



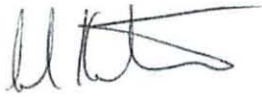
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Office of Inspector General
Washington, D.C. 20230

February 16, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Dr. Jane Lubchenco
Under Secretary of Commerce
for Oceans and Atmosphere
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

FROM:


Ann C. Eilers
Principal Assistant Inspector General
for Audit and Evaluation

SUBJECT:

Review of the Status of NOAA's Efforts to Improve Fisheries
Enforcement Programs and Operations

Based on our understanding of the status of NOAA's action plan, we have adjusted the scope of our review detailed in our December 14, 2010, notification letter. Our review will focus on the efforts NOAA is making to improve its fisheries enforcement programs and operations as a result of our January 2010 report (OIG-19887). Our review will analyze NOAA's progress in implementing the corrective actions planned in response to our report, and will evaluate the effectiveness of actions already taken including a determination of whether NOAA: (1) is implementing policies and procedures that increase the accountability and transparency of GCEL and OLE operations; (2) is progressing on its workforce analysis, which addresses the appropriate mix of criminal investigators and civil enforcement officers; (3) is establishing an outreach strategy that will improve communications with Fishery Management Councils and fisheries stakeholders; and (4) is making effective improvements to GCEL and OLE management information systems. Our review will consist of interviews, observations, an examination of established or proposed policies and processes, and an analysis of evidence supporting NOAA's corrective actions.

We will contact the audit liaison to arrange an entrance conference. If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 482-2754, or David Sheppard, Regional Inspector General, at (206) 220-7970.

cc: Mack Cato, Director, Audit, Internal Control
Management Information Office, NOAA