



NOAA
FISHERIES



Enforcement Updates

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Meeting
March 4, 2024



South Atlantic Snapshot

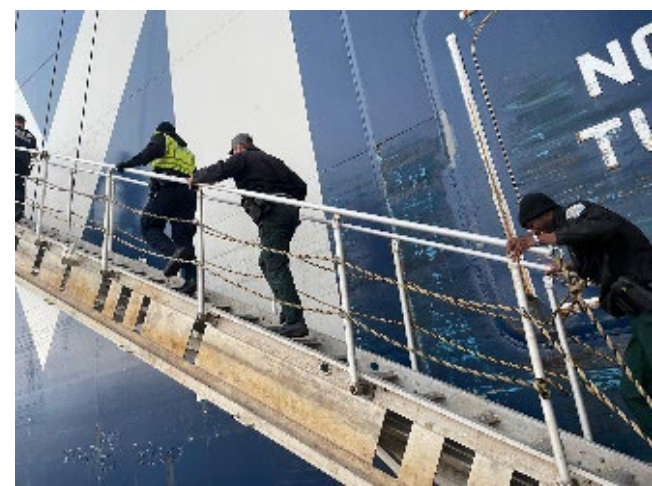
- 125 Opened Incidents
- 16 Cases referred to General Counsel/US DOJ
- 39 Summary Settlements (\$275-\$2000)
 - Retention during closure
 - Sanctuary
- 44% No Violations or Compliance Assistance



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ENFORCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS



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Enforcement Partnerships & Referrals

- **SAFMC Enforcement Partners**



DNR



- **26 Overall Enforcement Referrals (QTR 1)**

- Encompasses entire SED
- Within SAFMC:
 - FWC, GADNR, USCG



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Enforcement Partnerships & Referrals



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TARGETED OPERATIONS

WHALE WATCH

- Northern Right Whale Seasonal Management Areas
- Myrtle Beach-Jacksonville
- ❖ Shrimp/Charleston-Edisto MPA boardings
- ❖ Pot Gear Inspections
- ❖ Notice to Mariners Compliance



SPA WATCHER

- Sanctuary Focus (FKNMS)
- Charter Requirements



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CURRENT SPOTLIGHT

SEFHIER and Headboats

- Compliance Assistance
- Fines
- Time Intensive and information sharing needed



Right Whales

- Outreach
- Patrol/Ops

Charter Enforcement



\$20,000 REWARD-DEAD SAWFISH IN KEYS

Endangered Sawfish Found Dead Missing its Rostrum in the Florida Keys

February 22, 2024

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement offering reward up to \$20,000 for information.

Feature Story | Southeast



A beached sawfish in shallow water with a cut-off rostrum. Credit: NOAA Fisheries.

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is conducting an investigation involving the death of an endangered smalltooth sawfish near Key West, Florida. Multiple witnesses reported a sawfish that appeared to be unhealthy and struggling to swim, ultimately beaching itself on a sandbar. OLE officers and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Officer responding to the scene discovered the sawfish missing its rostrum (saw).

On January 31, 2024, the animal was found along a shallow flat ocean side of Deibel Key, near Key West. Officials believe the rostrum was removed between the evening of January 30 to the morning of January 31. NOAA is asking for any information about the person(s) who caused injury to the sawfish and/or removal of the rostrum.



Location and surrounding area where the dead sawfish was found. Credit: NOAA Fisheries.

We are offering a reward up to \$20,000 for information leading to a criminal conviction or the assessment of a civil penalty. Call the NOAA Enforcement Hotline at (800) 853-1964. Tips may be left anonymously, but you must include your name and contact information to be eligible for the reward.

We are looking for information leading to the:

- Successful identification and/or
- Successful prosecution for the person(s) responsible and/or
- Arrest, conviction, or civil penalty assessment



More Information

- > Smalltooth Sawfish
- > Endangered Species Act
- > Saving Endangered Sawfish
- > NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement

Recent News

PODCAST

A Game-Changing Effort for Endangered North Atlantic Right Whales
New England/Northeast, Southeast

FEATURE STORY

Rica's Whales Heard in the Western Gulf of Mexico
Southeast

FEATURE STORY

Preparing for Development of the Blue Economy in the U.S. Caribbean
Southeast

More News >



Illegal to catch, harm, harass, or kill an endangered sawfish

Unlawful to possess, sell, carry, or transport sawfish or parts of sawfish



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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.



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QUESTIONS



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