FY 2022 Quarter 4 Enforcement Overview

NOAA FISHERIES

Office of Law Enforcement

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Meeting

October 27, 2022

Gulf of Mexico Snapshot

- 221 Opened Incidents
- 5 Cases referred to General Counsel/US DOJ
- 28 Summary Settlements ($100-$3000)
  - Retention during closure/undersize possession
  - IFQ Program Requirements
  - Fishing in Sanctuary
- Remaining were unfounded, boardings, fix-its, compliance assistance or WWs.

ENFORCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Seafood Fraud Cases
  - Domestic/Import false labeling of shark fins & spiny lobster
  - Unlicensed Seafood Dealer

Shark Fins: https://apnews.com/article/science-health-china-sharks-0ff3fcd5a45b5c1a86b7ac2bb3ea6774

Undercover Bust: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-enforcement-busts-unlicensed-seafood-dealer

- Partnerships/Training
  - SEFHIER Patrols
  - TED Inspections
  - Port Inspections/IUU Efforts

Enforcement Partnerships & Referrals

- **GMFMC Enforcement Partners**

- **108 Overall Enforcement Referrals**
  - Encompasses entire SED
  - Within GMFMC:
    - FWC, TPWD, USCG

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

- SANCTUARY SAVIOUR
  - FL Mini-Season
  - 6 boat crews
  - FWC, USCG, CBP, County/Local PD
  - 133 vessel stops, 564 people
  - Lobster take, spearfishing, groundings

- RED TIDE
  - Texas-Mexico Border IUU
  - TPWD, CBP, CGI, USFWS
  - Boardings
  - Port of Entry Inspections
    - 21,000+ lbs inspected
  - Gear removal

CURRENT SPOTLIGHT

- SEFHIER Outreach and Enforcement
- Unpermitted Charter Operations
- TED Requirements
- Seafood Imports
- Dolphin Feeding/Harassment

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

Subscribe to NOAA Fishery Bulletins and News:
https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USNOAAFISHERIES/subscriber/new

- Proposed/Upcoming notices
- Rewards/Tips
- 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