

The Environment Chapter in the USMCA includes the strongest and most comprehensive set of environmental obligations of any U.S. trade agreement.

Initiated and Progressed the **First-ever** Environment Consultations

- Related to the protection of the critically endangered vaquita porpoise, prevention of illegal fishing, and trafficking of totoaba

Invoked the Bilateral Customs Verification Agreement with Mexico on **Two** Occasions Related to:

- Transshipment of potentially illegal timber from Colombia through Mexico
- Illegally harvested shrimp and other potential Customs violations



Established **11** Interagency Agreements worth **\$31.1** million

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) (\$3.5 million): Strengthen U.S. and Mexico's forest monitoring and enforcement capacity



- Completed **10 workshops** on timber management training **347** individuals from forest dependent communities
- Developed a system using satellite imagery for detecting and reporting early deforestation at <https://idefor.cnf.gob.mx/>
- Collected **455 timber samples** from **25** tropical tree species to support timber inspection efforts
- Launched the DART-TOFMS mass spectrometry wood identification machine through interagency collaboration

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) (\$3.7 million): Expand and improve FWS's technological and intelligence capabilities for more strategic interdictions

- Built and deployed a mobile forensics lab to facilitate exams of illegal wildlife at the Border
- Deployed infrared devices on the southern border, contributing to an increase in interdictions of illegal wildlife



U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) (\$1.7 million): Prioritize DOJ prosecution of environmental cases

- Achieved a **\$1.6 million civil penalty** on behalf of EPA to resolve Clean Air Act violations
- Prosecuted "Julio Rodriguez" for illegally importing more than **1,700 reptiles** into the United States, including CITES-protected species

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) (\$1.7 million): Enhance CBP's capabilities to produce and use intelligence and other data to more effectively target high-risk shipments

- Enhanced targeting and interdictions of illegal wildlife, including CITES protected totoaba
- Conducted **eight audits** related to violations of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and an **additional three audits** to verify Lacey Act compliance for wood furniture importations from Mexico
- Trained **800 CBP employees** on the Lacey Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Endangered Species Act
- Issued **three civil penalties** totaling **\$738,564** to U.S. importers for illegally importing wild caught shrimp from the Upper Gulf of California in violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) (\$4.4 million) – Promote North Atlantic right whale recovery across their North American range in coordination with Canada

- Established and deployed moorings at **11 new passive acoustic monitoring** sites in the Gulf of Maine, and conducted aerial surveys in three seasons across the Gulf of St. Lawrence.
- **Tested and approved numerous** weak ropes, links, and inserts, and furthered the development and testing of on-demand (or “ropeless”) fishing gear to reduce the risk of entanglement in U.S. and Canadian fisheries.
- Through a transboundary committee, conducted necropsy case reviews, shared information on cause of death and threat identification, and convened a transboundary necropsy workshop on enhancing large whale necropsy coordination and processes.



Sea Turtle Recovery (\$1.4 million) – Support the recovery of the North Pacific loggerhead and East Pacific leatherback turtles



- Successfully established **Mares Comunidad**, a holistic community-based model that engages and partners with local fishers to identify and reduce leatherback and loggerhead bycatch throughout Pacific Mexico
- Developed an easy-to-use online database and website to publicly share results of Rapid Bycatch Assessments (RBAs) and information on efforts to build sustainable fishing communities
- Conducted **570 RBAs**, resulting in the identification of fisheries and gear types that are most problematic for loggerhead and leatherback bycatch

Environment Protection Agency (EPA) (\$3.3 million): Expand investigative targeting and analysis of illegally traded non-complaint engines, chemicals, and ozone-depleting substances, enhance vessel pollution enforcement, and improve information sharing and coordination with Mexico and Canada

- Established **two Enforcement Steering Committees** with Mexico and Canada to guide priorities for further collaboration and enforcement
- Conducted **173 vessel inspections**, with a 96 percent violation rate
- Collected **789 samples** at border crossings, **207** lead to prosecution and/or seizure by inspectors
- Trained **545 inspectors** on requirements and new equipment



Upcoming in FY24

Department of the Interior – International Technical Assistance Program (\$1.5 million): Conduct research and analysis in Mexico on totoaba trafficking and environmental crime convergence

U.S. Navy Vaquita (\$4.8 million): Improve monitoring of the vaquita and enhance related enforcement to protect this critically endangered species

NOAA Rice’s Whale (\$1.5 million): Improve transboundary monitoring of the Rice’s Whale to protect the species

EPA (\$2.5 million): Expand training, analysis, and targeting of illegally traded hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) now that the US is party to the Kigali Amendment of the Montreal Protocol

Assessed **15** Public Submissions, including the Commission on Environmental Cooperation SEMs

Maintained **USMCA** Dedicated Staff in Washington, DC and Mexico City, MX

Delivered **three** Annual Reports to Congress

Chaired **quarterly** Interagency Environment Committee for Monitoring and Enforcement meetings

Held **three** Meetings of the Trilateral USMCA Environment Committee