

Civil Administrative Enforcement Actions
January 1 – 31, 2025¹
**During this reporting period, NOAA charged 17 cases, settled 13 cases,
and otherwise resolved 2 cases.²**

Cases Charged in January 2025³

ALASKA

1. AK2206415; F/V Mirage – Owner JJ Mirage LLC and Operator Jeffrey Turner were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) with illegally discarding IFQ sablefish caught with fixed gear when any IFQ permit holder aboard held unused sablefish IFQ and with failing to record discard information in their vessel's Daily Fishing Logbook. An \$8,250 NOVA was issued.
2. AK2302108; Kevleen K – Owner Kevleen K Vessel LLC and Operator Christopher Studeman were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with processing and landing West Bering Sea Tanner crab for personal use without ensuring that a landing report and receipt were generated and that catch was weighed by a Registered Crab Receiver. A \$2,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$1,800.
3. AK2303313; C/P Unimak – Owner Unimak Vessel LLC and Operator Sam Wright were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding the maximum retainable amount of pollock. A \$2,892 NOVA was issued.

NORTHEAST

4. NE2205314; NE2202473; F/V Nordic Sun and F/V Sonja H – Owner H & H Fisheries LLC and Operator Jasen Hansen were charged jointly and severally under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act with deploying lobster traps without valid Federal trap tags and under the Marine Mammal Protection Act with deploying a surface buoy without identifying markings. A \$17,500 NOVA was issued.

¹ This report is not considered to be a publication. All data are provisional.

² This report provides the final settlement amount where applicable. Additional details regarding the settlement and structure of the settlement payments, including the factors considered in reaching settlement, are omitted.

³ Charged cases have had a Notice of Violation and Assessment (NOVA), Notice of Permit Sanction (NOPS), and/or Written Warning issued and served. NOVAs, NOPSs, and Written Warnings contain the Agency's allegations of violations by the respondent(s). In response to receiving a NOVA, NOPS, or Written Warning, a respondent may challenge both the allegations and the proposed penalty or permit sanction, through means set forth in NOAA's civil procedure regulations, found at 15 C.F.R. Part 904. Where no information is provided regarding resolution of the case, the matter remained open at the end of the reporting period.

5. NE2207109; F/V Restless Kid – Owner/Operator Zachary B. Brittman was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with selling Atlantic highly migratory species without the appropriate valid vessel permit with the appropriate endorsements. A \$4,346 NOVA was issued.
6. NE2303026; Land-N-Site – Owner Land-N-Site LLC and Operator Michael Byron Braddy 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 \$7,500 NOVA was issued.
7. NE2306753; F/V Killin Time – Operator Jason W. Norton was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with fishing for, catching, possessing, retaining, and/or landing Atlantic highly migratory species without the appropriate valid vessel permit. A \$5,750 NOVA was issued.
8. NE2308029; F/V Night Prowler – Owner Terminator Fisheries Inc. and Operator Gary S. Mataronas were charged jointly and severally under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act with fishing with obstructed escape vents on 48 lobster traps and fishing with floating groundlines. A \$15,000 NOVA was issued.
9. NE2311397; F/V Rose Marie – Owner FV Rose Marie LLC and Operator Earl Chor Sr. were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with entering or transiting the Western Gulf of Maine Closure Area during a declared federal scallop trip, entering or transiting the Western Gulf of Maine Habitat Management Area with gear not properly stowed, and/or fishing for scallops in, or possessing or landing scallops from the Western Gulf of Maine Habitat Management Area. A \$5,750 NOVA was issued.
10. NE2400683; F/V Next Step – Owner/Operator Derek Lyons was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act for fishing approximately 0.13 nautical miles (821 feet) inside Canadian waters without authorization. A \$2,500 NOVA was issued.
11. NE2403001; F/V Motivation – Owner F/V Motivation LLC and Operator Albert Carlson were charged jointly and severally under Magnuson-Stevens Act with fishing with bottom tending gear within the Frank R. Lautenberg Deep-Sea Coral Protection Area. A \$5,750 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$500.
12. NE2403431; M/V The Experience – Owner Eat Veggies LLC and Operators Jim Tatum and Michael Picavet 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 \$7,500 NOVA was issued.⁴
13. NE2403526; F/V Rose Marie – Owner FV Rose Marie LLC and Operator Earl J. Chor Sr. were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with exceeding possession and landing limits of Atlantic sea scallops and fishing in excess of their IFQ. A \$16,000 NOVA was issued.

⁴ This NOVA was issued in October 2024, but was not included in previous reports.

14. NE2407624; F/V Starbrite – Owner Glaucus LLC and Operator Richard Geronimo Jr. were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with possessing scup in excess of what is allowed without complying with minimum mesh-size restrictions. A \$5,934.60 NOVA was issued.
15. NE2408336; F/V Heather Joe – Owner Heather Joe Fishing LLC and Operator Brian A. Jannelle were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with fishing inside Canadian waters without authorization. A \$2,543.60 NOVA was issued.

PACIFIC ISLANDS

None.

SOUTHEAST

16. SE2201531; F/V FL8273NG – Operator/Angler Omar Javier Arcia was charged under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act with fishing in the Davis Reef Sanctuary Preservation Area in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. A \$1,250 NOVA was issued.
17. SE2315139; F/V Liberty I – Owner Liberty I Inc. and Operator Chau Cao were charged jointly and severally under the Endangered Species Act with failing to have compliant Turtle Excluder Devices installed in shrimp nets. A \$4,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$3,600.

WEST COAST

None.

Resolved Cases Charged Before January 1, 2025

ALASKA

1. AK2302107; F/V St. Dominick – Owners Brown Bear Fisheries, Inc. and Big Bear, LLC and Operator Nicholas Johanson were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to redeploy or remove longline pot gear within five days of deploying the gear to fish for IFQ sablefish. A \$3,600 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$2,880. [See Charged Cases, Item 2, from July 2024 report]
2. AK2310754; F/V Jennifer Lee – Owner Jennifer Lee, Inc. and Operator Adam Lee Swanson

were charged jointly and severally under the Northern Pacific Halibut Act with failing to return halibut discards to the sea with a minimum of injury. An \$8,800 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$7,920. [See Charged Cases, Item 3, from November 2024 report]

NORTHEAST

3. NE2107230; F/V Hot Tuna & F/V Bad Fish – Owner Hot Tuna Limited and Operator Timothy J. Ott were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to report Atlantic bluefin tuna landed and sold within twenty-four hours, on numerous occasions between 2021 and 2024. A \$10,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$9,000. [See Charged Cases, Item 4, from November 2024 report]
4. NE2201846; F/V Nee's Way – Owner/Operator Calvin E. Pinkham was charged under the Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act with fishing for American lobster in the Exclusive Economic Zone without a valid Federal limited access lobster permit. A \$15,000 NOVA was issued. The NOVA became a final administrative decision due to default. [See Charged Cases, Item 4, from December 2024 report]
5. NE2304096; M/V Scott Free – Owner Valsco Holdings LLC was charged under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act with violating the North Atlantic Right Whale speed restriction regulation. A \$7,500 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$0. [See Charged Cases, Item 4, from July 2024 report]⁵
6. NE2403043; F/V NY7515HD – Operator Steven M. Fernandez was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with falsifying information on a Highly Migratory Species report involving the harvest of Atlantic bluefin tuna. A \$5,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$3,500. [See Charged Cases, Item 7, from November 2024 report]
7. NE2403429; M/V Bluejacket – Owner/Operator Adam Christopher Smith was charged under the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act with violating the North Atlantic Right Whale speed restriction regulation. A \$25,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$22,500.⁶

PACIFIC ISLANDS

None.

SOUTHEAST

8. SE2206440 – International Fisheries Trade Permit Holder Gamma Seafood Corporation was charged under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with importing species subject to the Seafood Import

⁵ This case became final in December 2024, but was not included in previous reports.

⁶ This NOVA was issued in October 2024, but was not included in previous reports.

- Monitoring Program without submitting accurate and complete information at the time of entry. 7,560 pounds of shark filets were seized. A \$15,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$13,500. [See Charged Cases, Item 8, from October 2024 report]
9. SE2303341; F/V M&M – Owner Manuel Herrera and Permitholder/Lessee George Logan were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with the requirements for observer coverage. An \$18,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$18,000. [See Charged Cases, Item 12, from February 2024 report]
 10. SE2303341B; F/V M&M TOO – Owner Marco Herrera and Permitholder/Lessee Manuel Herrera were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with failing to comply with the requirements for observer coverage. An \$18,000 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$18,000. [See Charged Cases, Item 13, from February 2024 report]
 11. SE2314935; F/V Game On – Owner Chris Morrison Fishing Ventures Inc. and Operator Christian Allen Morrison were charged jointly and severally under the Magnuson-Stevens Act with fishing inside the Edisto Marine Protected Area. A \$5,750 NOVA was issued, and the case settled for \$5,175. [See Charged Cases, Item 7, from December 2024 report]

WEST COAST

12. WC2306308; Unnamed 27' Sailboat – Operator John Knotts was charged under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act with discharging/depositing unauthorized material in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary when his vessel sank in the sanctuary during transit. A \$2,500 NOVA was issued. The NOVA became a final administrative decision due to default. [See Charged Cases, Item 14, from November 2024 report]⁷

⁷ This case became final in December 2024, but was not included in previous reports.