

NOAA OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT (OLE) OLYMPIC COAST SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

- ▶ Merger
- ▶ Staffing
- ▶ Enforcement Priorities
- ▶ Joint Enforcement Agreements
- ▶ Law Enforcement Technical Advisory Committee
- ▶ General Counsel Enforcement Section



WEST COAST DIVISION MERGER

Merger of the Northwest and Southwest Divisions commenced in June 2014

- Formalized with implementation of the FY2015 Budget October 1, 2014
- Acting Northwest Division Senior Agent In Charge (SAC) William Giles named Assistant Director for the West Coast Division.



West Coast Division - Area Of Responsibility

- Primary: California, Oregon, & Washington
 - Secondary: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming
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- 1,293 Miles of Coast Line and 7,863 Miles of Tidal Shorelines
 - 339,275 Square Miles Of Land
 - 222,471 Square Nautical Miles
 - Five National Marine Sanctuaries
 - 36 Major International Airports
 - 21 Major International Seaports
 - U.S. – Canada Border 427 Miles + 900 Miles
 - U.S. – Mexico Border 140 Miles + 372 Miles



ADVANTAGES TO MERGING

- ▶ **Consistent West Coast Enforcement Policies**
 - ▶ Need for consistency was first recognized in 1998 in response to the multiple ESA listings of Salmon coast wide.
 - ▶ **West Coast Enforcement Coordinator Position**
 - ▶ **PFMC Representation**
 - ▶ **Sanctuary SAC Representation**
 - ▶ **USCG Training**



ADVANTAGES OF MERGING

- ▶ One West Coast Fisheries Council Pacific Fisheries Management Council
- ▶ In Common Fisheries Management Plans:
 - ▶ Salmon / ESA
 - ▶ Groundfish (87 species, most range coast wide)
 - ▶ Trawl Rationalization / LEP Fixed Gear LEP are coast wide programs
 - ▶ Highly Migratory Species
 - ▶ Swordfish and Bluefin tuna are only species in the complex that are unique to California
 - ▶ Coastal Pelagic Species



ADVANTAGES OF MERGING

- ▶ Other Management Efficiencies
 - ▶ IT
 - ▶ Budgeting
 - ▶ Training/Trainers
 - ▶ Joint Enforcement Agreement (JEA) Management
 - ▶ Consolidation of Offices
 - ▶ Reduction in Higher Management Positions



STAFFING CHANGES

- Changes were made to the Agent to Enforcement Office Ratio

Investigative Functions performed by a Criminal Investigator, the Special Agent.

Patrol Functions performed by the Enforcement Officer.

- Patrol activity performed by OLE Officers, CDF&W Wardens, and USCG Boarding Officers who discover violations in progress, (citations issued) and forward intelligence to the Special Agents for follow-up of more complex suspicious activity and/or alleged violations.



NOAA Office of Law Enforcement West Coast Enforcement Division

Organization Structure:

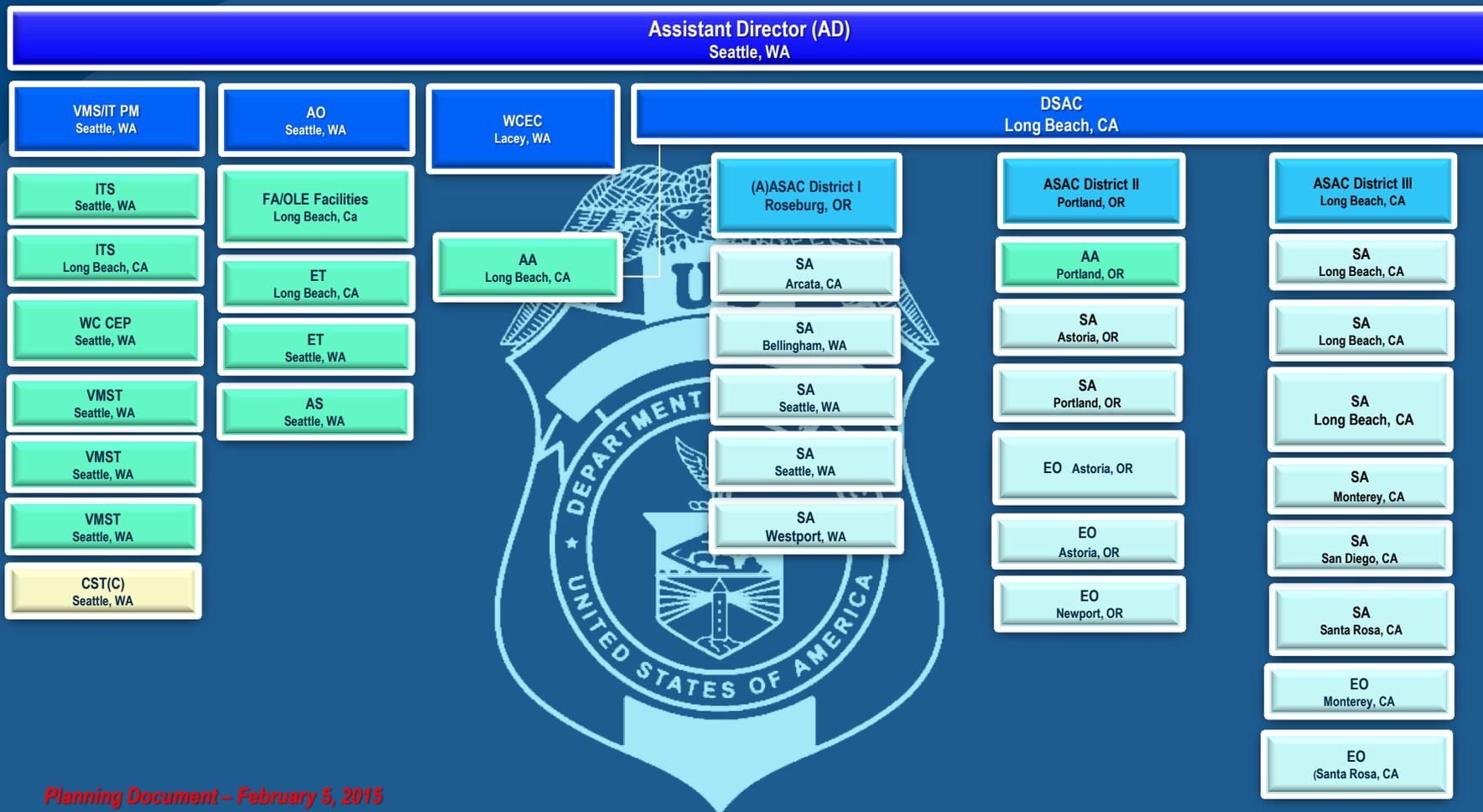
- Past Staffing Model
- Current Staffing Model



NOAA Fisheries

Office of Law Enforcement

West Coast Division (Spring 2015)

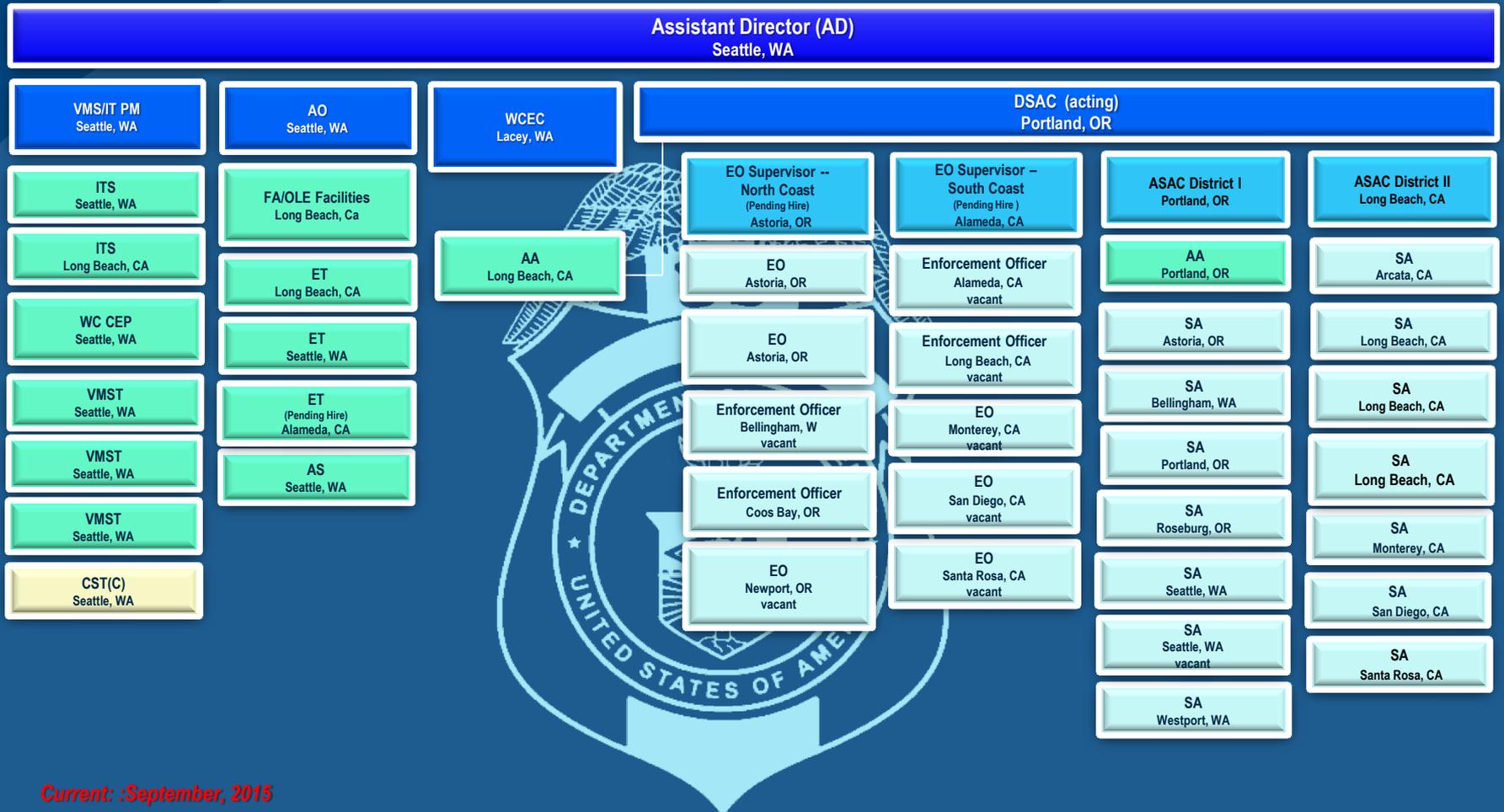


Planning Document – February 5, 2015

NOAA Fisheries

Office of Law Enforcement

West Coast Division (Current)



Current: September, 2015

2012 - 2017 Enforcement Priorities

Priority Definitions:

High Priority—Identifies areas of significant importance to NOAA, NMFS, OLE, stakeholders, and the public and require the utmost attention to ensure the sustainability of the identified resources or program.

Medium Priority—Identifies areas requiring continued attention by OLE to maintain the level of compliance desired to obtain maximum protection of the resource or program.

Low Priority—Designation under this category may illustrate that the program or area is receiving a high degree of compliance by industry and the public. Or perhaps the violations are minor or technical in nature and have little to no impact on the resource. Low priority should not be interpreted as “no priority” and this designation does not translate into selective enforcement or no enforcement.



Sanctuary Enforcement Priorities

Marine Sanctuaries Act

HIGH PRIORITY

- Discharges
 - Discharging or depositing any material injurious to sanctuary resources (e.g., pollution issues)
- Vessel groundings and sinkings
 - Vessels or tows that become grounded or sink within the boundaries of any marine sanctuary

MEDIUM PRIORITY

- Prohibited taking or possession
 - Unlawful removal or possession of historical artifacts, or protected marine resources, from within the sanctuary boundaries



Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEA)

State Partner:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Cross Deputazation Agreement

Federal dollars to the state to do Federal law enforcement work

Prioritized listed in the agreement



Law Enforcement Technical Advisory Committee (LETAC)

ADVISORY AND OPERATIONAL FORUM

OCNMS Staff

Office of Law Enforcement (OLE)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

USCG, 13th District

Meet twice a year: Spring and Fall

Review Past year enforcement activity

Plan current year activity



General Counsel Enforcement Section

Web Site: <http://www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office.html>

- Enforcement Decisions
- Enforcement Charging Information
- Penalty Policy and Schedule including Summary Settlement Schedule (SS)



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