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Office of Law Enforcement HMS Updates



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OLE HMS Patrols



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From October 1st, 2023 to August 9th, 2024, OLE personnel conducted 85 patrols to provide a visible deterrence to potential Atlantic HMS violators, to monitor fishing and other marine activities, to detect violations, to provide compliance assistance, and to provide outreach and education.

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



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OLE HMS Capacity Building, Education and Outreach

In 2024, OLE personnel spent over 120 hours providing outreach and education with marine resource users. Outreach efforts occurred at a number of organized events as well as contacts in communities, ports, and at-sea. The goal of OLE outreach efforts is to ensure that the most current and accurate regulatory information is widely distributed and understood.



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HMS Investigations

From October 1st, 2023 to August 9th, 2024, OLE personnel conducted 141 investigations related to Atlantic HMS. 22 of which resulted in civil violations and 67 investigations that are still ongoing.

	2024
	Investigations
HMS Commercial	50
HMS Charter	43
HMS Dealer	5
HMS Recreational	43
<u>Total</u>	<u>141</u>



HMS Related Violations

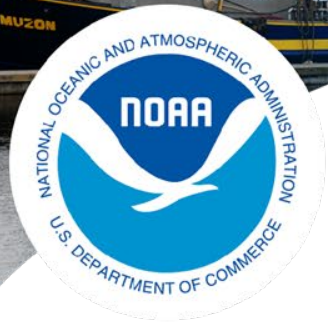


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- Failure to report vessel trips
- Fail to report a large medium or giant bluefin tuna
- Retained shortfin mako
- Fish for, catch, possess, retain, land, or sell Atlantic HMS without the appropriate permit.
- Failure to report bluefin tuna
- Failure to report landings
- Sell or transfer, for commercial purposes, an Atlantic tuna, shark, or swordfish other than to a dealer that has a valid dealer permit.

<https://www.noaa.gov/general-counsel/gc-enforcement-section/enforcement-charging-information>



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Cooperative Enforcement Partners

NOAA OLE continues to work with cooperative enforcement partners such as state natural resources officers as well as United States Coast Guard and other Federal agency partners. These partnerships are important due to the limited number of Enforcement Officers and Special Agents that NOAA OLE has and the large area that we patrol. While on patrol, these partners have been instrumental in conducting dockside and on the water HMS vessel boardings.



Report a Violation

(800) 853-1964

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