, a St Petersburg EO, SEO and 1 Mission Support staff educated the public on our mission and how to protect marine wildlife. <https://stpetescifest.org/>

A San Juan, PR SA participated in an outreach coordinated by the Puerto Rico Police Department directed to the fishing community on the southeast coast of PR. The SA gave out information and education to local fishermen.

A SC SA provided multiple presentations on MMPA regulations to a group of tour boat captains in Hilton Head and Charleston, SC. The presentation was part of a seminar provided by Protected Resources. The attendees asked the agent several questions and were appreciative of the presentation.



The Compliance Liaison and a St Petersburg, FL EO presented at the 2026 Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) Southeast Fisheries Workshop in St Petersburg, FL. The Workshop was attended by various industry stakeholders and representatives from the NMFS SERO, South Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf Fishery Management Councils. OLE provided an overview of our program; covering international affairs (IUU, SIMP and PSMA focus) and domestic priorities, an overview of sworn positions, partnerships and case examples. A VMS workshop presentation was also held highlighting the program's capabilities and benefits to industry. Numerous questions were fielded throughout the week, fostering positive relationships with enforcement and anglers

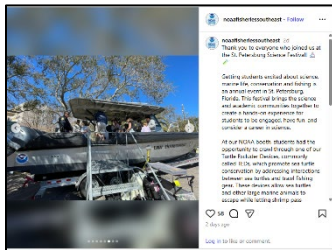
A Panama City, FL SA, in coordination with an FWCC investigator, presented a NMFS MMPA investigation at the Wildlife Impact Management Conference.

Training/Other

The Compliance Liaison and a League City, TX ASAC provided training to a class of returning observers at the Science Center in Galveston, TX. The team discussed scenario based training to help new observers get a better understanding of what kind of issues have been previously documented and any they may encounter while conducting their duties. The session emphasized how to properly document these occurrences and provided an in-depth look at OLE's role in ensuring observer safety. The curriculum also covered reporting tips and emergency protocols; the class remained highly engaged, asking numerous questions regarding incident reporting.

A SC SA provided multiple presentations to a USCG SRFTC class. The agent discussed evidence, jurisdiction and case package preparation. He also addressed officer safety and provided relevant case examples. The agent was followed by a presentation from a GCES attorney.

Media



The Compliance Liaison worked with regional communications staff on a [social media post](#) promoting OLE's participation in the recent 2026 Science Fest, held in St Petersburg, FL. Photos and content were provided for the story.

A web story highlighting OLE's participation at a recent educational outreach event held in St Petersburg, FL was posted by SERO: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/science-held-outdoor-classroom-continues-evolve>



A Niceville SA represented NOAA OLE with an informational booth at the Gulf Coast Whale Festival. The Compliance Liaison created a story promoting the SA's participation at the whale festival. The CL worked with SERO staff to post an initial story promoting the fest along with a follow-up on OLE's participation and interaction with the public. The story was published on regional [social media feeds](#), as well as under the SERO OLE tab.

Overview of Summary Settlements

Listed below is a summary of the **45** Summary Settlement penalties issued during the quarter. The most frequently observed violation types cited involved retention during closure, undersize possession and/or lack of descender or turtle mitigation devices (12), Observer Program requirements (8), Fishing in closed areas (6), and TED/BRD requirements (6). **25** violations were cited throughout the Gulf region, **15** violations were cited throughout the South Atlantic region, **5** violations in the Keys area and **0** in the Caribbean region.

LAW/REG/PROGRAM	Brief Synopsis	SS Amount	STATE
Endangered Species Act	TED/BRD Requirements	\$1,500.00	FL WEST
Endangered Species Act	TED/BRD Requirements	\$750.00	FL KEYS
Endangered Species Act	TED/BRD Requirements	\$2,000.00	TX
Endangered Species Act	TED/BRD Requirements	\$1,500.00	MS
Endangered Species Act	TED/BRD Requirements	\$200.00	NC
Endangered Species Act	TED/BRD Requirements	\$425.00	FL WEST
Highly Migratory Species	Unpermitted HMS Fishing Activity	\$1,000.00	TX
International Trade Program	Reporting Requirements	\$1,000.00	TX
International Trade Program	SIMP Requirements	\$250.00	TX
Magnuson Stevens Act	Fishing in Closed Area	\$500	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Retention During Closure; Lack of Descender Device	\$350.00	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Retention During Closure; Undersize Possession	\$825.00	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Undersize Possession	\$375.00	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	\$2,500.00	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	\$2,500.00	FL WEST

Magnuson Stevens Act	Retention During Closure	\$650.00	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Commercial Trip Limits Exceeded	\$2,274.00	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Retention During Closure	\$750.00	TX
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	\$2,500.00	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Fishing in Closed Area	\$1,175.00	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Fishing in Closed Area	\$825.00	TX
Magnuson Stevens Act	Bag Limit Exceeded	\$700.00	TX
Magnuson Stevens Act	Retention During Closure	\$700.00	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Restrictions on Sale/Purchase	\$3,000.00	MS
Magnuson Stevens Act	Undersize Possession	\$550.00	GA
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	\$2,500.00	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Retention During Closure	\$750.00	TX
Magnuson Stevens Act	Fishing in Closed Area	\$2,500.00	TX
Magnuson Stevens Act	Unpermitted Shrimp Fishing Activity	\$3,000.00	LA
Magnuson Stevens Act	Bag Limit Exceeded	\$700.00	TX
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	\$2,500.00	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	\$2,500.00	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Retention During Closure	\$900.00	SC
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	\$2,500.00	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Retention During Closure; Undersize Possession; Bag Limit Exceeded	\$1,875.00	NC
Magnuson Stevens Act	Fishing in Closed Area	\$875.00	FL WEST

Magnuson Stevens Act	Unpermitted Charter Activity-Open Access Permit	\$275.00	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	IFQ Program Requirements	\$2,975.00	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	\$2,500.00	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Fishing in Closed Area	\$250.00	FL EAST
Marine Mammal Protection Act	Take Requirements	\$250.00	NC
National Marine Sanctuaries Act	Fishing within Sanctuary Preservation Area	\$600.00	FL KEYS
National Marine Sanctuaries Act	Grounding	\$350.00	FL KEYS
National Marine Sanctuaries Act	Areas To Be Avoided Incursion	\$2,000.00	FL KEYS
National Marine Sanctuaries Act	Fishing within Sanctuary Preservation Area	\$600.00	FL KEYS

Investigative Support Program

Southeast Division Active Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) Population: **878**

Population Breakdown by (VMS) Fisheries

FISHERY	VESSELS
HMS Pelagic Longline	74
HMS Shark	6
Gulf Reef Fish	526
Rock Shrimp	49
Southeast For Hire*	223
TOTAL	878

The Investigative Support Program staff play a vital role in ensuring compliance and provide assistance to enforcement officers and special agents. Staff received and processed **28** referrals from JEA partners. Case support to the field was provided as well, with work ranging from processing summary settlements (**31**), preparing incident reports for GCES, in support of prosecution (**8**), confirming vessel ownership and track lines, validating AIS data and creating chartlets. During the quarter, fishing trips were monitored via VMS to detect potential violations. Violations ranging from fishing in closed areas, improper gear use and failure to comply with reporting requirements (trip declarations, daily reports, and pre-landing notices) were detected by Investigative Support staff and referred to enforcement officers or special agents for follow-up. Staff technicians sent **243** emails to permit holders regarding VMS requirements, initiated targeted warnings and messages to vessels following observation of suspected VMS or fishing violations, including **145** automated VMS messages sent to notify **49** vessels in real-time about closed area regulations and incursions. Staff also provided targeted education and outreach to vessel owners daily. Additionally, staff conducted **168** calls with industry related to compliance during the quarter.

Investigative Support Program technicians recently contributed to some notable investigations resulting in overall compliance with industry including:

- Vessel monitoring and verification of a rock shrimp vessel found fishing without permits in/near Oculina Bank
- An IFQ vessel landing early at an unapproved location, without any notifications sent
- An IFQ vessel repeatedly submitting partial landing notifications with no accompanying dealer landing transactions

*VMS no longer required for the for-hire fleet, but units still reporting are noted

Observer Program Highlights

During FY Quarter 2, 2026, the Southeast Fisheries Observer Program deployed on **90** trips for **397** sea days. Approximately **97%** of all selected trips were completed without an observer related enforcement incident [assault/harassment (sexual and non-sexual), safety]. Observer programs reported **22** potential fishery violations to OLE-SED. The Shrimp Program deployed on **16** trips for **160** sea days, and the Reef Fish Program deployed on **20** trips for **115** sea days. The Shark Research and deepwater longline Program deployed on **8** trips for **10** sea days and the South Atlantic Reef Fish Program deployed on **37** trips for **44** sea days. The Pelagic Observer Program deployed on **9** trips for **68** sea days. The summary below details the type of observer related complaints received during Quarter 1 (calendar year) of 2026, for all fisheries covered.

COMPLAINT TYPE	Shrimp Fishery	South Atlantic Reef Fishery	Gulf Reef Fishery	Pelagic Longline Fishery	Shark Fishery	Totals
ASSAULT						0
HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATE/IMPEDEMENT	1					1
SAFETY	2					2
NON-COMPLIANT FOR OBSERVER COVERAGE	5	6	4			15
HANDLING				2		2
GEAR	2					2
RETENTION						0
SPATIAL						0
TOTALS	10	6	4	2	0	22

Cases Referred For Prosecution

Listed below is a summary of the 9 cases forwarded to NOAA Office of General Counsel Enforcement Section (GCES) and/or the United States Attorney Office/Department of Justice for this quarter. Cases varied in violation type, with 5 occurring in the South Atlantic area, 4 in the Gulf area.

LAW/REG/PROGRAM	VIOLATION	STATE
Lacey Act	Possession Requirements	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Closed Area Incursion	FL WEST
Endangered Species Act	North Atlantic Right Whale Speed Reduction Violations	MULTIPLE
Endangered Species Act	North Atlantic Right Whale Speed Reduction Violations	MULTIPLE
Highly Migratory Species	Possession Requirements	NC
Magnuson Stevens Act	Closed Area Incursion	FL EAST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Observer Program Requirements	FL WEST
Magnuson Stevens Act	Unpermitted Charter Activity-Moratorium Access	LA

*Cases sent to the United States Attorney Office/Department of Justice for criminal prosecution.

NOAA General Counsel Enforcement Section Charging Information

The following Civil Administrative Enforcement Actions are results from NOAA GCES that occurred in the Southeast Division, from **DECEMBER 2025- MARCH 2026** (available information since last report). Nationwide results may also be found at the [enforcement charging information site](#)

1. F/V FL3033EV and F/V FL2015EK – Tournament Director William R. Wummer, Owner James Henry Folz Jr., and Operator James Matthew Folz III were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with the restrictions on sale/purchase of king mackerel and with falsifying or failing to maintain, submit, or provide information. A \$54,000 NOVA was issued.
2. T/V Baltimore – Owner ATB Marine LLC and Operator Greg Allman were charged jointly and severally under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act with operating a vessel greater than 50 meters in an Area To Be Avoided in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. A \$7,500 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$6,750.
3. F/V Good Stuff – Owner/Operator Charles Kenneth Topping and Angler Joseph Lawrence Graham III were charged jointly and severally under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act with fishing in the Tortugas North Ecological Reserve in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. A \$1,250 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$1,125.
4. M/V Blue Fox – Owner PLB Enterprises, LLC and Operator Jason Kephart were charged jointly and severally under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act with violating the North Atlantic right whale speed restriction regulation. A \$22,500 NOVA was issued.
5. F/V Lazy K – Owner Rennie M. Truss and Operator Christopher Blake Rogers were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with possessing, landing or retaining an Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (BFT) without an appropriate valid vessel permit, and Mr. Truss was additionally charged with failing to report the retention of a BFT. A \$5,500 NOVA was issued.
6. F/V CHICHI – Owner/Operator Wilfredo Padilla-Quinones was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with fishing in a closed area and fishing for, harvesting, or possessing a prohibited species, or a limited-harvest species. Two pieces of line approximately 15 feet long each, one small white buoy, one mesh dive bag, and 14 conch (out of shell) were forfeited by abandonment. A \$14,250 NOVA was issued.
7. F/V Faith Lee – Owner Dell Marine Inc. and Operator Aaron D. Brannon were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with possessing shrimp and/or anchoring in the Oculina Bank Habitat of Particular Concern, possessing red snapper during the closed season, and using noncompliant Bycatch Reduction Devices. They were charged under the Endangered Species Act with using a noncompliant Turtle Excluder Device. A \$33,500 NOVA was issued.
8. F/V Game On – Owner/Operator Jeremy L. Anderson was charged under the Lacey Act with possessing within the Special Maritime and Territorial Jurisdiction of the United

States, fish or wildlife taken, possessed, or transported in violation of Bahamian law. A \$5,000 NOVA was issued.

9. F/V Special Sauce – Operator Bradley Daniel Ashlin was charged under the Lacey Act with importing or transporting from the Bahamas fish in quantities that violated Bahamian law. A \$2,500 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$2,250.

10. F/V Uncorked – Owner James McClure and Operator Brett Surmick were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the catch limit of bluefin tuna. Proceeds in the amount of \$174 were forfeited by abandonment. An \$18,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$16,200.