



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Office of Law
Enforcement
Southeast
Division

OLE Update

CFMC - 180th Meeting



Special Agent Miguel Borges
Enforcement Officer Alex Terrero

December 7, 2022

SED Caribbean Updates



- USVI DPNR forwarded a case involving the take of a hawksbill sea turtle.
 - A USVI Officer conducted a traffic stop on a pick-up truck, upon approach; the officer noticed a sea turtle tied with rope and cable to the bed of the truck. After OLE investigated the case with the assistance of DPNR, the case was presented to the U.S. Attorney's Office for criminal prosecution.
- The two subjects were charged with three counts (two misdemeanors under ESA and one felony under Lacey Act)
 - Count one, taking of an endangered species 16 U.S.C. §1538(a)(1)(B)
 - Count two, possessing an endangered species 16 U.S.C. §1538(a)(1)(D)
 - Count three, taking with the intent to sell 16 U.S.C. §3372(a)(1)

SED Caribbean Updates



- San Juan OLE special agent participated and presented during the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP). The workshop was from August 26-28 in Parguera, PR.. The agent provided a presentation regarding the federal regulations OLE enforces. There were approximately 40 fishers participating from around Puerto Rico.
- Training was provided to 30 DNER Officers from the west coast of PR. The training was given by PhD marine biologist Michelle Scharer and an OLE special agent. Mrs. Scharer presented grouper species identification and the OLE agent presented case package preparation, federal regulations and jurisdiction.
- Training was provided to six DNER Officers from the east coast of PR. The training was given by PhD marine biologist Michelle Scharer and an OLE special agent. Mrs. Scharer presented grouper species identification and I presented case package preparation, federal regulations and jurisdiction.
- An OLE special agent organized, between USCG LMR Officer, Alex Waide, marine biologist Michelle Scharer and NOAA OLE. During the meeting, Mrs. Scharer provided the forecasted dates of the aggregation of Nassau Groupers in the upcoming months. The purpose of the meeting was to coordinate with the USCG to patrol the protected areas in the west coast of PR during the aggregation dates. The USCG expressed their intentions to conduct LMR patrols. In addition, USCG will task a cutter with patrolling the protected areas during the aggregation dates, mission permitting.



SED Caribbean Updates



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- The USVI OLE enforcement officer initiated an incident involving an IFTP and mislabeled seafood violations. The officer is working with DPNR to review USVI license violations. This investigation is pending.



**Department of Planning
& Natural Resources**

- The USVI OLE enforcement officer initiated a Lacey act violation for importing undersized Anguillan caught Caribbean spiny lobster. The investigation is pending.



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**



NOAA FISHERIES

USVI and Puerto Rico OLE Contacts

Special Agent Miguel Borges – San Juan, PR miguel.borges@noaa.gov

Enforcement Officer Alex Terrero – St Thomas, USVI

Alexander.terrero@noaa.gov

Report A Violation

Please contact us if you see a possible violation of a federal marine resource law.

(800) 853-1964





Questions?

¿Preguntas?