

ENVIRONMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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>U.S. Forest Service (USFS) (\$3.5 million):</u> 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>U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) (\$3.7 million):</u> 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



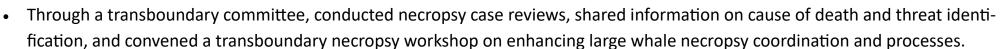


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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA): North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW) (\$4.4 million) – Promote North At-

lantic 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.



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

<u>Environment Protection Agency (EPA) (\$3.3 million):</u> 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

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

<u>U.S. Navy Vaquita (\$4.8 million):</u> 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



